

Sports

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First-half woes wreck St. Mary's upset hopes

By C.J. Flisak
staff writer

The big game should bring out the best in teams, right?

Anyone who has ever watched a Superbowl knows that's untrue. On Saturday night, on a much smaller scale, two of the top basketball teams in NAIA District 23 met in Adrian, and true to form, neither played great.

The difference was that for St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake (No.

4 in the district) to upset Siena Heights (No. 1) it would take a superior effort.

The Eagles didn't get it and lost, 104-93.

"We didn't play great," said Siena Heights coach Fred Smith, whose team is now 19-5. "What did we make — 32-of-55 from the free throw line and missed the front end of eight 1 and 1s. But we played good enough to win."

ST. MARY'S coach Glen Donahue

wasn't too happy with his team's performance, either. "They kicked our ass. We never executed real well, we fell behind by 22 and started to get tentative. And, hey, they are the best team in the district."

Siena Heights has been the best team in the district for the past two seasons. The Saints have been the No. 1 team in the district power-point rankings since the beginning of the 1987-88 campaign. Saturday's

first half performance guaranteed they'd stay there.

Slowly but steadily, Siena Heights built its 22-point advantage. St. Mary's was within three with 17:00 left, but in the next 11:30, was outscored 37-18. Craig Tanis had 10 points, Jemille Green 8, and Mark Merriman, 6, in that stretch.

With a 45-23 lead and 5:31 left in the first half, victory seemed assured. It wasn't.

St. Mary's climbed back into it, outscoring the Saints 15-4 the rest of

the half to trail 49-38 at the intermission.

THE EAGLES then scored the first 6 points of the second half to pull to within 49-44. But that was as close as they would come, although they certainly never gave up.

Five Eagles fouled out as they tried to take advantage of Siena Heights' poor free throw shooting (58 percent for the game). It couldn't get St. Mary's a win, however.

Three-point shooting was a good

indicator in this game. "We're normally a good three-point shooting team," claimed Donahue. The Eagles had just two; Siena Heights made eight. "We never really got in synch offensively," Donahue said.

James Lakes' 19 points led the Eagles, who slipped to 13-10. Jerome Washburn had 18, James Curtis 14, and Jim Butcher and Jeff Suspek, 11 each. Merriman finished with 24, Tanis had 22 and Green, 16 for Siena Heights.

Blazers topple Mercy

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Presumably, Kari Domanski didn't drive the Livonia Ladywood bus home Thursday night.

But the junior setter, who won't turn 16 until later this summer, did everything else for the Blazers in their 8-15, 15-7, 15-10 volleyball victory over Catholic League Central Division rival Farmington Hills Mercy.

Domanski, who will graduate a year ahead of her class, delivered nine assists for kills in the last two games. She also showed her own ability at the net, collecting eight kills.

She capped the evening by serving the final two points for Ladywood, the defending Class A champions.

"So far, she's holding up to the pressure I put on her," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said. "I ask her to do a lot. She just needs a little confidence."

THE BLAZERS remained atop the Central Division at 6-1, 15-2 overall. Mercy has all but fallen out of the regular-season race at 4-3, 16-6 overall. Still, the Marlins likely will be among the top four teams invited to the Catholic League post-season tournament, and that's all coach Tim DeBello can ask for.

"The unfortunate thing about tonight is if we'd have won, we could have controlled our own destiny," DeBello said. "Now we're two games behind and a lot of things have got to happen. We let a great opportunity slip through our fingers."

Kari Domanski wasn't the only standout for Ladywood. Senior hitters Sarah Adams and Stacey Girard turned in strong performances, recording 12 and 13 kills, respectively. Dana Domanski, the older sister of Kari, had five digs in the second game and nine more in Game 3.

Adams also performed well in the third game, registering seven digs in the back row. Teeters needed strong all-around performances from the Blazers to overcome poor serving and the absence of hitter Rebecca Willey, who was sick.

The Blazers made 13 service errors, and Teeters said the Blazers normally average only about five bad serves for a three-game match.

Ouch.

