

# Schoolcraft prevails in national tourney

By Brad Emmons  
and C.J. Risak  
staff writers

When Schoolcraft College volleyball coach Tom Teeters would send his team into the weight room for a workout after winning a match this season, there was a not-so-subtle message he was delivering.

Stay strong, he was saying. Don't let weariness defeat you.

Teeters' hard-work ethic paid big dividends last week at the NJCAA tournament in Miami. After three grueling days of competition, the Lady Ocelots were within sight of their first national championship — by Wednesday.

SC beat Texas-Southwest CC 15-11, 15-9 in the first two games of their best-of-five title match and led 12-2 in the third. But, as Teeters would later admit, "They wore us down." Southmost rallied for a 15-12 victory

In the third game.

THAT COULD have turned the tide against the Lady Ocelots. But their mental toughness, nurtured in those seemingly endless workouts, saved them. They won four easily, 15-5, and with it claimed the NJCAA championship.

It was an extraordinary accomplishment for a team that seemed to lack the size to be dominant.

"By far, we exceeded expectations," said Teeters, who earlier this year had coached Livonia Ladywood to a Class A state title. "I knew we were good, but we were so short."

"We worked so hard, like weightlifting in the summer in 95-degree weather, and all the hard work paid off. It took a lot of pushing, but they wanted to be pushed. If you want to be pushed, go to Schoolcraft."

The final match against Southmost was exceptional. "They're known for their defense," said Teeters of the Brownsville, Texas team. "We had to work a lot."

NIKKI STUBBS and Maria Evans, both from Garden City, led the Lady Ocelot attack. Stubbs had 24 kills in the match (.593 kill percentage) and Evans had 23 (.573). Evans also had "the best defensive match of her life," according to Teeters, collecting 40 digs.

Both players were named to the all-NJCAA tournament team, together with teammate Alissa Love. Stubbs was the tourney's most valuable performer. Teeters was selected as coach of the year.

Sarah Heddle contributed 22 kills against Southmost (230), while Chris Paciero (from Livonia Churchill) had 48 assists-to-kills in 125 sets with just one error and Love had two service aces.

Earlier Wednesday in the match pairing the double-elimination tournament's two unbeaten teams, SC overcame Manatee (Fla.) 15-7, 15-1. The Lady Ocelots took total control midway through the first game, which was tied at 7-11. From that point on, SC outscored

Manatee 23-1 the rest of the match.

STUBBS HAD 12 kills (.591), one solo block and two block assists, while Heddle (.411) and Evans (.394) added seven kills each. Heddle also had one solo block and two block assists, and again Paciero's setting was superb.

SC did not lose a match in the tournament. In Monday's pool play, the Lady Ocelots lost just one of nine games, and in Tuesday's two best-of-three matches they won in straight games.

One of their Tuesday wins came against Barton (Kan.) CC by a 15-8, 15-12 margin. "We beat them for the first time ever," said Teeters. Earlier Tuesday, SC had defeated Kankakee (Ill.) CC 15-9, 15-8.

In Monday's three-game pool play, the Lady Ocelots defeated Delaware Tech 15-0, 15-3, 15-3; Nebraska CC 15-10, 15-11, 9-15; and Ricks (Idaho) CC 15-13, 17-15, 15-9.

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— Tom Teeters  
Schoolcraft volleyball coach

## the week ahead

### GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONAL PAIRINGS

#### CLASS A at SOUTHWEST HIGH

Tuesday, Nov. 28: Livonia Franklin vs. Taylor Center, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 29: Livonia Ladywood vs. Detroit Copley, 7 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Southfield-Livonia quarterfinal vs. Berkley regional champion.)

#### CLASS B at PLYMOUTH CANTON

Tuesday, Nov. 28: Adrian vs. Belleville, 6 p.m.; Plymouth Salem vs. Trenton, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 1: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Battle Creek Central quarterfinal vs. Lansing Sexton regional champion.)

#### CLASS B at MADISON HTS. MADISON

Tuesday, Nov. 28: River Rouge vs. Royal Oak Shrine, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 29: Redford Bishop Borgess vs. Mount Clemens Lutheran North, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 2: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Allen Park quarterfinal vs. New Boston Huron regional champion.)

