

Monday, December 13, 1982 O&E

(F)IC

Mercy miracle workers triumph

By Tom Baer
staff writer

It'll be known as The Miracle on McNichols Road for as long as high school girls play state tournament basketball in Michigan.

That old Ya-Gotta-Believe stuff and all the other never-say-die expressions certainly applied to what Farmington's Our Lady of Mercy pulled off Saturday afternoon in the state Class A girls' basketball finals in the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Mercy, trailing perennial-champion Flint Northern by 19 points at the three-quarter mark, staged a furious fourth-quarter comeback to upset the favored Flint five, 61-58, before more than 2,100 fans.

With the victory, coach Larry Baker's Mercy club closed out an excellent 24-1 season. Northern, which was shooting for a fifth-straight Class A championship, went out at 25-3.

Baker, who's guided Mercy to stardom in his eight years on the bench, had trouble steering his two stars, junior Sarah Basford and sophomore Amy DeMattia — off the Calihan court in the pandemonium which followed the final buzzer.

The 5-foot-9 Basford kept it from

being a total blowout with her accurate outside shooting early on, and the 5-11 DeMattia provided the inside scoring punch that brought the Marlins back.

After the game, neither could move five feet without being descended upon and hugged by joyous fans.

"I've never experienced anything like this," said Baker at a post-game press conference. "It's just unbelievable. The rabbit came out of the hat."

MERCY, TRADITIONALLY a strong fourth-quarter team, entered the final eight minutes losing, 52-33. Then it proceeded to outscore Northern, 28-4, in the stanza.

The play of DeMattia, who started scoring from inside, and Basford, who maintained her scoring pace, were factors in the rally. And so was Mercy's defensive trademark — an effective, turnover-producing full-court press.

The press, which has saved the Marlins on many occasions, finally took hold in the late going against Flint. Pressed hard, the Vikings seemed to collapse. Their 31 turnovers, all but nine came in the fourth quarter.

Mercy finally took the lead, 59-58, with about 50 seconds left as DeMattia got free and scored from short range.

Although both teams blew crucial

free throw opportunities in the last hectic minutes, Annette Ruggiero and Mary Rosowski, two more sophomore starters, each provided a foul shot to the final 30 seconds to tie the victory.

Northern raced to a 20-10 lead after the first quarter and then boosted the margin to 13 (35-22) at halftime. Things looked bleak for Mercy when Northern started the second half by making three quick buckets.

"Our goal at the quarter was to keep our self-respect," Baker admitted. "The game seemed to be out of reach by any stretch of the imagination — except that they (the Marlins) did the impossible."

Added DeMattia, "We had nothing to lose."

BASFORD LED all scorers with 22 points on 11 field goals. Carolyn Burt, the only senior starter, contributed 12 points, and Ruggiero and DeMattia each had 11.

Northern's Evette Ott, a very quick 5-7 senior guard, scored 18 points and showed some dazzling moves. Vicki Prince and Yvette Thompson added 14 and 11, respectively.

Northern had eliminated Mercy in the quarterfinal round the past two seasons on its way to state titles.

"For me, this (victory) means an end to two years of frustration running into this team in the quarters and not getting into a place like this," Baker said. "And we know we beat the best. We beat the best in basketball in Michigan."

Northern coach Dorothy Kukulka said, "We lost our momentum, and Mercy capitalized. When you get to this level, it's all a matter of who maintains control . . . of who makes fewer mistakes."

Both teams had close calls in semifinals Friday in Calihan Hall.

Mercy tied 14 points by Basford and 13 by Burt and some tough defensive play by Rosowski to hold off a rallying Lansing Everett, 43-39. Northern stopped a strong Utica Eisenhower team, 36-34.

MERCY 61 — FLINT NORTHERN 58

LADY OF MERCY (41) — Annette Ruggiero 3, 5-4, 11; Carolyn Burt 9, 2-7, 12; Sarah Basford 11, 6-9, 32; Amy DeMattia 3, 3-9, 11; Mary Rosowski 6, 1-4, 1; Beverly White 2, 0-1, 4; Terry Ford 6, 0-4, 0.

TOTALS: 24, 13, 27, 81.

FLINT NORTHERN (58) — Yvonne Thompson 2, 3-4, 11; Vicki Prince 4, 2-4, 14; Alayna McGee 5, 1-2, 5; Tracy Wells 4, 0-2, 8; Evette Ott 9, 0-3, 18; Monica Hughes 6, 0-4, 8; Charlotte Johnson 1, 0-0, 2.

TOTALS: 25, 1-10, 35.

TOTAL FOULS — Northern 21, Mercy 17.

FOULED OUT: McGee (FN).

MERCY 19 12 11 20 — 61

NORTHERN 20 15 17 6 — 58



Amy DeMattia puts up a shot during Mercy's furious fourth-quarter rally which led to an upset victory over Flint Northern.



Mercy standouts Sarah Basford (41) and Amy DeMattia (40) race down court during the second half of the state Class A girls' basketball final Saturday in the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Adams swim coach honored



Kelly Smyles
Brita Brookes
Missy Proctor

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Debbie Baer, the very successful girls' swimming coach at Rochester Adams High School, grew up dry in Waterford Township.

