

# Purdue-bound spiker leads pack into S'craft

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Two weeks ago, Redford Bishop Borgess' Debbie McDonald didn't exactly have little ballmarkers dancing in her head.

But the 6-1 senior volleyball player will be a Ballmarker of the S'Craft variety next year. McDonald, whose pursuers included USC, Kentucky and Western Michigan, made the Indiana school the college of her choice.

The irony is Purdue didn't start its recruiting efforts for the talented tiller until two weeks ago. But 14 days and a trip to West Lafayette was enough for McDonald, an Observer All-Area player the last two years, to say yes.

"I went there for a visit, and I really liked it," said McDonald, who carries a 3.5 grade-point average in the classroom. "It's close to home, and the players there made it feel that way."

**SATURDAY, HOME** for McDonald and her Bishop Borgess cohorts is the Schoolcraft Invitational Tournament at Schoolcraft College. Borgess and two-time defending champion Livonia Stevenson are two of the 30 teams expected.

Some area teams also participating include Livonia Ladywood, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth Salem, Redford Union, Redford Thurston, North Farmington, Farmington Harrison, Farmington, Garden City and Wayne Memorial.

"I like being able to play against different schools," McDonald said. "Some of the teams are tough competition."

Competition isn't foreign to McDonald, who toured West Germany last summer with a team sponsored by the Livonia Rotary. The team finished second to a squad from Turkey in the tournament.

McDonald, who plays volleyball year-round, was a member of the U.S. Junior Olympic team after both her sophomore and junior years.

**WHILE SPIKING** is her main forte, McDonald's leadership abilities just surfaced in her senior year. Her new role has helped the Spartans to be heard in their quest for a Catholic League title.

"She's really grown into a leader-type," Borgess coach Jerry Abraham said. "She's intense, but it's a quiet intensity. She's not flamboyant."

Even with her towering 6-1 frame, McDonald never felt comfortable with teammates looking up to her until this season.

## VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC

**WHAT:** The annual Schoolcraft College Invitational High School Volleyball Tournament.  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 15, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until approximately 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Schoolcraft College, Haggerty Road north of Six Mile in Livonia.

**HOW MUCH:** As-day passes: \$1 students, \$2 adults.  
**WHO:** 30 teams. Area teams include Livonia Stevenson (two-time defending champ), Bishop Borgess, Clearcreek, North Farmington, Farmington Harrison, Farmington, Garden City, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Plymouth Salem, Redford Union, Redford Thurston and Wayne Memorial. Others include Temperance-Bedford, Dearborn, Dearborn Fordson, Fenelon, Lutheran East, Roseville DeBic, Allen Park, Detroit Henry Ford, Rochester Adams, Grand Blanc, Ida, Walled Lake Western, Walled Lake Central, Northville, Novi and Flint Armory.

"I feel closer to my teammates," she said. "I didn't feel like a leader before. When the team gets down, you have to motivate them to play together and get along."

McDonald, who plans to major in special education at Purdue, finds encouraging autistic children just as rewarding. In her spare time, she works with them at Burger Center in Garden City.

She started there only a few weeks ago as a volunteer. It was somewhat intimidating at first. Now, getting them to attempt writing their name ranks up there with the satisfaction of a well-placed spike.

"YOU PLAY WITH talented people, and then you work with people who are slower," McDonald explained. "When those people are able to communicate with you, it's a good feeling."

It's comparable to the feeling McDonald gets when she plays volleyball, a sport she didn't embrace until three years ago. Her sister, Colleen, was active in the sport and wanted her sister to play.

At first, Debbie didn't take up her sister's offer. Since relents, it's hard to get her off the court.

Her one-dimensional sporting venture, though, has turned out to be McDonald's strength. "She's only played one sport," noted Abraham. "She's played the high school season and then in the summer."

"So many people ask me if I play basketball," said McDonald, whose side would make her a center on most teams. "I played it a few times in grade school. I didn't feel right."

For the Ballmarkers, it's a hitter instead of a cager.

# Hawks rally to victory; Rockets dump Raiders

Farmington Harrison showed both sides of its volleyball game Monday night in beating Northville 4-15, 15-10, 15-8.

The Hawks were both very bad and very good in the match.

"We started strong in the first game, but Northville started getting some strong serving and we just fell apart," Harrison coach Ron Shortt said. "Our passing was atrocious."