### BOYS BASKETBALL Friday, Dec.

Liv. Churchill at Oakton, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Stevenson at Belleville, 7:30 p.m.  
Wayne at Westland Glen, 7:30 p.m.  
Redford Union at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.  
Brighton at Pky. Center, 7:30 p.m.  
Pky. Salem at Trenton, 7:30 p.m.  
H. Farmington at Berkley, 7:30 p.m.  
Wat. Kettering at Farm. Heights, 7:30 p.m.  
Red. Thurston at Midland Lakeside, 7:30 p.m.  
Taylor Baptist at Glenview, 7:30 p.m.  
Luth. Westland at Ann. Conception, 7:30 p.m.  
Clarkston at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.  
Red. Temple vs. Varnumville Maple Valley at Bath Township, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
Red. Temple at Bath Township, 8 and 8 p.m.

### PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Nov. 30

Liv. Stevenson vs. Windsor Riverside, 8 p.m.  
Liv. Churchill vs. Midland, 8 p.m.  
Redford CC at A.A. Pioneer (Veterans), 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 1  
Liv. Stevenson at Southfield, 4 p.m.  
Liv. Churchill vs. Southfield-Livonia at Beech Woods Arena, 8 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 2  
Liv. Churchill vs. Midland Lakeside at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
Redford CC at Trenton, 7 p.m.

## Freshman leads Pats to title

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

The happy faces were worth a thousand words as Livonia Franklin captain Leslie Szafarski proudly displayed the district basketball plaque.

The Patriot girls had reason to smile Wednesday, winning their first title since 1984 with a 60-49 victory over Westland John Glenn in the Class A final at Wayne Memorial High School.

"I'm beside myself and I'm elated," said Franklin coach Dan Freeman, whose 16-7 team will play Taylor Center (22-1) in Tuesday's Southfield regional.

"By far this team has exceeded my expectations from the start of the year. We came a lot farther than I expected."

Freshman Dawn Warner was again the catalyst, scoring a game-high 32 points. The Patriots also got 11 from sophomore Juliann Slesiak and eight from senior center Jeannette Altweis.

Glenn was looking for revenge after losing to Franklin 61-59 in the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs Nov. 12, but the young Patriots met the challenge.

THE ROCKETS, however, appeared to mean business in the early going, taking a 10-4 lead on a shot by Tracy Martin with 2:41 left in the quarter. But that's when Warner went crazy.

She hit two free throws, scored a layup, stole the inbound pass and converted it into a three-point play, dished off to Slesiak for a basket and drilled a jumper — all in the span of one minute and 42 seconds — propelling the Patriots to a 19-11 first-quarter advantage.

And if that wasn't enough, Warner just missed a three-quarter court heave at the buzzer. The 70-foot shot bounced off the rim.

The Patriots then increased their lead to 34-22 at the half before Glenn cut the deficit dramatically, pulling to within three, 42-39, on a basket by Christina Hoffman with 6:50 remaining in the game.

But Warner took over again, scoring 10 down the stretch to seal the verdict. She made six of eight free throws.

"DAWN REALLY rose to the occasion and she's a pressure ballplayer," said Glenn coach Pat Bennett, whose team bowed out at 10-13.

"I thought maybe because of their youth, that we would have the advantage in a game like this, but we had a difficult time playing."

"In the first half we were missing our shots and we couldn't get any offensive rebounds. They gave us the outside shot, but we couldn't get anything to go."

"We came out of the locker room (for the second half) playing with a little more intensity, but

it was hard playing catch-up."

Hoffman, a 5-foot-10 senior, started out guarding the 5-6 freshman, but had little success, eventually falling into foul trouble.

The 5-3 Martin, who paced Glenn with 18 points, then drew the defensive assignment in the third quarter and was a little more effective.

By then, it was too little, too late for the Rockets.

"We couldn't stop her (Warner) and we knew she was getting the ball," Bennett said. "We wanted to double-team her, but some people missed their assignments. Those things happen."

FRANKLIN USED a zone defense to hold the taller and more experienced Rockets at bay.

"We studied the tape from the first game we played against them and we saw that they were a totally right-sided ballclub," Freeman said. "We had to push them to the left as much as possible."

"Hoffman is an excellent shooter, but she goes to the right side all the time. There were times we didn't shut them down, but the plan was to keep our defense inside the three-point circle. We also wanted to take away second shots."

Glenn's front line of the Hoffman, 5-11 senior Yvette Lawrence (11 points) and 5-9 Janet Torres was held to a grand total of 24.

As the game ended, it was fitting that Warner was on the line to attempt a pair of free throws.

## Borgess takes Oak Park in OT

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Kyra Woodard didn't stop trying when her shots kept bouncing off the rim early in Tuesday's district championship game.

