

North among the elite at Dearborn tourney

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Historically, Troy High went into the annual Dearborn Gymnastics Invitational as one of the teams expected to challenge for the top prize. But in the words of coach Sandy Smith, "Not this year."

The Colts, despite strong senior leadership from Suzanne Enciso and Laura Sienkiewicz, probably won't be among the top finishers in the prestigious tournament, which features some of the top teams and performers in the state. Included in the field are five teams from the top eight in last year's state meet. The title will be left for other per-

sonal powers to grab, including defending state and invitational champ Freeland. Ann Arbor Pioneer and North Farmington also are teams considered capable of finishing at or near the top of the 16-team field Saturday (beginning at 10 a.m.), although Pioneer should have the inside track based on performances this year.

Pioneer, a sixth-place state-meet finisher last season, already has defeated the top finishers in the prestigious tourney this year. Against the Colts, Pioneer scored 133.90 points.

"ANN ARBOR Pioneer is the best team here," Dearborn coach Bonnie Whisman said. "I haven't seen Fre-

eland, but I assume they'll be good, although Pioneer beat Freeland a couple of weeks ago. Jackson County Western is decent, but I know Pioneer is the team, on this side of the state anyway."

Pioneer has scored above the 130-mark without the services of strong all-arounder Amy Furda, who is ineligible until the second semester. The Pioneerers have been led by Stephanie Longhofer, a senior who has scored over 35.00 this year in all-around.

"I expect Freeland and Pioneer will be up there," Smith said, "and I wouldn't count North Farmington out; they're always tough. I think it's going to be a tight meet all the way through."

Although North Farmington has not come near the 130-mark this season, the Raiders should be among the top finishers.

"I think we should do well," North Farmington coach Mary Giltz said. "We lost one of our top four all-arounders (Lisa Brundie with a torn ligament in a leg), so that will make it tough. I expect a score of at least 130 to win it."

THE RAIDERS, who inadvertently were left off last year's invitational list, have the performers needed to be considered a top-five finisher. They are led by all-around standouts Eileen Murtagh, Lucine Toroyan and Kara Karlu.

"I think this meet features the top competition in the state, without a doubt," Whisman said. "I think all the way through, it's a strong field as far as overall equity. I know everybody is anxious to see Pioneer."

Troy, a second-place finisher last year after winning two straight invitational titles, is in the same boat as host Dearborn — a rebuilding stage.

"We're working for consistency in our performances," Smith said. "Now, we're working on more difficult tricks in our routines and, if we become consistent, are looking for gradual improvement as the season goes on."

Troy's best hope for a strong showing

is from Enciso, a senior all-around performer who was sixth last year in the vault at the state meet. This season, Enciso has top scores of 9.20 in vault, 9.05 in floor exercise, 8.10 on uneven parallel bars and 8.00 on the balance beam.

"It's going to be tough for her," Smith said. "We hope she's in the top three in vault, and if she sticks her beam, she has a shot of coming in near the top."

Other teams in the field are Bloomfield Hills Andover, Adrian, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Dearborn, Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South, East Lansing, Lansing Waverly, Saline, St. Clair Shores Lakeview and Northville.

basketball

Falcons fall in overtime

Farmington picked a bad time to chill out. The Falcons fought back valiantly Tuesday night against non-league foe Waterford Mott only to miss four consecutive one-and-one free throw opportunities in the final minutes.

Thus, Mott escaped with a 60-54 overtime victory.

The Falcons trailed by as many as 10 points in the first half, but stormed back to tie the game with just over a minute left on Tony Racka's clutch jumper.

He was fouled on the play, but missed the free throw.

Farmington went on to miss a one-and-one attempt in regulation, then three more in the overtime.

Mott connected on 4-of-7 free throws in the OT to ice the game.

"I think we just came out lackadaisical," said Farmington coach Richard Roy, whose team knocked off Plymouth Salem Friday. "We fell behind by 10 points, get back into it, fall back again."

Gene Setts scored 26 for Mott (6-3) to lead all scorers. Ned Windeler added 19.

Kyle Mutz led Farmington (5-3) with 19. Racka added 17.

CC deflates Brother Rice

With two minutes to go Tuesday, Redford Catholic Central only had to tie the ribbon on.

Otherwise, everything was pretty much wrapped up as the Shamrocks took a 59-55 win over host Birmingham Brother Rice in a Catholic League Central Division basketball game.

