

Borgess upends North spikers in tourney

Harrison, Falcons battle mid-season blahs

All day long the North Farmington volleyball team looked forward to meeting up with state power Portage Northern during Saturday's Wayne Memorial Invitational.

As a result, they may have overlooked Redford Bishop Borgess. Borgess canceled North's bid in the semifinals, winning 17-15, 15-9. Had the Raiders escaped, they would have met Portage in the championship.

As it turned out, Borgess met Portage in the finals, and Portage romped to a 15-2, 15-4 win.

Though her team felt shy of its goal, North coach Sandy Lubiencki was pleased with the performance.

"We played excellent all day," she said. "Borgess got real hot on us and snuck it away."

North went 7-1 in its pool, taking two

games from Livonia Bentley, Wayne Memorial and Mount Clemens while splitting a pair with Grosse Ile.

In the quarterfinals, the Raiders bested Birmingham Groves, 15-7, 15-11.

Julie Pistole and Donna Konjarlevich were the Raider leaders. Pistole on the day had 24 kill blocks and 24 ace spikes. Konjarlevich made 50 digs and was successful on 93 percent of her hits with 20 kills.

Setter Patil Kozicki scored 24 ace serves and Brooks Landback nailed 45 spikes — most during the quarterfinal and semifinal matches.

THE RAIDERS came back on Monday to defeat Northwest Suburban League rival Redford Union, 15-8, 15-13.

The win left North undefeated in the NSL (4-0) and 18-3 overall.

"Monday, it looked like we were playing in quicksand," Lubiencki said of her team's sluggish performance. "We took the win, packed up and hurried home."

Again it was Kozicki and Konjarlevich leading the assault. Each scored 12 service points.

Landback's hitting remained red-hot (9 for 9 with 5 aces) and Stacy Talamini, recovering from an injury, passed efficiently from the back row.

Redford Union is 1-3 in the NSL.

FARMINGTON'S WOES continue. The Falcons, for the second time this season, lost to Plymouth Salem. Salem won on Monday, 15-7, 15-6. The two wins against Farmington are the

Rocks' lone victories.

The Rocks controlled the match with strong serving and net play.

Farmington is now 2-11.

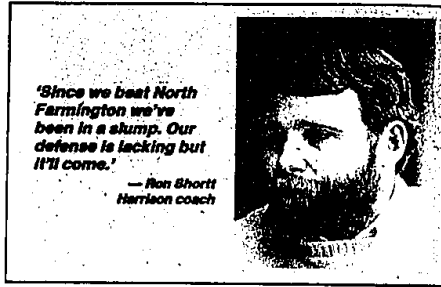
FARMINGTON HARRISON, after playing inspired volleyball for a three-week stretch, suddenly finds itself in a slump.

Walled Lake Western handed the Hawks their second straight Western Lakes defeat Monday, 15-9, 15-11.

"We didn't play real well," said Hawk coach Ron Shortt. "Since we beat North Farmington we've been in a slump. Our defense is lacking but it'll come."

Jennifer Hughes and Diana Raddatz were the Hawk leaders.

Harrison is now 8-7 overall, 2-3 in the league. Western is 4-1 in the league.



"Since we beat North Farmington we've been in a slump. Our defense is lacking but it'll come." — Ron Shortt, Farmington coach

The athlete's in the artist

By Scott Adler, staff writer

IN THE WORLD of generalizations, there are two stereotypes that would, in most minds, be at opposite ends of the spectrum.

At one end, there is the football player. The "athlete." All body and no brain. Someone who doesn't think, only reacts. Someone who, minus the brown, would never pass any classes and who certainly wouldn't go to college on his mind alone.

At the other end of the spectrum is the artist. An effeminate, moody soul whose physical activity is limited to hitting a wine glass and paint brush while pretentiously discussing the Old Masters.

Then there's John Tarr, an artist who is by no means effeminate and an athlete who isn't limited to slapping five. He has heard all the dumb jock and weird artist stereotypes and is quick to point out he is neither.

"I've tried to stay away from the leftfield image of [artists]," he says. "You know, the dressing weird and stuff. I'm just who I am and the other things follow."

There are a lot of people out there who are really terrible, who get no encouragement and continue to work at it. I couldn't do that.

"Like in football, I got a lot of encouragement from the coaches. It's important for me to be on the first team to be on the first team to be on the first team."

While he enjoys the idea of selling his work, Tarr says he feels like a part of him is lost when he sells something.

"You feel like it's a photo of an old friend and you don't have another copy," he said. "But you have to become immune to that. You have to sell your stuff. What good is it if no one ever sees it?"



Canton native John Tarr is a successful artist, but he hasn't totally forgotten his athletic background.

TARR IS A 1980 Plymouth Canton graduate who captained the varsity football and track teams. He is now a senior art major at Eastern Michigan University and assisting his old track coach Mike Spitz at Canton.

Unlike the stereotypes, Tarr can draw many parallels between his art and his athletics.

"I've taken a lot of what I've learned in football and running and approached my art with the same tenacity and passion," he said. "I find drawing as hard as any two-days (football practices) in August."

