

Raiders regroup at N'ville

Donna O'Brien's stellar performance in the third game of Monday's volleyball match helped North Farmington secure a victory over Northville.

North, one of the top ballclubs in the Western Lakes, dropped the first game 11-15 before taking 15-6, 15-9 victories in the next two.

O'Brien replaced teammate Missy Bosscawen, whom coach Sandy Lubieniecki believed was in need of a rest since the Raiders, 7-3 in the league and 22-6 overall, had competed all day Saturday in the Schoolcraft Invitational.

O'Brien responded with three blocks and was 6-of-8 hitting with three kills in the deciding game. She had seven blocks total and didn't miss a ball while serving, hitting or receiving, Lubieniecki said.

"I can't say enough about Donna," she added. "She's been fantastic."

Pam Konjarevich was 13-of-13 serving for the match, and she had 10 points and one ace. As an attacker, she was 13-of-14 with five kills.

STEPHANIE KNAPP, who missed the weekend action due to a prior commitment, came off the bench in the third game, too, to go 8-of-10 hitting with two kills. Debbie Weintraub and Carrie Lee had nine assists apiece.

"Coming off the weekend tournament, we were tired and I think it showed in that first game," Lubieniecki said. "We had the lead and let it slip away."

"Our hitters went to a lot of tipping because they were tired. We were slow on our feet and evidently weren't into it."

In the Schoolcraft tournament, North won its pool and got into the playoffs where it was eliminated by a highly-touted Dearborn Edsel Ford team 16-14, 15-10.

"Overall, we looked at it as a very good day," Lubieniecki said. "When you win your net and play well against the No. 4 team in the state, that's a pretty good day."

Bosscawen was 34-of-39 serving with eight aces and was the team leader with 27 digs.

"There were times when she dove, and we held our breath," Lubieniecki said. "Was she going to get up or wasn't she?"

Bosscawen also was 47-of-52 as a hitter, recorded 18 kills, made 11 blocks and had five digs. O'Brien had 17 kills while going 44-of-52 on the attack.

Suzi Butcher was 39-of-41 from the service line with nine aces, and Weintraub was 48-of-50 with 31 points and five aces. Kelly Coulson, coming off the bench, was 18-of-18 as a server with five aces. Weintraub recorded 36 assists, Lee 35.



Suzi Butcher passes the ball to teammate and North Farmington setter Carrie Lee (6) during play Saturday in the Schoolcraft Invitational. The Raiders won their pool with a 5-1 record.

Ladywood first at SC

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In the win over Edsel Ford, Teeters noted that the Thunderbirds' defensive scheme, employing a single blocker in the middle, "was great for our offense."

"Corinne and Nancy (Wagner) ate that up," Teeters said. "Against Borgess they always use a double blocker, but our system is designed well for the players. They're able to adjust to a complicated system with a few options thrown in."

During the day, Ladywood also received strong contributions from Karl Domanski, Moe Knittel, Stacey Girard, Sarah Adzima and Jenny Belcher.

"I see a lot of potential here, but we still have to improve," Teeters said. "But with all our players getting healthy, we're going to have a stronger bench now."

WAYNE MEMORIAL was eliminated in the semifinals of a tournament for the third time this season — all by the same team — Edsel Ford.

"We're getting closer," said Wayne first-year coach Ann Kohnitsky, whose team was ousted, 15-10, 16-14. "But we can't let a team like that (Edsel Ford) sink on us like that. We need to play more aggressively."

Edsel Ford, paced by Lisa Haan, Deanna Lowe and Laura Squibbs, reached the semifinals by eliminating North Farmington in a close match, 16-14, 15-10.

Other Overland schools making it out of pool play included Garden City and Livonia Churchill.

Garden City upset Walled Lake Western in Pool D, but was ousted by Wayne in the first round of eliminations, 15-9, 15-6. Churchill reached the quarterfinals before losing to Borgess, 15-10, 15-4.

Falcons flying high

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

After a disappointing loss a week ago to cross-town rival Harrison, Farmington basketball coach Bob Kaump mapped out the do-or-die strategy for his Falcons.

Farmington would have to win its last three regular-season games against Lakes Division foes to finish among the top four and qualify for the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs.

With one hurdle remaining, the Falcons are where they want to be after beating Plymouth Salem 77-69 Tuesday and Livonia Stevenson 65-59 in overtime Monday.

Farmington, 3-6 in the division and 5-11 overall, needs a win Friday night when it travels to North Farmington to nail down a berth in post-season play. The Rocks, 4-5 and 6-10, remain in the running for one of the last two playoffs spots, also.

The Falcons capitalized on their free throw opportunities and, unlike the game with Harrison, shot very well, especially from the perimeter where Chris Cahill, Steve Quenneville and Darin Magera gave Farmington a huge lift with their three-point shooting.

"I DON'T KNOW how to explain it," Kaump said, adding the Falcons made four triples in the fourth quarter against Stevenson.

"The three-pointers enabled us to put the ball down inside to Jason Brown (13 points) a lot, and our big guys were able to take it inside and dump it back outside (for open shots)."

Farmington was 35-of-49 from the free-throw line as the officials played a dominant role in the game and exerted excessive control at times.

