

Mercy does turnaround

The first six points of the first game of Farmington Hills Mercy's volleyball match Monday with visiting Birmingham Marian were won by Marian. That looked like trouble.

It wasn't. The Marlins scored the next 15 and dominated the second game as well to record a 15-6, 15-6 Catholic League Central Division victory. The win clinched second place for Mercy entering the Catholic League playoffs, which begin Monday.

Mercy's inside attack destroyed Marian. The Marlins took advantage of the absence of Kathy Phillips, the Blazers' top inside player, who was out of town on a recruiting trip for basketball.

Middle-hitters Jennifer Slosar and Kristin Orlandini were both errorless in their attacks. Slosar had eight kills in 19 attacks, while Orlandini collected four kills in seven attacks. On the outside, hitter Jennifer Goff kept Marian off-balance with some solid shots, totaling two kills in eight attempts.

Lynn Elliott and Christy Johnson keyed a strong effort in the backcourt. Mercy, 25-8 overall, finishes its Catholic League dual match season

volleyball

at Redford Bishop Borgess Thursday.

STEVENS 9-15-15, N. FARMINGTON 15-7-10: The Lakes Division match was a repeat of the first one between the teams in that the Spartans came back after losing the first game to defeat the Raiders.

"I felt the kids were ready," North coach Sandy Lubieniecki said. "We had two good practices and they were up."

"The girls executed perfectly what we had practiced (in the first game), and we matched them point for point."

The Raiders faded after the fast start, however, as their lack of blocking and coverage on short balls contributed to the setback, Lubieniecki said.

"We just let (the Spartans) pound the ball, and we got back on our heels and didn't get the offense going again," she said.

North, 5-3 in the league and 18-5 overall, rallied in the third game to start with an 8-0 advantage. But the momentum swung the other way again, and Stevenson came on to forge an 11-10 lead and win the deciding game.

"We felt we had the momentum and were playing like we did in the first game," Lubieniecki said. "But the key block in the front row that we had been looking for all night was not there."

She added the Raiders allowed Stevenson spiker Sue Zatorski to have a big game for the Spartans, who share first place in the division with Westland John Glenn.

North's Missy Rosscawen had nine digs and was 12-of-12 hitting with five kills. Debbie Weintraub was 10-of-12 serving with six points and two aces, and Carrie Lee had 12 assists.

Stephanie Knapp, the team's leading hitter and digger, was 11-of-13 as an attacker and registered four kills. Suzi Butcher was 11-of-12 and scored three kills.

Knapp has a team-leading 122 digs, and her 94 percent serve-reception rating is second only to Weintraub's 95 percent.

Marlins capture tourney title

Farmington Hills Mercy was at peak performance level on the volleyball court Saturday, winning the University of Michigan-Dearborn tournament.

The Marlins, who were 7-0 for the day and improved their season record to 24-5, put down Saline 15-10, 15-3 in the final.

"We played well all day long, consistently well," said coach Tim DeBello, adding no team scored more than five points against Mercy in any of the eight pool-play games.

The Marlins were nearly as dominating in the playoffs, too. They defeated Trenton 15-4, 15-8 in the semifinal round after whipping East Detroit

volleyball

15-1, 15-5 in the quarterfinals.

Mercy's Kandi Boyle, a setting specialist, and Jennifer Slosar, the team's prime attacker, were named to the six-player, all-tournament team.

IN POOL PLAY, the Marlins sacked Saline (15-5, 15-3), annihilated Dearborn Heights Annapolis

(15-5, 15-2), ripped Dearborn Heights Robicheaud (15-2, 15-1) and azeed Algonac (15-4, 15-3).

Kristin Orlandini played a key role in Mercy's success with her outstanding serving, according to DeBello.

"She had her top spin working and was giving the other teams' serve reception fits," he said. "There wasn't one time when she went back to serve that she didn't get three or four points."

Meg Pinkerton and Jennifer Goff played well at their outside hitter positions, DeBello said, and the Marlins received excellent back-row play from Suzi McNish, Lynn Elliott and Christy Johnson.

Raiders improve

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Given the stiff competition, the Canton coach figured fifth place might be the highest the Chiefs could achieve.

gymnastics

"We felt we made a good showing, and that's what we wanted to do," he said. "We wanted to gain confidence and see how we shaped up against these teams."

A big surprise for Canton was freshman Heathy Murphy's fourth place on the beam with an 8.7. Apryl Mosakowski was 12th on floor, and Darcy Gignac was 12th on vault and 26th on bars.

"We're talking about some of the top gymnasts in the state, so that's exceptional," said Cunningham.

"(THE CANTON girls) weren't pleased to finish out of the top 10, but they were in serious contention for a ribbon."

Salem coach Kathi Kinsella figured ninth place was "about where we fit in." The Rocks added no new tricks to their routines, but concentrated on "adding a little polish" to what they were already doing.

"I can't complain," she said. "The girls did what I asked and polished things up. I'm satisfied with where they're at."

Amy Pastori was Salem's top scorer in all four events. She was 17th on bars (8.2), 18th on floor (8.25), 21st on beam (7.8) and 24th

— Jeff Dwyer
North coach

on vault (8.25). Her all-around score was 32.5, good for 18th place. Kinsella said the Rocks will have to decide whether to remain content with their current standing or add difficulty and attempt to move up before their dual meet with Canton, which has been switched from Wednesday, Feb. 17, to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22.

