



Farmington Harrison's Tracy Solomon won three of the four events Thursday night against Grosse Pointe North.

## Hawks win again

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improving with every meet. The Hawks beat Grosse Pointe North Thursday, 117.8-104.8 for their third straight victory.

More importantly, the 117.8 is just 2 off the state qualifying mark. The Hawks were especially proficient in the floor exercise, winning the first four places. Tracy Solomon won with 8.5, then came Lauri Runk (8.15).

## Salem tops Canton, 1st time in history

By Chris McCoaky  
staff writer

The gymnastics psyche is perhaps the strangest of any sport.

Take the Plymouth Salem-Plymouth Canton meet Wednesday night, for example. The two, naturally, are the fiercest of rivals in every sport. To compound that, in gymnastics, Salem had never beaten Canton.

You'd think that Salem, upon finally beating its rival — finally taking that ugly monkey off its back — would be delirious, to say nothing about ecstatic.

Nah. Salem did in fact defeat Canton Wednesday, as expected, 121.25-101.5. But, if there was delirium or ecstasy, it was scarcely evident.

"I was pleased," said Salem coach Kathi Kinsella, not entirely humdrum. "I got exactly what I expected for once."

Kinsella, too, found oddity in her gymnasts' reaction to the "big" win. "THEY WERE really strange," said she. "They'd come up to me and say, 'Gee, I just don't seem to have any energy.' It was like they knew they would win."

Indeed, much of the mystery had gone out of this meeting after Monday's double dual with John Glenn. Salem scored 121.55 in that meet, Canton 119.3 and Glenn 110.15.

Although he didn't expect a victory, Canton coach John Cunningham was a bit miffed at Wednesday's meet. "No, I didn't feel too good afterwards," he said. "I mean, I told the girls that the purpose of this gymnastics meet was to improve their scores. That's all we were interested in. We knew we couldn't win the thing. But, let's work on improving what we do."

As it turned out, much to Cunningham's chagrin, his gymnasts did improve their routines over Monday's outing, yet the team score was considerably lower.

"Overall, I thought we were better but we lost points," Cunningham said. "And quite honestly, I don't know where those points went. We should have been able to tell the girls, 'look how much better you did.' But, that just didn't happen."

KINSELLA AGREED. "The judging just isn't very consistent," she said. "I thought Canton was twice as

Jill Birsa (8.1) and Julie Runk (8.05). Solomon took three firsts and a second on the night. She won the bars (7.4), and the beam (8.1) and took second on vault (7.8).

Lauri Runk also scored a third on vault (7.7). Birsa netted a third on bars (8.15) and Judy Solomon scored a third on beam (7.35).

The Hawks travel to Southfield-Lathrup tonight.

PLYM. SALEM 121.25  
PLYM. CANTON 101.5  
(Wednesday at Phase III)

Vault: 1. Jackie Huff (PS), 8.55; 2. Beth Ratall (PS), 8.35; 3. Sara Michalik (PS), 7.8; 4. Ann Healey (PC), 7.55; 5. April Mosakowski (PC), 7.4; 6. Sue Lutz (PS), 7.15.

Unseen bars: 1. Jackie Huff (PS), 8.05; 2. Beth Ratall (PS), 7.75; 3. Megan McGow (PC), 6.8; 4. Sara Michalik (PS), 6.75; 5. Shelly Ludwig (PC), 6.35; 6. Sue Lutz (PS), 6.2.

Balance beam: 1. Beth Ratall (PS), 8.05; 2. Sara Michalik (PS), 7.65; 3. Jackie Huff (PS), 7.55; 4. Debra Flynn (PS), 6.95; 5. Megan McGow (PC), 6.4; 6. Jenny Bredt (PS), 6.25.

Floor exercise: 1. Jackie Huff (PS), 8.3; 2. Beth Ratall (PS), 8.05; 3. Debra Flynn (PS), 7.35; 4. Megan McGow (PC), 7.15; 5. Ann Healey (PC), 7.0; 6. Mary Jo Charron (PC), 6.45.

good as they were Monday." Salem, on the other hand, was not as sharp as they were Monday, but that didn't stop the Rocks from placing 1-2 in each of the four events.

Jackie Huff and Beth Ratall led the way for the Rocks. Huff, placing first in the vault (8.55), uneven parallel bars (8.05) and floor exercise (8.3), took all-around honors with 32.45 points.

Ratall was not far behind. Her all-around total was 32.20, winning the balance beam (8.05), taking seconds in the vault (8.35), bars (7.75) and floor (8.05).

Sara Michalik was also a key for the Rocks taking second on beam (7.65), third on vault (7.8) and fourth on bars (6.75).

Megan McGow was the high scorer for the Chiefs. She placed third on bars (6.8), fourth on floor (7.15) and fifth on beam (6.4).

Also in the meet, Debbie Bork, who is from Ludwood and is coached by Cunningham, scored a 7.25 on vault and 7.65 on floor.

"It's nice to win," Kinsella said. "But, I want to stress that these girls aren't big heads. There are a lot of teams out there that aren't too far away from beating us and there are teams better than us that we still have to beat — like North Farmington."