The Waterford public schools had no swimming pools (and thus no swim teams) in the late 1960s — and they still don't. And the private swimming clubs, so popular in some parts of Oakland County, just weren't part of the Waterford scene back then.

But Baer didn't let the lack of a competitive swimming background (she was a member of Michigan State University's synchronized swim team for two years) keep her from building a winner in her third season at Adams.

Her Highlanders were the surprise of the recent Class A state championship meet at MSU's McCauley Pool with a fourth-place finish and 78 points.

Adams completed its best season ever with an 11-3 overall record and a third-place finish behind Birmingham Groves and Bloomfield Hills Lahser in the swimming-strong Metro Suburban Activities Association.

For her accomplishments, Baer has been named Coach of the Year on the Observer & Eccentric's all-area girls' swimming team, which was picked recently by a panel of area coaches.

Adams sophomores Lisa Lucas and Kelly Smyles, both standouts in the state meet, join their coach on the annual honor team.

"My kids are so enthusiastic," said Baer, who spent six years teaching physical education and coaching boys' and girls' swimming in the Upper Peninsula city of Hancock before coming to Adams.

"It would have been a rough year without that enthusiasm. This group is so excited and so giving toward each other. They set so many goals — and then went out and hit every one of them."

ANOTHER AREA high school, Bloomfield Hills Andover, turned in a state-meet performance that was as expected as Adams' showing was surprising. Andover, coached by Mike Lane, won the Class A championship for the third-straight year with 159 points.



Debbie Baer
Adams coach

all-area swimming

ALL-AREA GIRLS' SWIMMING TEAM

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — 1. Bloomfield Hills Andover (Lori Elliott, Lynn Kline, Molly Bliden, Cindy Greenawalt), 1:51.78; 2. Bloomfield Hills Lahser (Sheri Maity, Lisa Cooper, Palmer Paige, Amy Dolliver), 1:54.22; 3. Birmingham Groves (Kim Pouch, Sury Green, Lisa Cash, Ann Markey), 1:54.29.

200-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. Lisa Lucas (Rochester Adams), 1:55.82; 2. Chris MacMillan (Birmingham Marian), 1:58.08; 3. Jenny Pancrats (Andover), 1:59.54.

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — 1. Karen Barnicoat (Andover), 2:11.01; 2. Sue Otero (Birmingham Seaborn), 2:13.79; 3. Kyra Blidolph (Lahser), 2:17.3.

50-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. Marcie Seiber (Troy), 24.05; 2. Chris Gurick (Marian), 24.88; 3. Kathy Waldron (Baer), 25.94.

DIVING — 1. Carolyn Kennedy (Groves), 369.50 points; 2. Gretchen Hawkins (Seaborn), 348.25; 3. Michelle Lucci (Marian), 342.55.

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — 1. Kelly Smyles (Adams), 58.06; 2. Sheri Maity (Lahser), 1:00.40; 3. Kristen Catto (Seaborn), 1:01.95.

100-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. Missy Proctor (Andover), 52.89; 2. Ann Markey (Groves), 54.42; 3. Kristin Hommel (Seaborn), 55.36.

500-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. Brita Brookes (Farmington Our Lady of Mercy), 5:14.6; 2. Jackie Moss (Seaborn), 5:14.91; 3. Sue Herzog (Our Lady of Mercy), 5:16.74.

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — 1. Sheryl Barnicoat (Andover), 1:01.26; 2. Kristi Spicer (Southfield Lahser), 1:03.09; 3. Lisa Cash (Groves), 1:03.19.

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — 1. Kim Neeb (Troy), 1:07.29; 2. Jill Andries (Our Lady of Mercy), 1:08.22; 3. Mary Carr (Adams), 1:09.44.

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — 1. Andover (Karen Barnicoat, Cindy Greenawalt, Missy Proctor, Sheryl Barnicoat), 3:35.26; 2. Adams (Debbie Zwerner, Sheri Pedak, Kelly Smyles, Lisa Lucas), 3:42.65; 3. Marian (Nancy MacMillan, Bunny Koway, Chris MacMillan, Chris Gurick), 3:42.95.

COACH OF THE YEAR — Debbie Baer, Adams.



Wayne Gwizdala, Kip Petherick, Bill Meidell, Trip Bosart

MEET BIRMINGHAM'S NEW RESIDENT EXPERTS IN INVESTMENTS.

Now all the investment expertise of McDonald & Company is available close to home. Wayne Gwizdala, Kip Petherick, Bill Meidell and Trip Bosart look forward to meeting you in the professional setting of their new offices in Birmingham Place.

They'll be happy to discuss your investment objectives any time during business hours, or in the evenings and on Saturdays by appointment. Their advice is

backed by McDonald's more than 50 years of expertise in listed and over-the-counter securities, municipal and corporate bonds, tax shelters, money-market instruments and options, as well as our Corporate and Municipal Finance Departments.

Call Wayne, Kip, Bill or Trip at 540-1221. Or visit them in Suite 333, Birmingham Place, 401 South Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan 48011.

McDONALD & COMPANY
The better you know us the better your future looks

Member New York Stock Exchange

Member SIPC