"WE CAN DO everything nice, neat and clean — and stay ninth out of 13 teams," she said, "or we can put in new tricks and have the scores go up. That's the choice the girls have to make."

Jackie Daly was Farmington's top scorer in two events — floor exercise (11th) and vault (12th). Julie Lawton was seventh on beam and Debbie Ford 26th on bars.



North hits peak in dual-meet win

Tino Hauptman gave an outstanding individual performance Monday night as North Farmington won a contest between Lakes Division gymnastics powers.

Hauptman either won or tied for first place in all four events and finished with the highest all-around score in helping the Raiders hand Plymouth Salem its first defeat.

North recorded its best score of the season, 132.4, and the Rocks, despite the setback, also accumulated their highest season total with a 126.85.

Salem is 4-1 against Western Lakes teams and 6-1 overall. The Raiders are 5-1 and 7-2.

North had lost its previous dual meet to Westland John Glenn last Thursday, but the Raiders rebounded with a sixth-place showing in the Plymouth Invitational Saturday.

"We knew we didn't go after our routines like we should have (against Glenn)," said North coach Jeff Dwyer. He said his team was out to correct that Saturday.

"When the girls realized how well they had done and saw how high they had finished, they were really happy and excited, and it carried over to (Monday) night," he added.

Hauptman, who had his highest scores of the year, and Salem's Amy Pastori scored 8.6 to share first place on vault, and Hauptman was equal with teammate Nicki Yuskowatz on the uneven bars, both with 7.8 scores.

Hauptman had no falls and performed a lot of high-superior moves to score 8.85 on beam, and she had her highest marks in floor exercise with an 8.95.

Salem was led by Pastori, who had the Rocks' best all-around performance, finishing second on beam (8.75), third in floor (8.7) and fifth on bars (7.35). She was third in the all-around behind Hauptman and Yuskowatz with a 33.4, her highest total of the season.

Yuskowatz was nearly as outstanding as Hauptman, giving the Raiders a tough-to-beat combination. She also was second in floor (8.8) and fourth on vault (8.5) and beam (8.5). Hauptman scored 34.2 in the all-around and Yuskowatz 33.6.

North freshman Kristen Sutarski helped the Raiders, too, with a solid performance that saw her place third on vault (8.55), bars (7.7) and beam (8.55). She was fifth in floor (8.35).

"Even (Troy) Athens and Freeland usually don't score that high," Salem coach Kathi Kinsella said of North's 34.2 team score on beam.

Salem's Debbie Popp finished fourth on floor (8.45), fifth on vault (8.45) and sixth on beam (8.1). Dana Holda was fourth on bars (7.4), Jenny Krieger sixth on vault (8.3) and Sharon Way sixth on floor (7.75).

In addition, Krieger met regional qualifying standards on bars and beam Monday, and she has now qualified in all four events. Way missed qualifying on floor by .05.

"My girls did everything that could be expected," said Kinsella, adding the Rocks broke the 30-point mark on beam.

"I told my girls not to worry about beating this team, to just get the qualifying scores. That was good enough for me."

Gesund picks Grand Valley

North Farmington wide receiver Todd Gesund signed a letter of intent Wednesday to play college football at Grand Valley State University.

Chris Cox, a linebacker at Farmington Hills Harrison, earlier declared his intention to sign with Eastern Michigan University.

Gesund, who had a school-record 35 pass receptions for 440 yards and four touchdowns for the Raiders last fall, had narrowed his choices to Grand Valley and Hillsdale College, both members of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Gesund said he liked the bigger campus at GVSU in Allendale, near Grand Rapids, as well as the school's football and academic programs. He plans to study business.

Gesund was one of two receivers Hillsdale was recruiting, but he said he felt he was a second choice with Hillsdale after it apparently offered more to the other player. GVSU offered half a scholarship, while Hillsdale, the more expensive school, was offering only one-eighth of a full ride, he said.

"I wrote them off right there," said Gesund, who also returned kickoffs for North and led the team with six interceptions on defense. The Raiders had a 7-2 record.

The 5-foot-11, 170-pound Gesund anticipates being red-shirted as a freshman but hopes he would like to contribute right away.

"I'm looking forward to August," he said. "I didn't want football to end after high school. I wanted to keep on playing."

Mercy unbeaten

Farmington Hills Mercy's ski team finished the dual-meet season undefeated as the Marlins beat Hartland 10-32 at Mt. Brighton Monday.

Mercy, 7-0 in duals, competes in the Mt. Brighton Intercollegiate Ski Association Championships today. The meet includes slalom and giant slalom skiing.

Mercy dominated its last dual meet, taking the first four positions. Both McFetters and Molly McDonald finished first and second in the slalom with times of 46.92 and 51.04, respectively. Deanna Senatore (55.96) and Jennifer Moore (1:02.68) took third and fourth place.

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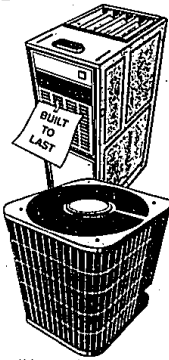
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