



Monday, June 4, 1984 O&E

(F1C)

Mercy championship makes history

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

The sun cracked through the sky for the first time all week. The temperatures, which had been hovering in the low 40-degree range, suddenly leaped into the 70s. God and Mother Nature must have known Thursday was a special day.

The occasion: The first-ever Catholic League girls soccer championship played at Farmington High School between Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy and Birmingham Marian — a historic event.

When it was over, Walt Bazylewicz, director of the Catholic League, handed out the first championship trophy to the maroon team — Mercy, a collection of recreation-league players that coach Gene Fogel threw together for the first time and molded into one of the best teams in the state.

On this Thursday afternoon, with God and Mother Nature smiling from above, Mercy got two goals from freshman Kathy Rush — an unexpected hero — and a 4-2 win.

FOGEL RAISED the trophy triumphantly over his head, flashing it before his applauding players and then to the Marian's appreciative fans — it was a great moment for the first-year coach and team.

"That is one great coach," said Marian head man Terry Dilworth pointing toward Fogel. "The job he did this year with a first-year team was just super. I've never seen anything like it."

Here's why Dilworth, a man who has done quite a job himself (18-2 overall record, ranked No. 10 in the state) praised Fogel: Mercy was 13-4 overall in the year, ranked No. 8 in the state, and at one point had an 11-game winning streak. The Marian won 12 of their last 13 games.

Marian came into the championship game with a perfect 7-0 Catholic League record. Mercy was 6-1, losing to Marian early in the season 5-3. But, in the historic finale, Mercy was the dominant team.

"The momentum swung back and

soccer

forth, but they definitely had more momentum," Dilworth said. "We are a better team than we showed here today. But, the frightening thing is, Mercy is also a better team than they showed today."

Mercy was all over the ball. Marian, because of the Marian tenacity, never got into its offensive flow. The Marian's outshot Marian 20-10.

"We were able to control the ball better in the midfield in our first game," Dilworth said. "We didn't at all today. Usually we don't have any problems in that area."

SAID FOGEL: "We thought getting them on a bigger field would be to our advantage because of our speed. Annette (Ruggiero, Mercy's all-Catholic halfback) is a terrific ball handler. I figured they would try to double and triple team her. I didn't want her to dribble the ball too much. Instead, we worked on through-passes. When the defense came out on Annette, she passed over on the wing."

That strategy worked for Mercy's first two goals. At 13:30 mark of the first half, Ruggiero, the Catholic League's leading goal scorer, slipped a through-pass to Rush. Rush drilled a shot that Marian goalie Lisa Riker got a piece of, but the ball trickled in behind her.

Five minutes later Rush scored again, taking another pass from Ruggiero then breaking in from about 40 yards out. She beat Riker cleanly this time.

It's been a disappointing year for Rush. A promising freshman, she scored the first Mercy goal ever in the team's first league game against Marian. But after the fast start, she injured her ankle and played sparingly. She was all smiles, however, after Thursday's game.

Marian got back in the game with eight minutes left in the half. Junior

Julie Christ (pronounced krist, rhymes with twist) broke away from the Marian defense from about 20 yards. She broke in on a tough angle to the left of Mercy goalie Betty Eads, but tucked the ball deftly inside the far goal post to make the score 2-1 — that's how the half ended.

MERCY REGAINED its two-goal margin just 1:18 into the second half. Amy DeMatteis blistered a shot from the corner, about 10 yards to the right of the goal, which deflected off a Marian defender past Riker.

The goal seemed to jolt Marian. It began carrying the play to Mercy for the first time. Julie Stancus banged a close-in free kick, but Eads made a sprawling save.

Then Mercy defender Elaine Montanbeau made a play that may have taken the wind out of Marian's sails. Shannon Besette fired a shot past Eads. But Montanbeau, playing on the opposite side, came back to head the ball away from the net saving a clinch goal.