CC, 6-2 (3-0 Catholic League), boasted a trio of double-figure scorers as the Shamrocks remained unbeaten in division play.

Senior Paul Tavana led the CC trio of scorers with 18 points and a team-high eight rebounds. Brian Dugas canned 14 points while Greg King landed 11.

Lance Vaccarella provided some defensive spark with four steals and also had a team-high eight assists.

At the half, CC held a 30-26 advantage. The Shamrocks outscored the Warriors three of the four quarters.

GALLAGHER 55, BORGESS 53: In a topsy-turvy game Tuesday, Bernard McGee helped Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher clip past visiting Redford Bishop Borgess in Catholic League action.

McGee sank two free throws with a minute left to lift Gallagher past the Spartans, 55 (1-4 Central), Borgess had two opportunities to tie the game, but the Spartans missed two consecutive one-and-one opportunities from the line.

Borgess carried a 41-39 lead into the final quarter but was outscored 16-14 in the final eight minutes.

The Spartans' Cordell Robinson sank a game-high 20 points. Mario Brown scored 11 while Kevin Van Hook added 10.

Gallagher (1-2 Catholic League) got 13 from Steve Mazola.

WAYNE 68, WYANDOTTE 58: The undefeated Zebras used a little line action to capture their sixth-straight win of the season with Tuesday's rout of Wyandotte in a Catholic League action.

Wayne, 9-0 (5-0 Wolverine A), sank 26-of-31 free throws as they pulled out to a 10-point lead in the final eight minutes. Early in the fourth quarter, the Zebras came to within two, 47-45.

Wyandotte, 6-2 (4-2 Wolverine A) trailed 31-33 at intermission.

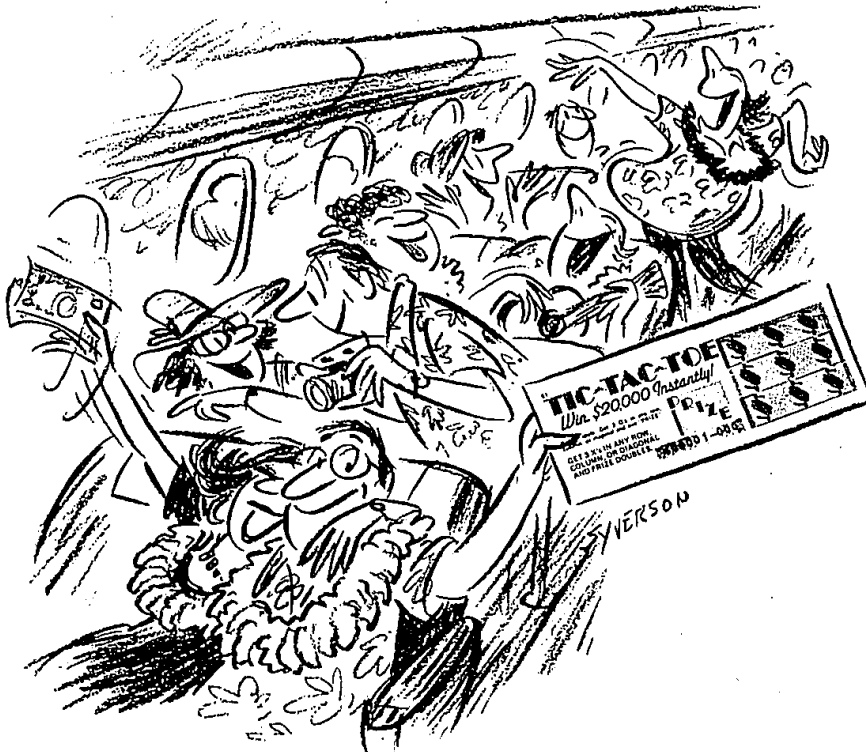
Mark Robinson finished with a game-high 24 points for the Zebras. Robinson was aided by Rod Sommons, who added 12, and Spencer Williams with 11.

Norm Erickson fired in 22 points to lead the Zebras.

CHURCHILL 74, REDFORD UNION 50: On Tuesday, the Chargers poured on the points as they routed Redford Union in a non-conference game.

Ken Gendjar fired in 23 points and hauled in 11 rebounds to lead the Livonia Churchill charge. Andy Oliver clipped in with 15 points.

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