Thanks to the serving of Janine Whittemore and the net play of Diana Hudeatz, the Hawks turned things around in game two. Whittemore was 10 for 10 serving with four aces. She also scored two points on ace spikes. Hudeatz had four spikes and one ace in the game.

In game three, Raddatz (five of six spikes) and Whittemore (six of seven spikes with three aces) continued to dominate the net. Jennifer Hughes controlled things from the service corner with a perfect 12 of 12 performance.

"We went up 13-0 in the third game and won 15-8," Shortt said. "Northville just wouldn't die. We weren't playing real bad at the end; it's just we'd put the ball down and it kept coming back."

The win ties Harrison with Northville for third place in the Western Lakes Western Division. It's the second straight win for the Hawks, the second straight time they've avenged an early season defeat.

The Hawks are 4-6 in the league, 12-10 overall. They travel to Plymouth Canton Monday.

## volleyball

**NORTH FARMINGTON** got strong matches from sophomores Suzi Butcher and Stephanie Knapp Monday, but it needed a lot more.

Westland John Glenn, ranked No. 3 in Observerland, edged the Raiders 15-6, 16-14 in a Western Lakes match.

"It's getting disappointing but we're not giving up," North coach Sandy Lubieniecki said. Her team is now 3-7 in the Western Lakes, 10-11 overall.

"The kids looked good in practice and they seemed ready to play," Lubieniecki said. "But when the match started, only two were on and the rest were cold. Still, I'm very pleased with our new players."

Butcher and Knapp have been used as role players throughout the season, but they played all around Monday and responded positively. Each player made just two errors on the match.

Butcher was 15 of 17 spiking with five aces. Knapp was 10 of 11 serving with four aces.

John Glenn raised its record to 8-2 in the conference, 20-5 overall.

North will host Plymouth Salem Monday following Saturday's Schoolcraft Invitational Tournament.

# Farmington's Parilo gains league title at 198 pounds

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John Glenn was perhaps the meet's overachiever. After a mediocre dual meet season, the Rockets claimed four individual championships in the league meet.

"I'm very pleased with the way the entire team wrestled," Glenn coach Tom Buckalew said. "Coming into this meet for the first time, I didn't really know what to expect. It was an extremely competitive meet. I think we're going to enjoy our association with this league very much."

**CHRIS ZIMMERMAN** got things started for Glenn, beating Salem's Richard Johnson 3-0 for the heavyweight crown.

Glenn Cemaraz took the 132 title beating Salem's Kevin Freeman 8-3 in the finals.

As expected, Dan Schlansky won at 145, beating Walled Lake Western's Paul Colone 10-4.

In perhaps the most dramatic championship match of the day, Glenn's Mark Kropp nipped Walled Lake Central's Chris Prylowski at 167, 1-0. Kropp's point came late in the third and final round.

# CC wears Catholic crown

Redford Catholic Central produced nine individual winners en route to a team record 238 team points in capturing yet another Catholic League wrestling championship Saturday at Harper Woods Notre Dame.

CC clearly outdistanced the field as second-place Southgate Aquinas scored 132 points. Third-place Birmingham Brother Rice had 99.

## wrestling

Central, though, posted three champions. Tom Farr outpointed Salem's Jamie Woodchuk 9-2 at 185; Pat Pruitt pinned North Farmington's Paul Cook in 3:42 at 138; and Larry Sevelney outpointed Salem's Todd Bourlier at 98, 15-8.

**LIVONIA CHURCHILL** placed fifth overall in the meet but could boast two league champs. Salem Yaffai nipped Canton's Tim Birely at 119, 3-1, and Brian Clemens took the crown at 155 beating Livonia Franklin's Doug Stebbins 12-6.

Other champions crowned Saturday were: Dan Parillo, Farmington, was the class of 198, pinning Western's John Holyfield in 3:23 and Dave Zender, Western, beat Salem's Fred Calma 18-5 at 105.

In addition to its league championship trophy, Salem picked up some hardware for winning the Lakes Division championship. Walled Lake Western was the Western Division champ.

Among the CC individual winners were Mike Gentile (98 pounds), Brendan Rock (105), Jason Wiebeck (119), Matt Helm (126), Chris Lemanski (132), Mitch Quinn (139), Chris Rodriguez (145), Lee Krueger (167) and John Sevelney (198).

Bob Yeager (155) finished second for the Shamrocks, ranked fifth in Class A by a statewide coaches poll.

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