Her teammates on the Bishop Borgess girls basketball team were glad she didn't.

The sophomore guard's shot jumped in the lane gave the Spartans a 53-52 lead with 30 seconds left in overtime, and she added two free throws to seal Borgess' 55-52 victory over Oak Park.

"I was hoping it was going in, because nothing had been failing for me at the beginning," said Woodard of the deciding bucket. "My teammates kept telling me 'Kyra, you gotta make it; you gotta make it' when she stepped to the line with five seconds remaining."

Playing on their own floor, the Spartans, 11-8, captured their second straight district title and will play Mount Clemens Lutheran North, 22-1, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Class B regional at Madison Heights High School.

"WE WON A (Class A) district last year, and I felt this year as seniors we should go on past the district and be a contender in regional and state competition," said Angi Ross, whose arc-ing jumper from the corner enabled Borgess to deadlock the score, 45-43, at the end of regulation.

"We have one player (Pat Hines) who's hurt, and we have to pick up the slack for her. We have some young players on the team, and they grew up in one night."

Oak Park, with its 17-5 record, rated the favorite's role going into the final, but the Spartans showed themselves to be just as good, rallying with an inspired second half.

"Today we learned how to win, be-

## girls basketball

*'Today we learned how to win, because when the going got tough we got even tougher. That shows they're maturing and learning how to win close ballgames.'*

— Mike Resmer  
Borgess basketball coach

cause when the going got tough we got even tougher," Resmer said. "That shows they're maturing and learning how to win close ballgames."

Hines, who averages 10 1/2 points, might have made winning a little easier with her added offense. Resmer said, but the play of 5-11 senior Tanisha Stokes and 5-11 junior Tanya Tounsel, who scored a game-high 16 points, was particularly important.

The Spartans struggled through the first half, trailing by eight points most of the second quarter.

OAK PARK'S supposedly strong press was never a factor, but the

Redmen's inside trio of Gerisha Curry, Angela Harrell and Heather Perryman clogged the middle and had Borgess, which had plenty of chances but was 5-of-31 for the half, shooting off balance.

That changed in the third quarter when Tounsel and Stokes, scoring off the offensive boards, went to work. Furthermore, it was Borgess that had the effective press, controlling the third-quarter tempo when it outscored the Lady Redmen 16-10.

"We had so many in foul trouble that we were playing too cautiously," Oak Park coach Richard Griest said. Curry, Harrell and Sandrelia Williams had three or four fouls. "You want to tell them to be aggressive, but they have a tendency to hang back."

On the other hand, Stokes picked up her third foul at 6:07 in the second period and played the rest of the game, being a major force on the second-half boards.

"She's an experienced player," Resmer said. "She knows how to play with three fouls. A less experienced player I wouldn't have trusted

to stay with as long as I did Tanisha."

Woodard started the comeback when she converted turnovers into back-to-back layups early in the third, and Tounsel capped a run of seven unanswered points with a rebound basket that gave Borgess its first lead, 32-31, with 2:12 left in the period.

THE LEAD sea-sawed until Harrell got behind the Spartan defense for what looked like a game-winning layup with :38 remaining in regulation, 45-43. Ross, however, hit her jumper to tie.

"My teammates built up my confidence," she said. "They told me to keep shooting and don't give up, because they know what I can do."

The lead changed hands three times in overtime before Woodard, who had 13 points, scored the last four. Stokes also had 13 points, Mariam Carr, who played well on an injured leg, six and Ross five.

Four reached double figures for Oak Park with Williams scoring 15, guard Danielle Briggs 12, Harrell and Curry 10 apiece.

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## sports shorts

### SPORTS SALE

A winter sports used equipment sale, sponsored by the Farmington Hills Recreation Department, is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3, in the East Middle School cafeteria.

Anyone interested in purchasing or selling used skates, skis, sleds, ski clothing, toboggans, etc., is welcome. Items to be sold will be accepted at the school 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2. All sales are final. There will be a 20-percent service charge on all items sold.

For information, call the recreation department office at 473-9570.

### COLLEGE NEWS

Farmington's Sue Herzog was a double winner for the University of Maryland-Baltimore County women's swimming team on Saturday, Nov. 18. She won the 500- and 1,000-yard freestyle titles in UMBC's 158-95 loss to LaSalle University.

### COACHES NEEDED

Mercy High School is looking for coaches in the following capacities and sports: varsity cheerleading, track assistant and skiing. Send resume to athletic director Suzanne Brown at 29300 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018, or call her at 476-2835.

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