"It's the same with coaching. You're thinking all the time. It's a mental strain. Coaching and art are very similar. You're looking for the best combination. Who'll work with who, what combination is going to win, what colors will work with other colors."

Tarr is an admirer of Ernest Hemingway, a great American literary figure who was also a big sports fan.

"I can associate with Hemingway," Tarr said. "We're both really interested in boxing. I saw (Muhammad) Ali once and I thought it was great while all my artist friends who were there didn't care. So athletics and art don't coincide all the time."

TARR HAS SOLD two of his pieces from the exhibit, but he says he realizes the starving artist isn't only a myth, so he is student teaching art at Fiegel and Isbister elementary schools in Plymouth.

He enjoys the teaching, but sometimes the large class size is frustrating.

"I like teaching the younger ones," Tarr said. "But there are a lot of things you can't do with them. They can't grasp abstract things or many times, realism. I try to break things into their simplest form."

Communication can also be a problem with younger students, Tarr says. Like the time he was in a first-grade class and started writing the directions on the board before he realized the pupils couldn't read.

While there are drawbacks with the youngsters, Tarr says there are drawbacks with the older students, too.

"The high school wouldn't be bad," he said. "But I've heard some horror stories about them, too, especially student apathy. I have my own ideas about instituting programs that will make it a cultural and environmental thing rather than just something to keep them busy. Art can give them an appreciation of their environment."

Tarr may get the opportunity to put his ideas into action at a Pinckney elementary school. He is considering an artist-in-residence position that would allow him to implement an art curriculum. Pinckney presently has no art program.

MANY OF TARR'S works are on display through Feb. 1 at EMU's Inter-media Gallery in the McKenny Union. His works, most of which are mixed media (not limited to paint on canvas), were chosen for display by a panel of faculty artists.

His exhibit, "Drawings and other stuff," is only one of two displays by a single artist this year.

Tarr is thankful for his success in the path he has chosen.

"It's nice to do this stuff and have moderate success," he said, pointing to professors and friends who gave him encouragement. "I have doubts about myself and my art, but if I wasn't any good I would have quit a long time ago."

IF THERE IS anything that can make Tarr stop his artistic pursuits, he says it would be coaching.

The thing I'm most proud of is coaching," he said. "It's a very important thing to me. Athletics to me are important. Without Mike Spitz, there's a lot of things I wouldn't have gotten out of life."

Tarr is also concerned about the way art is being taught in the public schools. He wonders how much communication goes on between the elementary, middle and high school art teachers as to what students should know when they graduate from each.

"A lot of things build upon one another," he said. "(In art education) things could be a lot better. You have to lay a foundation. We would get much better individuals (coming out of the schools)."

"I don't settle for mediocrity because I know there are better things out there."

Borgess, Stevenson spikers steamrolling

The Blahop Borgess volleyball team is on a roll.

The girls from Redford moved to within one game of first place in the Catholic League's Central Division after beating host Harper Woods Regional, 15-13, 16-14.

Borgess is 16-3 overall and 4-3 in Division play. The Spartans trail Birmingham Marian, Thursday's opponent, and Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher by only one game.

"We played one of our best matches of the year," said Borgess coach Jerry Abraham.

Debbie McDonald was all over the net for Borgess, scoring 7 of the 15 points in Game No. 1. For the match she had 10 ace kills and 3 ace serves.

McDonald also got help upfront in the first game from sophomore Lisa Dreake and senior Marie Cervantes.

Ann English, with her all-around play, and Donna Bassett, who excelled in the back row, were other Borgess standouts.

On Saturday, Borgess reached the finals of the prestigious Wayne Memorial tournament before losing to Portage Northern, 15-2, 15-4.

In the semifinals, Borgess knocked off state-ranked North Farmington, 17-15, 15-9.

LIVONIA STEVENSON, rated No. 5 in Class A, rode the 9-for-9 hitting of

Joan Frysinger Monday night to beat city rival Bentley, 15-2, 15-8.

"The main thing is that we played to our game plan," said Stevenson coach Lee Cagle, whose team is 15-1 overall. "We did multiple-set plays to get us ready for the better teams in the state."

Lisa Bokovoy also stood out for the Spartans with 7 kill shots. Pam Griffin, 8-for-8 on hits, added 4 kills. Kim Relyea contributed 3 kills.

Bentley, which has only won one match, had one standout player in senior Sheri Wolfe, who made the score respectable with her digging.

REDFORD THURSTON put up a fight but it wasn't enough to win its first match of the season, the Eagles falling this time to Westland John Glenn Monday night, 15-7, 15-7.

"We really didn't do that much," said Thurston volleyball coach Chris Wandy. "At least we came back and gave them a fight."

The Rockets jumped out to leads of 9-1 and 7-1 in each game.

Rose Scerri and Cheryl Christianson played well for the Eagles as did sophomore setter Carrie Dul.

IN OTHER MATCHES on Monday Night, Plymouth Canton downed Livonia Churchill, 15-10, 15-10, while North Farmington trimmed Redford Union, 15-8, 15-13.

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