"We worked on that play all week," Fogel said in all seriousness. "When the play is coming down one wing, we want our weak-side fullback to drop back into the weak-side part of the goal."

If Montanbeau's play didn't clinch it, Ruggiero's goal did. Ruggiero was awarded a penalty kick, and from 10 yards out, made no mistake. She drilled a low, hard shot past Riker.

With two minutes left, Marian's Rachel Brochert picked up the ball from a scramble in front of the Mercy net and fired it home for the final tally of the match.

"The girls were really anxious to play Marian again," Fogel said. "They beat us, ironically, on Friday the 13th (of April) on a muddy field. I think the girls thought they could beat them. Everyone played excellently. This is a very happy moment for us. I'm very proud."

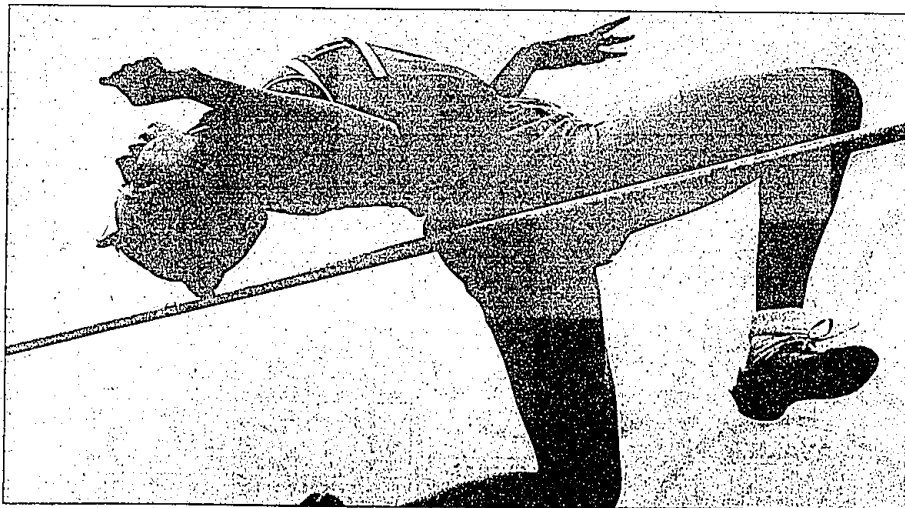
You might want to save this article. This question is sure to become a popular trivia teaser: Who won the first-ever Catholic League girls soccer championship?



TOM DAEY/staff photographer

Marian Kathy Rush, a freshman, had a big day Thursday against Mercy. Missing much of the season with an ankle injury, Rush scored two goals to get Mercy off and running in the Catholic League championship match. Mercy won 4-2.

Hawks win final race, tie Falcons in WLAA



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

This Falcon really can fly. Farmington's Samble Shivers leaped 5-3 Wednesday to take first in the high jump at the WLAA girls track meet.

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

A wise coach once said: "If life and buts were nuts and candy, we'd all have a merry Christmas."

Well, if Farmington's best hurdler hadn't false started in the 300-meter hurdles, if Farmington's 1,600 relay team had at least placed, if Farmington's 1,600 relay had taken second instead of first, Farmington would have won the Western Lakes Activities Association girls track meet Wednesday at Livonia Stevenson.

But they didn't. Instead, a first-up band of Hawks from Harrison rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final event to earn a tie with the Falcons. Both Farmington and Harrison will share the league meet title with 63 points each.

Walled Lake Western, Western Division dual meet champs and a pre-meet favorite, placed third with 72 points, and could sing their own life-and-buts song. If their best sprinter, perhaps the best sprinter in the meet, hadn't slipped and fallen, etc.)

STEVENSON, LAKES Division champions, placed fourth with 63 points. Plymouth Salem ended up a somewhat disappointing fifth with 58 points. Many coaches expected Salem to be a major challenger in the meet.

