

## Sports

entertainment inside

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## CC-Rice tennis fates spin a wicked yarn

**C**O AWAY for a few days and look what happens. Sure, a guy might expect a few surprises after a vacation. Like not being able to find his desk ("What do you mean it's been cleaned out?") or forgetting how to type.

But this — it's down right bizarre. I left two weeks ago today and returned Monday. In that space of time:

- Troy's girls soccer team was ousted from the state tournament by Harper Woods Regina;
- Neither Plymouth Canton's or Plymouth Salem's basketball teams — both state finalists in the past two years — made it as far as the district finals;
- Livonia Churchill actually failed to win its league title in boys track for the first time in a dozen years — Salem ousted the Chargers;
- Livonia Stevenson's unbeatable softball and girls soccer teams both proved beatable, the softball team sidelined by Livonia Franklin, which it no-hit earlier in the season, and the defending state champ soccer team losing in the finals to Northville, which it trounced 6-0 in league play.

Add to that a merging of the Western Lakes Activities Association and three Northwest Suburban League teams and you can understand why I might feel like I just returned from a five-year mission on the Starship Enterprise instead of a 10-day trip to Phoenix.

AND YET, if these events served to make me feel somewhat uneasy upon my return to routine workday life, the first call I handled renewed my faith in human nature relative to the world of sports.

Which means I'm very shaky indeed. That first call concerned the Class A state tennis tournament, which host-team Highland Park won. Redford Catholic Central was second, Birmingham Brother Rice tied for third.

Those three teams were the main characters in a drama that had more twists and turns than an Agatha Christie novel. The result of this tournament subplot had major consequences. It made Dow the state champ and CC the runner-up and, in an odd way, gave Brother Rice a measure of vengeance.

**HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED.** The situation: Rice co-captain James McNulty is locked in a struggle with Dow's Mark Rampy in a fourth singles semifinal match. Each player has won a set and McNulty leads 5-4 in the final. McNulty is serving, trailing Rampy 30-40, and he double-faults.

Game goes to Rampy, right? Not exactly. Officials incorrectly award the point to McNulty, making it a deuce game. McNulty wins the next two points, taking the game and the match with a 6-4 final-set victory.

Hold on there, says Rampy's father, who points out the mistake. The Dow coach lodges a protest, and sure enough, all parties agree it was a blunder. The question now is what to do about it. Wouldn't you know it — there's a hotline in Minneapolis for just such occasions, a USTA-sponsored association that rules on tennis rules.

Its decision: Award the game to Rampy, tying the match at 5-5, and tack the two points McNulty served after the blunder onto the score of the next game. That means Rampy is still alive and serving, but trails 0-30.

The set eventually goes 16 games before Rampy wins 9-7 to advance to the finals.

**SO WHERE DOES CC figure in all of this?** The Shamrocks had a player pitted in the finals against Rampy. Robert Martin, a senior, was the only player to win the state title by a mere two points, Rampy's presence — and eventual victory — in the finals made a difference in who would reign as state champion.

"We would have had a better chance against the Rice kid," said CC coach Frank Garlicki. "Rob has beaten him already this year."

But McNulty, who according to Garlicki went from elation when it appeared he had won to dejection when he learned the victory was still in doubt, fell despite a strong effort. Yet, with his defeat, Rice got an odd measure of revenge against CC.

After all, the Warriors had won five straight Catholic League titles until CC emerged this season. First the Shamrocks nipped Rice in a dual meet, then edged the Warriors in the state regional. In the Catholic League championships, CC rolled over Rice.

Now, McNulty's loss cost CC a state title.

**NONE OF WHICH** bothered Garlicki, who was happier than I was when I found my desk. For the first time in its history, CC had individual state champions (in second and third doubles) and with only two seniors on the team the future looks bright.

"It wasn't an intentional mistake," said the chipper Garlicki. "It was just a bad break." Probably just as well. It would have been unfortunate to win a state title backing in on such a goof.

Anyway, Garlicki put the whole matter in proper perspective. The Shamrocks lost two dual meets this season, both by 2-3 scores to Class B powerhouse Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"As a matter of fact, Cranbrook beat Dow this year 5-1," Garlicki pointed out.

Which simply means the best tennis team in the state won't be found among the Class A squads. The title rests with Cranbrook, the Class B champ for the past five years.

And in this period of sports oddity and uncertainty, Cranbrook's year-to-year superiority provides welcome stability.



Rhonda Lancaster (above) and her Farmington High teammate Alyse Fortune, along with Mercy players Sarah Basford and Bev White, formed a Farmington Connection that helped the Metro AAU team to a win.

## Local stars propel AAU team to title

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

It's on to Clovis, N.M., and the National Junior Olympic girls basketball tournament for Ed Kavanaugh's Metro AAU team — and they can thank Char Govan for the trip.

Govan, a 5-foot-10 Livonia Ladywood junior, put on an incredible performance — similar to the one she displayed rallying the Blazers to a state title last November — leading the Metro squad to an unexpected 88-82 victory against the Michigan team in the 18 and under AAU state championship game Sunday at Schoolcraft Community College.

Govan was, well, ubiquitous, omnipresent — she was all over the place. She scored, she rebounded, she made steals, forced turnovers, and nearly every loose ball seemed to wind up in her clutches.

In a game of stars, Govan shined brightest. She scored 32 points to lead all scorers.

**HER PERFORMANCE** takes on added significance when you consider who she and her Metro teammates were playing.

"We don't match up against them at all," Kavanaugh said prior to Sunday's contest. "We have good players. But, the talent on that side is just awesome."

