

# MSU's prize: Kristine Bailey

By Chris McCoshy  
staff writer

The beauty and the beast. Kristine Bailey is both.

The blond-haired, blue-eyed Kristine Bailey whose portfolio is on file with five modeling agents is the same Kristine Bailey whose spikes leave volleyball imprints on the foreheads of opposing blockers.

Those in attendance Saturday at the Schoolcraft Invitational Volleyball Tournament got to see Kristine Bailey, both the beauty and the beast, at her best.

While earning the tournament's most valuable player award and leading Livonia Stevenson to its fourth straight Schoolcraft championship, Bailey made 136 attacks with 93 kills and only 17 bad hits.

Lee Cagle, her coach, called her dominant. Walled Lake Central's coach Mike Lindstrom called her awesome. The sizeable group of hopeful young men who strolled into the gym called her beautiful. Several members of opposing teams called her things that should never be printed in a family newspaper.

One thing about Kristine Bailey, she certainly attracts attention.

"SOME TEAMS just don't like her," Cagle said. "They want to beat her, not Livonia Stevenson. Kristine likes that challenge. When they say things like that, she says, 'OK, let's go.'"

"She knows that she is looked at. She knows that she gets noticed. She's more or less learned to live with it and accept it. To some extent you enjoy it and to some extent you have to ignore it."

Her talents on the volleyball court alone, not to mention those on the tennis court (she's the No. 1 singles player at Stevenson) or in the classroom (National Honor Society), would be cause for envy among her peers. Add to that Bailey's full-time good looks and part-time modeling assignments (she was featured recently in local newspaper ads for Fitness USA) — well, sometimes the envy turns to flat-out jealousy.

"A lot of my friends, boys and girls, think it's great," Bailey said of her modeling assignments. "But there are some girls who don't like it as much."

Bailey is aware of the array of

## people in sports

back-biting that goes on, she's aware of the nasty comments from some of the players on opposing teams. But...

"I don't let things like that get to me," she said. "I don't worry too much about what other people say. I've had these kinds of hassles since I was in the seventh grade."

THE BEAST in Bailey, that competitive instinct that nicely enhances her natural athletic talents, has helped her reach all-state status in less than four years.

Bailey did not play volleyball until her freshman year at Stevenson.

"I just went out for the team because I thought it would be fun," she said. "I just thought it would be a good chance to meet people and have fun."

But by her sophomore year, Bailey knew that volleyball would lead to something far more enriching than a happy social life.

As a 10th grader, she was an alternate starter for a varsity team that advanced to the state semifinals. She has been Stevenson's top gun the past two seasons and is considered by high school and local college coaches to be among the top five players in the state.

Last Wednesday, Bailey signed a letter of intent to attend Michigan State University next fall on a full-ride volleyball scholarship.

"The whole thing took me completely by surprise," Bailey said of her sudden rise to prominence.

Said Cagle: "She has become a classic power hitter. Not really a finesse hitter, although she can dink and bump the ball effectively. Her forte is hitting the ball hard in any direction. That's the greatest thrill for her. Before that, though, she was an excellent back row player. She is still the best passer on the team. She reads the court real well. Her passing, I think, will help her out in the college game. You can't be a one-dimensional player at that level."

BAILEY SAID she narrowed her



Kristine Bailey was a tower of power for Livonia Stevenson during the Schoolcraft Invitational Saturday. Bailey, who is headed for

Michigan State next fall, was the tournament's MVP.

college choices to two, MSU and Purdue.

"I got to know the MSU coach (Ginger Mason) real well and I really liked the team and the school," she said. "Plus, my dad graduated from

State. I guess I just knew more about it."

The Spartans, a rebuilding program in the Big 10, are getting quite a package. Not only are they getting one of the state's premier players,

but they're getting a proven winner, a player who has been effective both as a support player and as a team leader.

A beauty of a person and a beast of a competitor.

## volleyball

# Spartans maintain S'craft reign

Continued from Page 1

Said Teeters: "Every referee has their own perception of whether it's a carry or not. There is really no such thing as an international call. I thought the difference in that match was that they were using a single block on our hitters, and we were able to either hit through it or around it."

LADYWOOD GOT effective net play all day from juniors Corinne McNamara and Jenny Belcher. In the championship match, Belcher had 11 kills and McNamara had seven. Both made the all-tournament team.

Ladywood's downfall against Stevenson, aside from Kristine Bailey, was its erratic serving. The Blazers missed on eight serves in the two games.

Although Lee Cagle wore a wide grin and was obviously savoring his team's fourth consecutive Schoolcraft triumph, he managed to keep everything in perspective.

