

# Mercy rallies to win spot at state

By Chris McCosky  
Staff writer

The Michigan High School Athletic Association allows only the top two teams from each regional to compete in the state Class A girls tennis tournament. Not to be put out by a rule, however, the Observer & Eccentric area found a way to snare two additional teams into Friday's state tournament at Midland.

Plymouth State, Plymouth Canton and Livonia Churchill all made it out of the Class A regional at Schoolcraft College. Farmington Hills Mercy, Birmingham Marian and Birmingham Seaholm each advanced from the Class A regional at Southfield's Civic Center.

How? By virtue of the tie. Marian, Seaholm and Mercy each scored 21 points at Southfield. Salem, 19 points, won the regional at Schoolcraft while Canton and Churchill both tied for second with 16.

Livonia Stevenson, which just missed with 15 points, will be represented by No. 1 singles player Kristine Bailey. Bailey was runner-up at the regional to Salem's Anita Toth. High drama reigned at both regional sites.

FARMINGTON HILLS MERCY was in third place prior to the final three matches on Saturday. Mercy needed wins at Nos. 1-2-3 singles in order to gain a tie and a berth at the state tourney.

Nicole Transou obliged at No. 1 singles with a 6-0, 6-4 win against Marian's Jenny Catalano. Becky Tashich also came through with relative ease at No. 3 singles, beating Seaholm's Sue Rifkin, 6-2.

That left it up to Kathy Heimbeck. Heimbeck, who has won key matches for the Marlins all season, withstood Seaholm's Sue Fredericks, 6-3, 6-1.

"That match was a lot harder than the score might indicate," said Mercy coach Jim Kerwin, whose team is going to state for the second time in four years. "There were a lot of duce games. It was an extremely hard-fought match. In a situation like that, character and attitude becomes more important than pure talent."

Kerwin was happy his team survived the regional, but he was less than pleased with the regional alignment.

"It's awfully difficult when you have three teams in the top 10 of the state playing at the same place," he said. "Maybe someone will look at this and make an adjustment in assigning the sites for next year."

Marian's Allison Garcia was the regional champion at No. 4, besting Mercy's Carole Williams 6-3, 6-7, 6-2.

Marian's Beth Gill and Jenny Graham won at No. 1 doubles. Seaholm swept Nos. 2 and 3 doubles with Meghan Taylor-Tracy Burgum and Abbie Olmstead-Ellizabeth Hughes.

PLYMOUTH SALEM'S singles players paved the way at Schoolcraft. Toth, who was upset at the Western Lakes tournament last Tuesday, made short work of Bailey in the finals 6-0, 6-0.

Salem's Lisa Belsky was regional champ at No. 2 singles, beating Northville's Abby Edwards, 6-1, 6-0. At No. 3, Northville's Leslie Oliver beat Salem's Missy Smith, 6-1, 7-5. And Canton's Pam Penland got even with Salem's Janet Turner at No. 4, winning 6-1, 6-1. Turner beat Penland in the WLA finals.

"I had picked Salem to win it," said Stevenson coach George Corci. "But there was going to be a dogfight for second."

Was there ever. Canton and Churchill survived. Stevenson was off by a point, Northville by two points.

Stevenson just missed making it a three-way tie for second. In the No. 3 doubles final, Stevenson's team of Renca Bonser and Jill Coie had matchpoint, 6-4 in the third and deciding set. A victory would give Stevenson a tie for third. Northville's team of Laura Nance and Julie Millgard rallied, won the third-set tiebreaker 7-2, and won the match 7-5, 4-0, 6-2.

"You have to give Northville credit," Corci said. "They didn't buckle under the pressure. I'm very proud of our girls. It was a character builder."

CANTON HAD a regional champ at No. 1 doubles with Michelle Khurana and Sandy Bajer to go along with Penland at No. 4 singles. Stevenson's Sheryl Bonser and Becky Dimitriou won at No. 2 doubles.