As last oddity about this match up — Kinsella credits Cunningham with much of her team's success. "I just can't thank JC (Cunningham) enough for what he's done for us," Kinsella said. "If it weren't for him, we wouldn't be where we are now. Nobody has ever taught me more about gymnastics."

# Falcons dodge Bulldog bullet

In may be early in the season, but the Farmington volleyball team dodged a serious bullet Wednesday night.

On the heels of a giveaway loss to Plymouth Salem the previous Monday, the Falcons brushed off Livonia Bentley 15-1, 15-12.

Had the Falcons lost, and the Bentley match was in some doubt in game two, coach Kim O'Neill may have feared the worse for her young team.

"This was a very important game for us," O'Neill said. "Last year we were 5-1 when we played Salem. We took them three close, hard-fought games and wound up losing. That sort of began our nosedive."

This year's Salem match was equally frustrating. The Falcons won game one, and led 10-3 in game two. That's when the wheels fell off and Salem rallied to win.

IT APPEARED Farmington was headed down a similar path Wednesday.

After wallowing Bentley in the first game, the Falcons roared to a 13-2 lead in game two. Then they stopped.

It was 14-12 before the Falcons finally put the match away.

"We just couldn't seem to get off 14," O'Neill said. "No way did I want a third game, not after Salem. A third game would have been deadly for us. We haven't played well in third games this season. We seem to lack confidence."

A third game was not necessary, however, thanks largely to Farmington's serving prowess. On the night, the Falcons erred on just two serves.

Jenny Wischniemyer, emerging as the floor leader of the Falcons, was the most effective weapon from the service corner. Her 8 straight service points in game two got Farmington its huge lead.

Laura Spence, in addition to her valuable talents in the back row, was also a scoring threat off the serve. She nailed home the last 7 points in game

## volleyball

one. The first 5 points in game one were drilled home by Jenny Lindberg.

Pam Faulkner and Judy Baranay played a strong match at the net.

"I tell you, I'm getting gray hair from this," O'Neill said. "At the end I was just closing my eyes and praying we'd get that 15th point."

Had the 15th point not arrived, it could have dug Farmington into a deep, deep hole. The win leaves the Falcons at 2-5 on the year. It was Bentley's first match.

The Falcons will travel to Northville tonight.

FARMINGTON HARRISON showed

Northville its best and its worst Wednesday night. Unfortunately for the Hawks, they showed more of their worst.

Led by the brilliant setting of Jennifer Hughes, the Hawks pounded Northville 15-0 in game one. The Mustangs, however, took games two and three 15-11, 15-8.

"We started out great," said Harrison coach Ron Shortt. "But, we just kind of faded."

Hughes was perfect throughout the match, 11 for 11 on her sets.

"She's our team leader," Shortt said. "She did a real nice job for us."

Kristi Rugh and Diana Raddatz played strong at the net. Rugh was 9 for 9 on her spikes with a 33 percent kill percentage, while Raddatz was 9 for 11 killing 36 percent of them.

The Hawks are now 1-4 and host Plymouth Salem (1-1) tonight.

# Raider hitters spike taller Rockets

How does a volleyball team of minimal height defeat a team of redwoods? That was the problem North Farmington faced Wednesday night against a talkative Westland John Glenn squad in the Northwest Suburban League opener.

But North easily resolved the problem with some powerful serving and won the match 15-10, 15-9.

"We're using the serve as a major weapon this season," said North coach Sandy Lubienicki.

Indeed, and the main gun from the service corner was captain Patti Kozicki. In game one Kozicki got the serve with her team down 10-7. Before she was done she nailed 8 straight points

and North had won the first game.

The score was 12-9 North in game two when Kozicki went to serve. Boom, boom, boom — the lights went out on Glenn. Kozicki finished with 5 service aces and prevented Glenn from setting up any kind of offensive attack.

Junior Nancy Cathran, making her first start for North, was equally effective from the service corner, nailing 11 of 12.

Thus, the Raiders neutralized the rockets.

"PATTI JUST had a great night," Lubienicki said. "All of the girls did. They were really fired up to play." The Raiders were also effective on the attack. Suzette Greenberg was brilliant both defensively and with her precision passing. She consistently got the ball up to hitters Donna Konjarevich and Brooks Landback who turned the passes into points or side-outs for North.

"Brooks played super. She didn't have any misses at the net and Donna, she's so quick and so smart at the net, she's our leading blocker. Both played practically error-free," Lubienicki said.

On Thursday the Raiders traveled to Royal Oak to partake in a double dual with Kimball and Hazel Park. North handled Hazel Park easily, 15-5, 15-10, but played a bit of giveaway against Kimball.

The Raiders rolled to a 15-5 decision in game one, playing as fluently as they had against John Glenn. Then in game two, they blew both a lead and the game. Kimball won 15-13. Kimball went on to win game three and the match, 15-11.

"It was a match I really thought we should have won," Lubienicki said. "They just kind of went flat."

Julie Pistol, North's lone 6-footer, was red-hot from the service corner. In the two matches she nailed home 7 service aces.

North ranked No. 2 in Observerland behind Livonia Stevenson, 6-2 on the season.

