

Semifinal match: Blazers-Mercy

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

It's going to happen. Farmington Hills Mercy and Livonia Ladywood will meet again.

By virtue of Mercy's 58-32 win Tuesday night against Madison Heights Bishop Foley and Ladywood's 53-35 victory over Southgate Aquinas, the long-time rivals will square off at 6 p.m. tonight at Redford Bishop Borgess in the semifinal round of the Catholic League playoffs.

"Tonight's match will not only decide who'll play for the Catholic League championship Sunday night at U-D's Callahan Hall, it'll also break the 1-1 tie in the 1988 Mercy-Ladywood series. Ladywood won the first game at Brother Rice in overtime, 62-54. Mercy took round two at Schoolcraft College, 59-54.

THE MARLINS were a bit slow getting out of the gate against Foley Tuesday and fell behind 10-8 after one quarter.

But Mercy coach Larry Baker inserted some instant intensity in the second quarter in the person of Adrienne Clark and Patty Chapp; the rgut was soon under way. In the second quarter, Mercy forced 10 turnovers, limited Foley to just five shots (it made one) and outscored the Ventures 21-4. Chapp made two steals and forced two other turnovers. Clark, coming off an ankle injury, also made two steals and grabbed three rebounds early in the quarter.

"It was kind of exciting," Baker said of the second quarter. "We were saying on the bench that the A-Train (Clark) is back. It was great to be able to insert Adrienne and Patty into the lineup and have them give us an adrenaline boost like that. From that point on we felt like we were in control."

Indeed. The multiple Marlin presses forced 13 more turnovers in the third quarter and the lead was extended to 48-20. In the fourth, Foley coughed up the ball 32 times.

Offensively, sharpshooting Yvette Malson and hard-working Margaret

DeMattia took charge. Malson scored 21 points in three quarters of action. She hit 9-of-15 shots from the floor. DeMattia, despite picking up three quick fouls, scored 13 points — all in the second half and most from close range.

Three players scored six points apiece for Foley (7-9). Mercy is 13-4.

LADYWOOD 53, AQUINAS 38: The Blazers seem to be hitting their peak at the right time.

Ladywood coach Ed Kavanaugh called his team's 67-59 pasting of Regina last Friday its "best game of the year." The Blazers followed that with another impressive showing Tuesday.

Mandy Chandler, who scored 22 points against Regina, tallied 18 with 11 rebounds against Aquinas. Katie McNulty, 14 vs. Regina, scored 12 more points Tuesday. She pulled down eight rebounds.

Ladywood raced to a 28-17 half-time lead, then endured an 11-4 Aquinas run in the third quarter.

"We played a decent first half," Kavanaugh said. "But we came out in the third quarter and turned the ball over. They were quite aggressive. We handled the ball better in the fourth quarter and took better shots."

Ladywood is 12-5 on the season.

NORTHVILLE 57, FARMINGTON 36: Things aren't getting any easier for the Falcons. Tuesday, they played without three starters: Becky Philp, Tracey Jourdan and Karen Jenkins.

Carrie Hale (14 points) and Stacy Swanderski (10 points, 10 rebounds) led the Farmington cause. The Falcons dip to 1-17 on the season.

Tricia Docker led Northville with 23 points.

W.L. CENTRAL 90, HARRISON 12: Farmington Harrison trailed 23-0 after one quarter, 42-2 at the half and 63-2 after three quarters.

Pam Fitzgerald (18) and Kelly O'Hanton (18) led Central (13-4). Stephanie Kalien scored five for the winless Hawks.



Mercy's A-Train, Adrienne Clark, was back in action Tuesday and helped spark the Marlins' 58-32 win against Bishop Foley.

girls basketball Salem on a cruise

The Plymouth Salem girls basketball team has been on somewhat of a pleasure cruise the past three weeks. The 66-25 romp against Livonia Franklin Tuesday was the fifth consecutive lopsided win for the Rocks.

That'll end tonight. The Rocks will travel to Westland John Glenn tonight. If they covet an undefeated Western Lakes season — the Rocks have long ago clinched the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes — they better come to play.

"We certainly going to be something we are looking forward to," Salem coach Fred Thoman said. "We need to play somebody who can do all the things to challenge us. John Glenn has got good size, good quickness and good athletic ability. They have all the things they need to test you. And that's exactly what we need. We need to be tested."

Glenn, whom Salem beat 47-45 Oct. 9, blasted Livonia Churchill 80-34 Tuesday.

Salem, 15-0 in the league and 17-1 overall, got a potent balanced attack against Franklin Tuesday. Don Head led the way with 16 points. Jessica Handley added 15, Kerl McBride scored 11, Kristen Hostynski 10 and Jill Estey eight.

Cathy Cruz (eight) and Cathy Currow (six) led the Franklin scoring. The Patriots are 4-11 in the league and 4-13 overall.

CANTON 71, STEVENSON 25: With this victory Tuesday, Plymouth Canton clinched outright its second consecutive Western Lakes Western Division championship.

The Chiefs (11-4 in the league, 12-6 overall) raced out to a 20-1 lead after one quarter and led 40-8 at halftime.

Karen Bluch scored 16 points to pace Canton. She also pulled down 12 rebounds. Tory Barger added 12 points and Vicki Perko chipped in 10. Sophomore Amanda Bell and junior Michelle Fortier each scored 10.

"We're feeling good," said Canton coach Rob New. "We've won six straight and the division title. We're getting excited about the chance to play for the Western Lakes championship."

Canton and Salem will vie for the title next week. The game is presently scheduled for Thursday, but the game could be switched to Friday. Canton's game tonight against Northville will be played at Salem's gym.

John Glenn cagers toast Churchill, 80-34

By Bill Parker
staff writer

"If Tuesday's game between Westland John Glenn and Livonia Churchill was any indication of what the Rockets are capable of, tonight's clash between Glenn and Plymouth Salem should be a real barn burner."

The Rockets would like nothing better than to avenge an earlier season two-point loss to Salem. And

they warmed up Tuesday night with an impressive 80-34 victory over the visiting Chargers.

"This was a good win for us," said Glenn coach Pat Bennett. "We used it to prepare for Thursday and for district. This is the kind of effort we'll need for both."

"We'll need to control the game early (against Salem). We'll need to be patient, have our passing game down and get some offensive and de-

fensive rebounds. If we can do that hopefully we'll be able to control the game. That's what we'll have to do."

That's exactly what the Rockets did against Churchill. With total domination at both ends of the court Glenn ran off 18 straight points before the Chargers found the bucket. Each time Churchill missed a shot, Jenny Okon or Stacy Graham seemed to be there scraping up the leftovers.

TRACY GREENWALD found the hoop for Churchill with 2:30 remaining in the first quarter for the Chargers first points of the game. Okon added three for Glenn and Shelly Porter hit a pair from the line before the quarter came to an end with the Rockets in control 23-4.

Greenwald again took control for Chargers to open the second quarter. She scored six of Churchill's first nine points to close the gap to 29-13.

But the Rockets then pumped in 16 straight, led by Okon and Theresa Ternes with six each, as they increased Glenn's lead to 32, 45-13 by the end of the half.

Tonight's clash with Salem is each team's final regular season game. Glenn enters the contest at 15-3, 12-3 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Salem comes in at 17-1, 15-0 in the league. Tipoff is set for 7:30 in the John Glenn gym.

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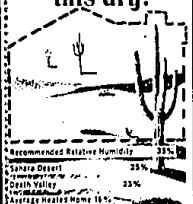


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