Churchill, who has come on strong at the close of the season, had runner-up points at No. 1 doubles (Stacey Truax-Stefanie Peterson) and No. 2 doubles (Robyn Perala-Glanina Bodea). Churchill's No. 1 singles player Lisane Monforton, the WLA champ, was ousted by Toth.

Churchill, a senior-dominated team, is making its first appearance in the state tournament.

# Falcons run 2nd at county

The Farmington cross country teams found out exactly where they stood in reference to the state meet Saturday at the Oakland County Invitational at Marshbank Park. With 76 teams competing, the meet was the largest high school invitational ever run in the state.

Both the Falcons boys and girls teams placed second in the talent-laden meet, which bolstered the team's hopes for the state meet two weeks away.

"We ran really well," Farmington boys coach Jerry Young said. "Considering it was our third meet of the week and we were running against five of the top 11 teams in the state, I'm extremely pleased."

The Falcons boys finished second 46 points behind Milford Lakeside. Birmingham Brother Rice was third (45).

"Lakeland is an awfully strong team," Young said. "We need to get a lot better, and they a lot worse, for us to get them."  
Lake Orion's Cliff Dwelle won the individual race with a time of 15:52. Farmington's Chris Inck was fourth in 16:10. Brandon London finished in 20th place (16:57) and Al Stebbins was 21st (16:58).

MILFORD WON the girls race with 100 points. Farmington was second (114) and Rochester third (170).

Clarkston's Kathleen McInnes won the individual race in 20:03.7. Bonnie Stecker was the first Falcon to cross, she finished in fifth place (20:24.7). Jennifer Kiel took 10th in 20:37.0, Margaret Martin 30th in 21:34.7 and Nicole Jolley 32nd in 21:38.4.

Both Falcon teams face a crucial Western Lakes dual meet challenge Thursday at Oakland Community College against Walled Lake Central. Both Central and Farmington are unbeatens in dual meets. Thursday's meet will decide the Lakes Division championship. Last year, Farmington took an unbeaten record into Central and came away with a loss. Both Central teams placed fifth at the County Meet.

OAKLAND COUNTY CROSS COUNTRY MEET (At Marshbank)

BOYS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Milford Lakeside, 21; 2. Farmington, 127; 3. Birmingham Brother Rice, 145; 4. Rochester, 220; 5. Walled Lake Central, 238; 6. Hazel Park, 250; 7. Troy, 256; 8. Lake Orion, 267; 9. Milford, 306; 10. Bloomfield Hills, 315; 11. Hazel Park, 316; 12. Rochester Adams, 330; 13. Royal Oak Kinnab, 382; 14. Oxford, 388; 15. Troy Athens, 390; 16. Walled Lake Western, 421; 17. Waterford Kelleys, 458; 18. Bloomfield Hills, 460; 19. Farmington Harrison, 575; 20. Oakley, 585; 21. Detroit Country Day, 592; 22. Grosse Pointe, 603; 23. Novi, 624; 24. Pontiac Northern, 700; 25. Royal Oak Dondero, 713; 26. North Farmington, 718; 27. Clawson, 727; 28. Farmington Groves, 754; 29. Birmingham Seaholm, 764; 30. Grosse Pointe, 778; 31. Pontiac Central, 799; 32. Waterford Mont, 821; 33. West Bloomfield, 832; 34. Madison Heights Lamphere, 833; 35. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook/Kingswood, 841; 36. Southfield-Lathrup, 900; 37. Auburn Hills Avondale, 1,109; 38. Oakland Christian, 1,092; 39. Clawson, 1,131; 40. (tie) Ferndale, Southfield Christian, Clawson, Southfield Christian (no team scores).