By C.J. Risak  
staff writer

Sometime during the halftime intermission of Schoolcraft College's men's basketball game Wednesday, the Ocelots convinced themselves they were just as good as their opponent, which happened to be Highland Park, the No. 2-ranked junior college team in the nation.

"They thought they could play (Highland Park) even up," was how Schoolcraft coach Rocky Watkins described it.

IT WAS a misguided assumption. Early in the second half, Schoolcraft departed from the game plan they had kept it within 6 points of the visiting Panthers. The Ocelots got caught up in a running game, a Highland Park specialty, and before the second half was six minutes old the game was over.

The final score was 103-68, the loss dropping Schoolcraft to 7-11 overall

## Schoolcraft sports

and 6-2 in the Eastern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

The Ocelots trailed 45-39 at the intermission and, with less than 18 minutes to go, were still within striking distance at 49-42.

THAT'S WHEN Highland Park went to work. On Tuesday, the Panthers learned of their No. 2 national ranking. They showed why they deserved it: a four-minute stretch, calling off 18 straight points to sprint to an overwhelming 51-42 advantage.

Defense was the difference. Schoolcraft committed 6 turnovers in the span, one very good reason why it got off just 4 field goal attempts in the first

six minutes of the half.

"They stopped listening," Watkins said of his team. "They didn't get into the things we wanted to do in the second half."

"We lost control — of ourselves."

IN THE OPENING half Schoolcraft kept it close by slowing the tempo. After a shaky start — Highland Park jumped out to a 10-2 lead — the Ocelots handled the Panthers' full-court pressure. They battled back to tie it at 33 on Dwight Pooler's steal and subsequent layup with 5:13 left before intermission.

But Highland Park scored the next 6 points, with guard Timothy Haynes, a Bloomfield Hills Lombard graduate, hitting 2 buckets in eight seconds, and never trailed after that.

"We didn't play very well in the first half," said Panther coach Glen Donahue. "We didn't play defense with intensity. But we kept applying pressure in the second half."

THAT THEY did. Using a combination of full-court zone and trap presses, Highland Park forced 18 Schoolcraft turnovers in the second half and 26 for the game. That resulted in an abundance of easy transition baskets.

Five players reached double figures in the scoring spree for the Panthers: Lenith Cotton (21), Haynes (17), Larry Goss (17), Vernon Carr (13) and Gregory Hall (12).

Point guard Clarence Jones topped Schoolcraft with 18 points. Pooler contributed 17 and Bradley Turner had 15.

Highland Park's record remained perfect after 19 games.



Ed Kavanaugh  
Schoolcraft coach

# Kavanaugh irked by bizarre occurrences in loss to Panthers

With only eight players, Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team is accustomed to playing short-handed.

But the Ocelots weren't prepared for the advantage Highland Park took during Wednesday's contest — playing six against five.

That's what happened, according to Schoolcraft coach Ed Kavanaugh, and it cost the visiting Ocelots a possible victory as the Panthers hung on for an 81-75 triumph. The loss dropped

Schoolcraft to 4-10 overall and was the defending Eastern Conference championship second-straight league setback.

Whatever chance the Ocelots had to win was lost when officials failed to notice that Highland Park was playing with six players, Kavanaugh said. He spotted it when play was stopped on a foul call against the Ocelots, who trailed by 4 with 1:15 left.

KAVANAUGH CALLED to the officials, but two Panthers went to the

bench before his pleas were acknowledged. The officials told Kavanaugh they didn't see six players on the court.

Instead of a technical foul call against Highland Park, with possession of the ball going to Schoolcraft, the Panthers shot their 2 free throws to go up by 6. That was the final score.

"We played a good game," said Kavanaugh. "We did a good job. It's too bad we had to lose that way. It was bizarre."

## Coaches, please phone in stats

Attention Observerland high school basketball, swimming, wrestling and gymnastics coaches:

Once again the Observer sports staff is asking your cooperation in putting together our statistical page for the winter sports season. This popular feature, which appears in the Thursday edition, will include area rankings for all sports, the Week Ahead, a listing of the best boys swim times in the area, the top team and individual gymnastics scores and the scoring, rebounding and assist leaders in boys basketball.

To make this feature work, coaches must report their statistics, on a weekly basis, to the following people:

**WRESTLING:** Garden City head coach Dean Shipman will compile the top five wrestlers in each weight class. Please report your wrestlers' records to Shipman on any weekday between the hours of 11:40 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. at 421-8220.

**BOYS BASKETBALL:** North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian will be compiling the area's basketball stats. Coaches should report their scoring, rebound and assist leaders to him Sunday evenings, 4-6 p.m. His phone number is 383-4284.

**BOYS SWIMMING:** Swim times will be compiled by Livonia Churchill head coach Matt Flan. He can be reached 3-4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 281-7300, Ext. 335.

**GYMNASTICS:** Observer sports editor Chris McCoaky will compile a listing of the top team scores and top individual scores in each event. Coaches should report their stats to McCoaky by Monday afternoon.

The cooperation of the coaches has always helped make the Observer sports pages the area's No. 1 source for prep sports. We thank you for your continued support.

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