



Patli Kozicki's serves and sets weren't enough Thursday. The North Farmington graduate and her Schoolcraft College volleyball teammates were bounced by Oakland University in a five-game thriller.

ROB REED/staff photographer

# Ocelots spiked

## Oakland University rally tilts S'craft

By C.J. Rissak  
staff writer

One would think, with the recent turn of events in the major league baseball playoffs, athletes would be particularly aware of that oft-proven adage: "It ain't over 'til it's over." Aware of it or not, Schoolcraft College's volleyball team became one more example when it wasted its lead and failed to put away Oakland University when it had the chance. The result was a come-from-behind win for the Lady Pioneers, 14-16, 15-5, 12-15, 15-13, 15-6, Thursday at SC.

The win did not come easily for the NCAA Division II school, which seemingly should have been heavily favored against a two-year community college team.

BUT SC WAS no patsy; the Lady Ocelots had proven that with wins over Lake Superior State, Hillsdale College and Saginaw Valley State — all members of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, to which OU also belongs.

Both teams played with intensity throughout the 2½-hour duel. SC broke on top, winning the opening game after overcoming OU leads of 6-2 and 7-4 to forge ahead 8-7 on Patli Kozicki's serving ace. It was a battle for every point after that, with neither team up by more than two. A mistimed OU spike into the net gave the game to SC.

That set the tempo for the match. Neither team was perfect, indeed, SC coach Tom Teeters said, "Our passing was bad," adding that his team "missed 15 serves against Oakland. That's three misses a game, which is more than we can afford for us to win."

IN THE END, however, it was the adjustments the Lady Pioneers

made that was the difference. First, coach Bob Hurdle brought his back-row defenders in tighter to take away SC's soft hits over the blockers at the net, which had dropped for points in the early going.

Then Hurdle "changed our whole defense" to disguise the blocking patterns. His major concern was SC's Kim Relyea, who hurt OU with her kills.

"Relyea is a great player," conceded Hurdle. "To beat Schoolcraft you have to stop her."

The net blocking finally took its toll in the pivotal fifth game. SC had trouble getting it past OU's Anne Harrison (6-100), Bridget Bohnet (6-2) and Tracey Jones (5-8). SC scored the game's first two points, but OU got the next 10. The closest SC got was 11-6.

Anne Harrison sets the block," explained Hurdle. "They all executed it very well."

BUT THE TIDE may have turned against the Lady Ocelots before the fifth game. In Game No. 4, they built a 12-7 lead behind the play of Sue Cyrus, who sparked both at the net and in back-row defense.

But those defensive abilities were being tested too often. Kills by Jones and Harrison and a serving ace from Missy Ward pulled OU to within 12-10. The game again became a struggle for points. The Lady Pioneers gave up just one more and won when

SC failed to return a serve. How much momentum the Lady Ocelots had lost was evident in the early moments of the final game. Three of OU's first four serves were out of play, but SC failed to capitalize.

"Definitely, it was a missed opportunity," said Teeters. "No question about it. But our serving and our passing hurt us. We couldn't run off any long streaks."

Relyea finished with 13 kills in 49 attacks with three errors. Cyrus had nine kills in 26 attacks (two errors), and Jill Ehler collected 13 kills in 34 attacks, but committed seven errors. SC was hurt by a minor injury to outside hitter Diana Dietz, who saw limited action.

ALSO ON THURSDAY, SC hosted Delta CC in an Eastern Conference match. The Lady Ocelots remained unbeaten in the league (6-0) with a 9-15, 15-12, 15-3, 16-14 victory, which clinched at least a tie for the conference title. They are now 23-5 overall and 16-3 against VC competition.

Cyrus again sparked with 19 kills in 36 attacks (two errors). Relyea had 12 kills in 40 attacks (no errors), Dietz had 12 kills in 28 attacks (three errors) and Ehler totaled eight kills in 24 attacks (three errors).

Again, serving was not up to par for the Lady Ocelots. They missed 12 in the four-game match.

### sports roundup

**SOCCER:** Farmington Harrison closed out its most successful boys soccer season with a 0-0 tie against Livonia Franklin Wednesday.

The Hawks finish with a 7-7 record and tied for second with Franklin in the Western Lakes Western Division.

Craig Bailey established a single-season scoring record for the Hawks with 19 goals and 10 assists.

**SWIMMING:** Farmington continued its impressive Western Lakes girls swim season with a 133-33 past-

ing of Walled Lake Central Thursday afternoon.

Julie Kendall, Lori Kiel and Lauren Weary again paced the Falcon scoring.

Kendall won both the 200-yard freestyle (2:16.1) and 500 freestyle (8:01.2). Kiel won the 200 individual medley (2:32.4) and the 100 breaststroke (1:16.5). Weary took the 50 free (28.1) and 100 free (58.9).

Tonya Slicker won the diving for Farmington (174.25 points). Stacy Gillyard won the 100 butterfly (1:12.3). And Cindy Millstead won the

100 backstroke (1:19.3). Katie Hohl, Kiel, Weary and Stacy Schalm teamed to win the 200 medley relay (2:07.7). Julie Kendall, Mis-

sy Kendall, Holly Chivers and Laura Hryczek won the 400 freestyle relay (4:11.7). Farmington is 5-2.

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