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Milford, 100; 2. Farmington, 114; 3. Rochester, 170; 4. Walled Lake Central, 176; 5. Hazel, 237; 6. Milford Lakeside, 247; 7. Clawson, 275; 8. Rochester Adams, 277; 9. Troy, 287; 10. Detroit Country Day, 347; 11. Detroit, 350; 12. Novi, 360; 13. Bloomfield Hills Avondale, 365; 14. Groves, 401; 15. Farmington Our Lady of Mercy, 404; 16. Birmingham Marian, 415; 17. Bloomfield Hills Laker, 422; 18. North Farmington, 424; 19. Royal Oak Kinnab, 424; 20. Walled Lake Western, 450; 21. Waterford Kettering, 601; 22. Farmington Harrison, 619; 23. Birmingham Groves, 631; 24. Royal Oak Dondero, 642; 25. Hazel Park, 700; 26. Clawson-Brandon, 703; 27. (tie) Birmingham Southfield, Ferndale, Berkeley, Waterford Mont, Troy Athens, Southfield Christian, Clawson, Southfield Christian (no team scores).

GIRLS INDIVIDUAL RESULTS: 1. Kathleen McInnes (Clarkston), 20:03.7; 2. Amber Crawford (Rochester), 20:14.0; 3. Holly Spohn (Bloomfield Hills Laker), 20:29.0; 4. Colleen Yee (Walled Lake Central), 20:29.0; 5. Bonnie Stecker (Farmington), 20:24.7; 6. Teresa Lemanski (Milford), 20:25.0; 7. Theresa Dunker (Milford), 20:25.9; 8. Paula Feinbaum (Bloomfield Hills Avondale), 20:27.1; 9. Cheryl Leitch (Oxford), 20:31.0; 10. Jennifer Kiel (Farmington), 20:37.0; 11. Carolann Fae (Rochester), 20:37.4; 12. Shelley Borek (Adams), 20:39.1; 13. Kristi McKinnon (Troy), 20:39.4; 14. Jennie Gilliland (Novi), 20:42.8; 15. Carrie Ford (Lakeland), 20:57.3; 21. Lisa Chalmers (Walled Lake Central), 21:03.5; 24. Lynn Mohnberg (Holy), 21:11.6; 25. Lori Jackson (Holy), 21:15.0; 26. Margie Martin (Farmington), 21:34.7; 27. Nicole Jolley (Farmington), 21:38.4.

# Teamwork key to Ocelot spike streak

By C.J. Rieak  
Staff writer

After each point of Saturday's match with Lansing Community College — whether it was won or lost by Schoolcraft Ocelots' volleyball team — the Lady Ocelots slapped hands.

The meaning behind that seemingly insignificant act is considerable. It demonstrated a deep-rooted sense of teamwork, a belief that each member of the team shared in its successes and its defeats.

In a game that is heavily psychological, knowing that the rest of the team is both depending upon you and supporting you can be a major advantage. Not that SC has had much need for positive reinforcement; the Lady Ocelots have not experienced much in the way of losing.

AGAINST LCC, they ran their unbeaten string to 11 and 28. That's 11 straight matches and 28 consecutive games. SC has not lost a game since

the Eastern Kentucky tournament Sept. 20, which includes its 15-2, 15-8, 15-0 triumph over visiting LCC.

From the start of Saturday's match, it was clear SC would dominate. These were the same two teams that met for the NJCAA region championship last year, a match that the Lady Ocelots narrowly won.

This time it was no contest. SC built an 8-0 lead in the first game and coasted to an easy win. The second game was more difficult until Amy Lotero started serving with the score knotted at 6-all. Lotero served six straight points and LCC never recovered.

Game No. 3 was very similar, but SC's net strength proved too strong for LCC. The Lady Ocelots pulled away from an 8-7 lead to the win, allowing LCC to score just two more points.

Lotero's serving played a key role in the first two wins. "She was serving it in the right area, and keeping

the ball real low to the net," said SC coach Tom Teeters.

WHILE LOTERO'S serves gave LCC fits, the Lady Ocelots had few problems on service returns. Their passing excelled, and setter Patti

Kozicki continually got the ball to hitters Kim Reynolds (29 attacks, 18 kills, one error), Diane Dietz (25 attacks, 10 kills, two errors) and Jill Ehlers (12 attacks, eight kills, two errors) in good position.

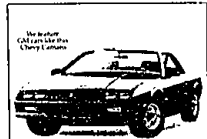
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