



(F1C)

North spiked in S'craft final



C.J. Risak

Halting the 'homers.' Set tough standards

SUPPOSE ALL YOU had to do to get a driver's license was send in five bucks in care of Dick Austin, Secretary of State, then take an open-book test.

The highways of Michigan would make Guyana look like a minor tragedy. I know I'd give up driving and start supporting mass transit — preferably in M-1 tanks.

The point is you got to have the right kind of training if you're going to perform properly, whether it be driving a car, building a skyscraper or even officiating basketball games.

Now, if you ask basketball coaches about officials you'll find two things: one, they think they see them in a fair light, and two, they usually don't.

BUT THEY ARE right about one thing. Officials are not trained for their jobs. They can receive their accreditation via the same method mentioned above: send in five bucks to the MHSAA, take an open-book test and, *voila*, they can referee Friday's game.

Thank heaven that rarely happens. Still, officials in this state get most of their training on-the-job, starting with grade school and junior high games and moving up to high school contests.

Some learn their lessons better than others. Those, as Southfield coach Greg Sliwka says, "can't be influenced so they aren't around very long. They go on to the colleges or even the pros."

But it can be a long, tough ladder to climb to reach the upper echelons of officialdom. And there are coaches who believe some officials will pull strings to reach that top rung a bit faster.

"That, coaches say, is one reason they get 'homered.'"

HOMERING, BY DEFINITION, is having the calls go to the home team. Coaches say it happens all the time. Officials disagree.

Tom Negoshian says his North Farmington team got homered by officials in a 50-44 loss at Redford Thurston Feb. 10. North took three free throws. Thurston took 17.

Sliwka says his team was homered last year in a three-point loss at Lansing Eastern. He says the only way to battle such a thing is by "manipulating the officials."

"I've manipulated them into making calls my way. I do what I have to do. Not that I necessarily like it, but once I have a guy listening to me, I have to take advantage of it."

Sliwka does it, he says, because there "are two things to consider (with officials): how much they are influenced first by the home crowd atmosphere and second by the coaches."

Good officials won't be influenced, and those are the kind Sliwka likes.

JOE KAVULICH, an official from Livonia who worked his way up from CYO and local high school games to the Big Ten, says coaches "are in another world. They're not objective."

"If the fouls are 8-1, I don't keep track of that. Heck, I have enough things to worry about."

Officials get the blame, Kavulich says, when play gets ragged and free throws start mounting. Poor officiating is less to blame than poor play. When the talent on the court is lacking, whistles blow more frequently.

Dennis Bostwick, a high school official from Garden City, agrees. "I never thought about the effect of a call on a game, ever," he said. "I never heard an athletic director imply that 'The calls better go my way or you won't be back.'"

But Bostwick admits there are officials "who are concerned about their schedule, and they feel they have to impress the right people. But I think they do it by rubbing elbows with A.D.s, not by homering."

THE QUESTION is how to stop whatever homering exists and improve officiating.

Many Northwest Suburban League coaches are leaning toward a suggestion made last year by Negoshian: a staff of approved officials for league games. That should eliminate homering, since the same officials will rotate between games.

It's a method the Detroit Public School League (PSL) has found to be successful. Clinics between officials and teams, and Kavulich, who evaluates performance, and officials are held before each season. New officials are rated in the St. Cecilia summer league program.

"There is no question it is better for everyone concerned," said Bostwick, who is a PSL official. "It allows the officials to adjust to that league's style of play," which helps them make calls with consistency.

THE SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN Association has a staff of selected officials, but made the mistake of allowing no room for change when the six-year contract was signed. Poor officials — or those easily influenced, as Sliwka says — kept working. A new SMA contract beginning next season should eliminate that problem by giving coaches the power to say who they don't want refereeing their games, home or away.

Pools of officials for leagues, like the PSL and Catholic League now have, should improve matters. Both coaches and officials agree to that. But making requirements tougher would help, too.

A hard-nosed stance by the Michigan Girls' Athletic Association — better training and stronger statewide jurisdiction — would eliminate officials who don't deserve to be wearing the black and white. And it would open it up for others just starting out.

But don't hold your breath. The MHSAA will take such a step the same day driver's licenses are available by mail.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

North's Amy Austin was named to the All-Tournament team by the 30 coaches at Saturday's Schoolcraft Invitational.

Mercy gets hall-of-famer

By Chris McCosky staff writer

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL athletic director De Loris Yager was all set to hire a new girls tennis coach when he reviewed a resume from a late applicant.

Here are some of the credentials listed on that resume: More than 30 years of experience as an educator and coach — retired Jan. 1, 1984. An inductee into the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame (1979).

Chairman of the Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association (SEMTA); member of the Women's Athletic Advisory Board for tennis developed, organized and conducted high school coaches clinics; designed the Harvey Barcus Tennis Complex in Detroit; SEMTA official and committee member.

The resume was only the beginning to get into the meat of the career of one James Albert Kerwin.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, Yager was impressed. Impressed enough to reconsider his original choice. She read on.

Under a category titled "Tennis Publications," the resume listed "Tennis Instruction Manual," "Progressive Tennis Instruction Manual," and the successful SEMTA Yearbook which Kerwin initiated in 1985.

Here was a man whose life has been devoted to teaching young men and women about athletic competition, mostly through tennis.