Northville placed sixth, but the Mustangs gave the meet its most outstanding individual performer: Cindy Panowicz. All she did was score 50 of her team's 46 points, taking first in three events. Panowicz won the 100

girls track

hurdles (15.00), the 300 hurdles (44.03) and the 400 dash (58.84).

The meet came down, as all good meets do, to the final event — 1,600 relay. Farmington had a 10-point edge over Harrison and Western at that point, but Farmington coach Gerry Young knew his team was in trouble.

"I figured with four events to go it would be hard to be beat us," he said. "But, then we had some unexpected trouble in the 300 hurdles and in the distance events."

Farmington's Jenny Lindbert and Churchill's Julie Recla have been at the top of the 1,600 and 3,200 rankings all season, with Lindbert holding a slight edge. Wednesday, however, was Recla's day. She won the 1,600 in 3:24.4, two seconds ahead of Lindbert, and the 3,200 in 11:39.32, far ahead of Lindbert — scoring 20 of the Chargers' 34 points.

"WE HAVEN'T had a good mile (1,600-meter) relay team all year," Young said. "I didn't expect to place. We were kind of hoping that someone would beat Harrison."

It didn't happen. Tracy Brod, Beth Christie, Carol Kopko and Jamie Holcomb brought the baton across the fin-

Please turn to Page 2

Raiders rally from 12-run deficit, fall 4 short

By Rich Swenson
staff writer

North Farmington's baseball team rallied from a 12-run deficit to give Walled Lake Western a scare in Saturday's district slugfest at Canton, but the Raiders comeback fell short in their season-ending 14-10 loss.

The Warriors sent 12 men to the plate in their seven-run first inning, capped by back-to-back two-run doubles by Bob Billingham and Dave Barlow. Billingham also belted a two-run

home in the third inning to give Western what appeared to be an insurmountable 15-0 lead.

But the Raiders came back strong with a big inning of their own in the wild fourth, exploding for eight runs to get back in the game.

Scott Draper started the rally with an infield single — North Farmington's first hit of the game. Keith Weyer followed with a run-scoring triple. Before the inning was over, the Raiders had batted around, striding seven hits, a walk and a sacrifice fly to close the gap to 12-8.

The key hits were Mike McBo's bases-loaded single and Weyer's two-out, two-run double, giving him three RBIs in the inning.

"When you're down 12-0, it's hard to come back," North Farmington coach Jerry Maxwell said. "We beat ourselves in the first couple of innings. Our pitching let us down."

"But we didn't lay down. We fought back and made it a game."

Western manager Dave Barlow pitched brilliantly. He got the start, striking out the side in the first two in-

ings. But then he was pulled with a 12-0 lead, apparently to save him for the championship final.

After North's Tom Cotter homered in the seventh to make it 14-10, Barlow was brought back in. He fanned Mark Carrier and Draper to end the game.

Sonbay, Weyer and Draper had two hits each for North Farmington, which finished the season at 8-14.

NORTHVILLE, MI. (UPI) — CLARENCE Dore pitched a masterful five-inning, one-hit performance in the first round of the

Canton, leading his team to a 2-1 victory over Westland John Glenn, advancing the Mustangs to the district final.

Mickey Newman gave Northville all the runs it needed after knocking a long two-run homer in the first inning.

Dave Brisk's home run in the sixth inning produced the Mustangs only run. Dave Jensen broke up Doyle's no-hitter with a single in the fifth.

The defensive play of the game was made by Northville third baseman Bob Brisk, who pitched in the seventh. With one out and two men on base, he

ets John Clemmons smashed a drive down the third base line. Foghorn back-handed the shot, turning it into a game-ending double play.

Glenn's brother Don Wolfe also pitched well, scattering seven hits while striking out six and winning his first

"It was a well-earned ball game," Glenn coach Norm Thomas said, whose team finished the season with a respectable 12-3 mark. "Today we didn't get the hits when we needed them. We hit the ball right at people. When we don't hit, we don't win."