"I kind of downplayed this tournament last week," he said. "The last couple of years we peaked at this time and then went down hill afterwards. The girls acted like this tournament was the epitome of the season. I didn't want them to think that this was all there is. We still have four major weekends left."

Starting with next Saturday's Western Lakes Conference Tournament at Walled Lake Central, Cagle will no doubt hear Lindstrom's tired refrain over and over: "We're going to get them. One of these days."

# Hawks out of title chase

Plymouth Canton couldn't do it. Farmington Harrison couldn't do it. Livonia Churchill couldn't do it.

But Farmington, to just one win prior to Tuesday night, did it.

The Falcons pulled out a 47-44 Western Lakes basketball win at Northville.

"We're on a roll," said Farmington coach Bob Kaump with a laugh. "One in a row. No, we have been in a lot of games. We just haven't been able to finish them. I really appreciate the kids still working hard."

The Falcons made up a seven-point deficit in the final three minutes. Steve Howell cuffed the game-ender with 14 seconds to play. F. Howell and Brandon London finished with 10 points each to pace the Falcons. Ron Jones (nine) and William Reese (eight) combined for another 17.

Steve Grant with 16 and Dave McCreadie with 12 paced the Northville scorers. Northville (6-9 in the league, 6-9 overall) also enjoyed a 16-8 edge from the free-throw line.

Farmington is now 2-13 in the league and 2-16 overall.

W.L. CENTRAL 67, HARRISON 64, 2 OT: A lot of blood, sweat and four went for naught Tuesday.

Farmington Harrison rallied from a 16-point deficit and tied the game in dramatic fashion with a Mike Koroly jumper at the buzzer to force overtime.

Each team scored four points in the first overtime, then traded a free throw for the first 2:59 seconds of the second overtime period.

Finally, as the buzzer sounded, Mark O'Hanlon's baseline jumper swished through to give host Walled Lake Central the win.

"We played far too hard to come

## basketball

up short like that," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said.

The loss dashes Harrison's remote chances of repeating its Western Lakes Western Division championship. Canton, a 44-38 winner against Livonia Stevenson Tuesday, holds a two-game lead with one game left.

Brad Ridgeway had a brilliant game. He notched 20 points, 17 rebounds and eight blocked shots. He fouled out in the second overtime period. Scott Bissell added 19 points and six rebounds. He fouled out in the first OT.

Chad Burgess added 16 points and Koroly dribbled out 10 seconds in the Central (10-5 in the league, 10-7

overall) got 19 points from Kevin Harrel, 15 from Layne Herrington and 11 from O'Hanlon.

Harrison falls to 8-7 in the league, 9-8 overall.

W.L. WESTERN 49, N. FARMINGTON 43: Same problem. North Farmington and the basket haven't gotten to know each other real well this season.

Tuesday, the visiting Raiders went ice cold in the third quarter and Western ran off a 16-8 spurt to assume command of the game.

Kevin Walters (14) and Mike Hall (13) led the Western scorers. Rick Karcher (15) and Rob Knapp (10) led North.

Walled Lake Western outscored North 11-5 from the free-throw line. Western is 4-11 in the league and 5-13 overall. North lies 5-10 in the league and 6-11 overall.

# Vlk sets record in swim loss

A record-setting performance by Jim Vlk couldn't prevent Farmington from losing a non-league swim meet to West Bloomfield Tuesday, 101-72.

Vlk set a Farmington varsity

and pool record in the 100-yard freestyle with a 49.05 swim. He also won the 200 individual medley (2:08.9) and swam a leg of the winning 200 medley relay. He teamed with Scott Hawkins, Brian Haupt

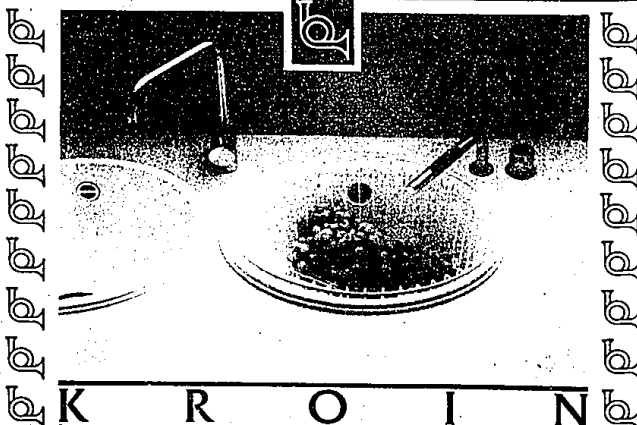
and Mark Langdon on a 1:50.13.

Hawkins won the 100 backstroke (1:02.5) and Dave Slack won diving (158.5 points).

The Falcons are 3-7.

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