Why, after 30 years with the Detroit Public School District and 30-plus years with the Detroit Recreation Department, did he want to spend his retirement building a successful girls tennis program at Farmington Hills' Our Lady of Mercy High School?

"It's a challenge that I'm very much looking forward to," Kerwin said. "I consider it a privilege to work with such a school as Mercy. The swim team has developed a strong reputation, the basketball team has a strong reputation, and the academics has a strong reputation. I would like to build a strong tennis reputation."

The tennis program at Mercy has been surprisingly dormant. Last year's coach, Kathy Mullen, resigned to devote time to her nursing career. There is a new tennis coach at Mercy, seem-

ingly, every other year. That's a tough way to establish a program.

Kerwin offered coaching stability to the program. He said it would take three to five years to build a competitive tennis program at Mercy and he would like to be there; start to finish and beyond.

BEST YET, Kerwin offered his services for the basic minimum coaches salary.

Yager hired Jim Kerwin. Though the season doesn't begin until next fall, Kerwin has wasted little time getting started. He's met with returning members from last year's team. He's met with the junior varsity players. He's met with Mercy administrators and staff members.

During freshman registration, Kerwin set up an informational booth and attracted some 13 interested players.

"The first step," he said, "will be to organize the team and to work with the talent we already have, so they can reach their potential. Next step is to raise the level of their skills, to become known as one of the better teams in the area."

Please turn to Page 2

James Kerwin
New Mercy coach

By Chris McCosky staff writer

It was a classic case of survival of the fittest.

Thirty high school volleyball teams, among them the very best in this area, crammed into the physical education building on the campus of Schoolcraft Community College Saturday to vie for the title in the Schoolcraft Invitational.

After some 10 hours of intense competition, two survivors remained — Livonia Stevenson and North Farmington, ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in Observeland.

The two weary combatants somehow managed to save their best for last. When every last ounce of energy and emotion had been spent, it was the Livonians who did the celebrating.

STEVENSON, USING an unmatched brand of power volleyball, took two of three from North, 9-15, 15-6, 15-7. (See statistics page for complete results.)

North outsmarted the Spartans in game one using a combination of well-placed tips and pounding slams by Amy Austin, Donna Konjarevich and Mary Koticki. The Spartans were deprived of their attacking offense by the Raider tactic.

Between games, Stevenson coach Lee Cagle took his team aside. "I told them that I didn't want any dinking out there," Cagle said. "I wanted them to attack the net and hit hard. We played eight people, and seven are attacking hitters."

Still, the Raiders' tips and dinks kept the Spartans away from their game. North led 4-1 in game two. That's when Cathy Gage went back to serve for the Spartans. She reeled off seven straight points and the Spartans were in command.

With the strong serves forcing North to play defensively, Spartan attackers Lisa Bokovoy, Joan Frynsinger and Tami Scurio began banging home spike after spike.

"I think what was happening in game one, was that we got so used to hitting down and getting the point," Cagle said. "They are not used to getting their

spikes returned so they have a tendency to relax in mid point. North is too good a team to relax on any point. They dig so well. They are an outstanding defensive team."

"Until we started expecting the ball to come back on every play, we had a hard time with them."

GAME THREE featured some exciting rallies. Stevenson, again, was the aggressor at the net, but the Raiders consistently dug up the Spartans vicious spikes.

Koticki, her sister Patti Koticki, Linda Renard, Konjarevich, Susette Greenberg and Austin were all over the floor for the Raiders. Still, North trailed 5-0.

"We were just tired out," said North coach Sandy Lubniewski. "When you play for 10 hours you tend to get a little arm weary. I think that showed on our part."

But the Raiders battled back. Strong serving by Greenberg and Austin's intelligent hitting evened the score at seven.

That, however, was North's last hurrah. Scurio served out the game for Stevenson — eight straight points. She served 10 of the Spartans' 15 points in game three.

Bokovoy and setter Linda Loeffler teamed beautifully throughout the championship match. They, along with Scurio, were named to the All-Tournament team. North's Austin was also named.

NORTH'S ROAD to the championship game was almost cut short after pool play. They lost twice in pool play to last year's champ Temperance Bedford. But, the Raiders' 6-3 record earned them a wild-card spot in the quarterfinals. Their opponent: Bedford. This time, the Raiders had their number, beating the Mules 15-0, 15-9. Bedford was stunned.

Please turn to Page 2

The more you have and the more you earn, the more help you need keeping it.

People with substantial assets or income—or both—stand to lose the most to taxes and inflation. Fortunately, the Government permits tax sheltering for those who invest in the development of certain key resources—usually oil and gas or residential and commercial real estate.

The tax advantages can be diverse and attractive, and can exist in interesting combinations. They become possible when you invest in a limited partnership engaged in the appropriate development work. Some come as first year expenses that can be used as deductions. Others are deductions due to depreciation which, depending on financial structure, can be spread out over a period of years. There's the possibility also that investment appreciation can be converted to capital gains. And, in many cases, cash flow generated by the partnership can be partially sheltered.

Obviously, the more compatible a tax shelter can be to your own situation, the greater your opportunity to maximize results. Kidder, Peabody's forte is arranging this matchup. Our requirements in this field are exceptionally high; most tax shelter plans fail to meet our standards. From those that do, we make a painstaking selection for each and every client. For a confidential discussion—with no obligation to you—use the coupon and we'll telephone at your convenience.

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