The fouls, however, were virtually even, with Salem being called for 28 and the Falcons 26. An incredible total of 85 free throws were attempted as the Rocks sank 19 of 38.

"It's tough to get into a flow when the whistle is being blown all the time," said Salem coach Bob Myers, who refused to make the officials the scapegoat for the outcome.

"SOME OF THOSE fouls were legitimate. You can't blame the game on free-throw shooting. (The Falcons) were going to the line and knocking them down, and we weren't converting."

Quenneville led all scorers with 16 points, including 11-of-14 shooting at the free-throw line, and Magera and Drew McDougall had 14 apiece.

Cahill, scoring all of his points on triples, and Mike Myers added nine each. In addition to Quenneville,

basketball

Brown was nine-of-12 at the line, McDougall eight-of-11 and Magera six-of-9.

"Salem's style of play is physical," Kaump said. "Tonight my kids were able to hold their own — square up and be strong when they were being moved."

M.J. Ewald's 15 points paced the Rocks, Jeff Elliott scored 13 and Keith Smith tossed in nine.

Salem shot out to an early lead, but the Falcons came to life and moved in front when Magera and Quenneville hit back-to-back triples.

THE ROCKS weren't getting many offensive rebounds in the first half and shot nine-of-32. Farmington wasn't much better from the field at 10-of-31, but four triples and 16-of-22 accuracy at the line helped the Falcons to a 39-28 halftime lead.

"Our objective was to make them shoot the outside jump shot and contest them, and they were knocking them down," Brodie said.

"It gets a little frustrating and the kids start to press when (the Falcons are) making threes and we're not hitting."

Smith controlled the defensive boards in the third quarter as the Rocks turned the tables and rallied to pull within 41-40 on Smith's putback. But Farmington's triples were well timed as Cahill answered with one that made it 44-40 and another at the end of the quarter for a 53-44 lead.

The Rocks stayed with 62-55 when Bill Anderson scored off a rebound, and there was still time for Salem to make a move with almost five minutes to play.

BUT A FOUL, and a technical against the Rocks sent Quenneville to the line where he dropped in four straight free throws. Myers hit a turnaround, and McDougall made a free throw for a 69-55 lead with 3½ minutes left.

The Falcons were able to protect their lead and prevent Salem from making a serious challenge after that. "The key, near the end, was the kids were looking up floor for passes instead of looking behind them," Kaump said. "They were looking to score instead of pulling up and waiting to be fouled."

"It was one of those games that got close and, instead of saying, 'I hope we can win,' they pushed forward and said, 'We're going to win.' We were aggressive and continued putting the ball in the hole."

Clarenceville gymnasts succeed

Livonia Clarenceville got out to an early lead Tuesday in gymnastics and stayed on top for a 117.25 to 110.5 victory over Farmington.

The Trojans, 8-3 overall, relied on their dash to overcome a strong, one-two performance by the Falcons' Jackie Daly and Julie Lawton.

Daly won the vault (8.8), beam (8.65) and floor exercise (8.35), and Lawton was second in floor (8.0), third on beam (7.7) and fourth on bars (6.45).

Clarenceville, led by Julie Mansell and Denise Ahnert, had four of the

top six scorers on vault, four of five on bars.

Ahnert was second (first for the Trojans) on vault (8.7) and Mansell third (8.65), and Roberta Wiggle and Colleen Wood tied for fifth (7.85).

Mansell won the bars event with a 7.4, Sue Dziak was second (7.15), Ahnert third (6.75) and Christie Nagoraka fifth (5.95).

Mansell was second on beam (7.75) and fourth on floor (7.4), and Ahnert was fourth on beam (7.3) and third on floor (7.9). In addition, Wood was fifth on beam (7.0) and teammate

Jennifer Kaiplo fifth on floor (6.8).

In very close scoring for the all-around, Daly totaled 30.95, Ahnert 30.65, Mansell 30.60 and Lawton, 29.35.

"It was kind of a funny meet," said Clarenceville coach Chuck Thompson, noting last week's snowstorm disrupted the practice schedule.

"Last Tuesday was the last day we worked out. The whole meet was loaded with misses, but both teams, experienced the same thing. The edge wasn't there."

Glenn cagers drop N. Farmington

Greg Anderson led three Westland John Glenn players in double figures with 21 points as the host Rockets raised their Lakes Division mark to

8-1 with a 75-67 win over North Farmington.

Glenn, which travels Friday to division-leading Walled Lake Central, upped its overall mark to 11-5. North Farmington, which plays host to

Farmington Friday, fell to 3-5, 6-9.

Bob Dixon pumped in 16 points and Dave Schnepel added 12 for Glenn's balanced scoring attack. North's sophomore guard Matt Hoffman led both teams with 22 points.

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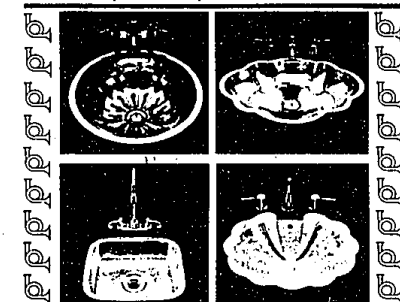
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