

League champs abound on volleyball team

By MARTY BUDNER

Girls who played on league championship teams — that's the applicable description of this year's Observer & Eccentric All-Area Volleyball team. Of the six first-team players, four were highly instrumental in guiding their respective schools to league titles.

Rochester High School, which took the Greater Oakland Activities League (GOAL) with a perfect 10-0 mark, is the only school which has two first-squad representatives. Senior captain Paula Connor, and junior Sue McColgan were both integral members of the Falcons. Patty McDonald was a very important member of a Birmingham Marian

team which won a Catholic League crown. The Metro-Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) league champion — Bloomfield Hills Lahser — is represented by Jane Porretta.

The other members of the first team are Maureen Suzan of Bloomfield Hills Andover, and Katie Hershiser of Birmingham Groves.

The team was recently picked by area coaches via a mail ballot. The top six vote receivers were selected to the first team, while, because of a tie, seven girls were selected to the second team.

Connor was a "90 percent" setter, and one of her team's top servers. Connor played on the Rochester varsity three years.

"(Paula) hardly missed anything out on the floor. She ran our plays, and was a very good setter," said Rochester coach Jan Bowden. "She related to all the players very well, and she knows the game as good as anyone — that's why she was our captain."

McColgan, an all O&E first-team basketball selection last fall, was Rochester's top spiker. The second-year Falcon player combined with Connor to form one of the area's best setting and spiking tandems.

"She was also a very good blocker, and one of our best backcourt players," said Bowden, whose team finished with an overall 12-4 record. "She's not afraid to hit the floor. She gets to a lot of balls that you figure would be dead."

Another junior, Porretta helped Lahser to an overall 15-1 record. Coach Fred Youngman, who was selected by his peers as the O&E Coach of the Year, says Porretta was her team's most powerful hitter.

A former gymnast, she spent most of last summer participating in an Olympic Development Camp at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Porretta carries a 3.5 grade-point average, and is also trying out as a goalie for the Lahser soccer team.

"She's pretty much a natural athlete, and she meant quite a bit to our team this year," said Youngman. "She is very fearless. She's above average height, strong with good flexibility, and agile."

"Jane is a very powerful hitter, and I think that's how most coaches would

remember her," he said. "She has a very hard serve, and 92 percent of them were good."

Suzan was a two-year starter for Andover. The senior spiker is only 5-foot-5-inches tall, but has a vertical jump of 24 inches, according to her coach, Bob Hurdle.

Suzan made the GOAL all-star team, and was the most valuable player on the Barons this year. "Maureen is an excellent, overall volleyball player, and a great team leader," said Hurdle.

Hershiser played for Groves the past two years and was considered one of the Falcons' strongest spikers. Coach Bryon Campbell says she was probably one of the best blockers in the MSAA.

Hershiser has accepted a scholarship to the University of Kentucky for volleyball next year.

Over the last two years McDonald helped lead Marian to a 40-3 record. She was an all-state player as a sophomore, and has also gained all-Catholic and all-County honors.

Besides guiding his team to an MSAA title, Youngman's squad finished 13th in the 56-team Kellogg Invitational in Battle Creek, and second in the 10-team Dearborn High School Invitational. Lahser's best season in his previous four years was 11-10.

"I expected a good season from the girls, and told them that. But then I had to convince them that they could do it," said Youngman. "We were very experienced (four graduating seniors), and the mental attitude was very good."

"They learned how to win and had confidence in themselves," he said. "I've coached a lot of sports, and I can honestly say I have never coached a better group of players. I was extremely proud to coach them."

The second team consisted of Lahser's Sue Keenan and Nancy Glenn, Rochester's Annie Banacci and Diane

Ranke, Marian's Julie Nagle, Lathrup's Kim Rosensteel and Kingswood's Jeanne Gilbert.



MAUREEN SUZAN



JANE PORRETTA

All-Area picks

1979 FIRST-TEAM VOLLEYBALL

Name	Class	School
Susan McColgan	Junior	Rochester
Maureen Suzan	Senior	B.H. Andover
Jane Porretta	Junior	B.H. Andover
Patty McDonald	Senior	B. Marian
Katie Hershiser	Senior	B. Groves
Paula Connor	Senior	Rochester

SECOND TEAM

Sue Keenan	Senior	B.H. Lahser
Jeannie Gilbert	Junior	Kingswood
Kim Rosensteel	Senior	S. Lathrup
Diane Ranke	Senior	Rochester
Julie Nagle	Senior	Marian
Annie Bonacci	Junior	Rochester
Nancy Glynn	Senior	B.H. Lahser

COACH OF THE YEAR

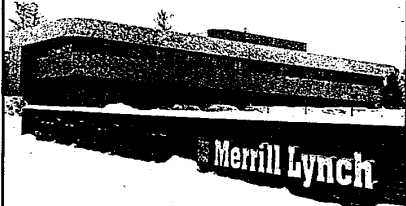
Fred Youngman	Bloomfield Hills Lahser
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HONORABLE MENTIONS

Lisa Zodner, Barb Sprague, Julie Bangert, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Missie Thomas, Sue Owens, Southfield-Lathrup; Amy Haagen, Cindy Drukker, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Lynette Curry, Erika Bauer, Rochester; Rita Snow, Renee Logsdon, Rochester Adams; Jill Forhan, Liz Leggett, Birmingham Groves; Linda Bache, Farmington Harrison; Enrica Dalsanto, Academy of the Sacred Heart; Lori Edwards, Detroit Country Day School; Carol DeVleeschouwer, Bridget Johnson, Troy; Marilyn Tatters, Troy Athens; Fitz Jelliffe, Karen Davidson, Susie Mast, Marianne Chelovich, Kingswood; Diane Jones, Farmington Our Lady of Mercy.

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