The Michigan team was comprised of players from outstate areas including Flint, Saginaw and Benton Harbor. The players: Tonya Edwards, who led Flint Northwestern to a Class A state title last year, Yvonne Thompson from Saginaw Carlton; Marva Fuller, 6-4 all-star from Holly; and Lisa Harvey, all-star from Benton Harbor. Miss Basketball of Michigan, Michelle Kruty, was supposed to play on the team. She didn't show.

This Michigan team blew by a good Brick City Bombers team in the semifinals Saturday, 92-78. They were heavily favored to be the team to advance to Clovis. But, Kavanaugh again proved that good "team" basketball can overcome a group of talented individuals.

"We knew we had to control the tempo. We couldn't run with them," Kavanaugh said. "We anticipated a lot of individual play from them. What we wanted to do was move our defense out to stop the ball before they could get inside."

To do that, Kavanaugh had his team deploy a menacing half-court trap defense. The defense

### girls basketball

confused Michigan for the first 10 minutes of the first half and gave them fits down the stretch.

**METRO JUMPED** ahead 10-11 after 10 minutes. After a timeout, however, Michigan began to get the ball inside. They rattled off seven unanswered points to get back in the game.

With the score tied 22-22, 6:58 left in the half, Kavanaugh knew he was facing a crisis point. Michigan appeared poised to run his team out of the gym.

Kavanaugh countered by sending in his Farmington Connection — namely, Rhonda Lancaster and Alyse Fortune from Farmington High, and Sarah Basford and Beverly White from Farmington Hills Mercy.

The move sparked Metro. Fortune hit a jumper, Basford drabbed another, then Lancaster hit two straight, one on a pretty feed from Basford — boom, Metro is up by six again.

"Those kids really did a job for us," Kavanaugh said.

Toward the end of the half, however, Michigan began to dominate the offensive boards, getting two and three shots each time down the court. The result: Michigan carried a 40-36 lead into the half.

**TOWARD THE END** of the half, I felt we lost some of our intensity," Kavanaugh said. "I felt we may have got a little tired. We seemed to get our second wind in the second half."

It was Govan who breathed the life into the Metro team in the second half. She scored the first six Metro points, trading hoops with Michigan's Thompson.

With Michigan up 54-46, Govan began to take charge. She rattled off seven more unanswered points. After another clutch hoop by Lancaster, Metro was up 57-54.

In the next seven minutes the score was tied nine times and the lead changed hands six times — it was that kind of game. A flat-out white-knucker.

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## Falcons soar at state meet

"I really can't ask for anything more from the kids," Gerry Young, Farmington's girls track coach, was saying two days after Saturday's state Class A track meet.

What, else, really, could he have asked for. The Falcons sent four competitors to the meet, all four scored.

Farmington came away with 10 1/2 points, good for 17th best in the state, which is the best team finish in the state in quite a few years.

Young, who goes back to 1967 as Farmington's boys track coach, said this was his highest team score since 1971.

"We really had a good bunch of kids this year," he said. "We got tremendous senior leadership, and that really helps."

**AT THE STATE** meet, both Beth Sherman and Sambla Shivers finished fifth. Sherman threw the discus 112-0, the best in the area, and Shivers high jumped 5-4, also the best in the area.

Terri Quenneville took a seventh in the discus (112-3) and Jenny Lindberg established a school record in the 3,200-

### track

meter run with an eighth-place 11:36.3. She held the old mark at 11:50.3.

Farmington Harrison didn't come away empty from the girls meet. Lauri Runk placed seventh in the long jump with a 16-11 1/2. The other Hawk competing was Jamie Holcomb who placed 13th in the 300 hurdles (48.4).

The boys meet wasn't as successful for the Farmington district schools.

Farmington sent two competitors. Pole vaulter Jeff Lawton placed 10th with a 13-1 vault. Greg Coplan won his heat in the 300-meter hurdles with a 38.4, but that was good only for a 10th place overall.

North Farmington's Victor Shaw went 20-3 in the long jump, but that fine effort didn't place.

Harrison's Dave Younger high jumped 6-3, and John Sepevci went 20-1 1/2 in the long jump — neither effort earning a place.

## CC netters 2nd in state

By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

Saturday was Redford Catholic Central tennis team's brightest hour. And with just one more break, it could have been even brighter.

The Shamrocks, who had "never had a player go beyond the quarterfinals" at the state meet according to coach Frank Garlicki, crowned two individual champions, had two others reach their flight finals and had a fifth get as far as the semifinals to finish second in the Class A tournament at Midland Dow.

"I was real happy," said Garlicki. "I had us figured at just about where we finished. I thought a break here or there would have won it for us."

Despite their stellar play, CC fell just short. Midland Dow's 24 points was tops, with the Shamrocks finishing with 22. Birmingham Brother Rice and Ann Arbor Huron followed with 17 points

apiece, with Portage Northern (16), Traverse City (13), East Lansing (12), and Birmingham Sophom and Berkeley (11 each) next.

**CC'S SECOND** and third doubles teams made Shamrock history with their respective state championships. Tom Flack and Jeff Huston whipped Midland Dow's Jon Hop and John Nielsen 7-5, 7-6 to seize the second doubles crown.

Dan Vargovick and Greg Grabowski claimed the third doubles title by topping Eric Garcia and Pat Walsh of Brother Rice 6-3, 6-4.

Full Eagleson reached the finals in third singles before being ousted by Huron's Steve Henrichs 6-0, 6-4. Robert Martin did the same for the Shamrocks in fourth singles, battling to the finals before falling to Dow's Mark Rampy 7-6, 6-1.

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