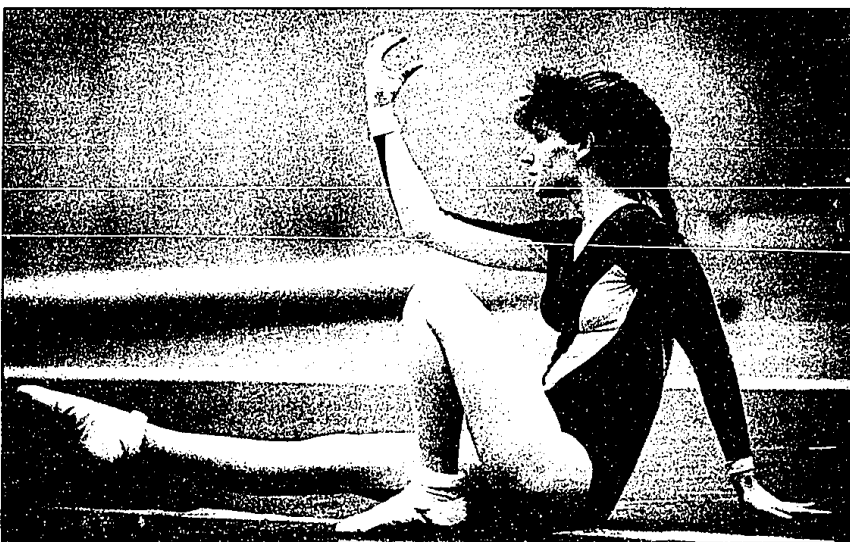
"IN AN EMOTIONAL game like this there's not a whole lot you can do about serving," Teeters said. "We did not play well and we had trouble serving. But we got a lot of use out of Sarah and Stacey. And Janice Konecal was amazing off the bench. She had some great digs. The key to the third game was digging. It sure wasn't serving."

After winning the first game handily, the Marlins scored the first two points of the second game before Ladywood rallied. Katie Farcas gave Ladywood a boost off the bench, serving 11 times with only two errors. She had one service ace in Game No. 2 when the Blazers slowly took command of the game, scoring eight straight points to lead 13-5.

Ladywood fell behind 7-3 in the final game, but scored six straight points and never again trailed.

The Marlins also were short-handed with middle hitter Lee Albrecht out because of a twisted ankle, and they weren't able to respond to the Blazers' surge in Games Nos. 2 and 3.

Junior Betsy Poe filled in for Albrecht and totaled 14 blocks, but she didn't get enough help up front, DeBello said. Jennifer Goff finished the match with seven kills and An-



Rita Dunn performs her floor exercise routine Thursday night. Her best event, however, was the balance beam in which she placed second with an 8.55 score. Dunn and her North Farmington teammates remained unbeaten with a key victory over Westland John Glenn.

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Raiders roll to 11th straight

Depth keeps gymnasts' slate perfect

North Farmington overcame a sterling performance Wednesday by Westland John Glenn gymnast Wendy Minch to gain its 11th straight dual-meet victory of the season, 132.45 to 128.35, over the host Rockets.

Minch was the all-around individual champion, winning the vault (9.4), uneven parallel bars (9.55), balance beam (9.5) and floor exercise (9.5).

Teammate Deb Williams added a pair of thirds on bars (8.8) and floor (8.9), but the Rockets could come up with little else.

The Raiders, paced by Heather Kahn, proved to have more depth.

Kahn finished second in three events — vault (8.9), bars (9.0) and floor (9.0). She was also third in the beam (8.6).

Sophomore Kristin Sutarski added a third in the vault (8.6), while North teammate Rita Dunn added a second on beam (8.65).

"Kristin Sutarski has been our most consistent gymnast this year and she's kept us in a lot of meets," North coach Jeff Dwyer said. "She deserves more credit than what she's been getting."

FARMINGTON EARNED A brief rest after defeating Berkley for its fifth victory Wednesday night.

The Falcons, who are idle until the Plymouth Invitational on Saturday, scored 128.9 points to 118.0 by the Bears.

Christine Oates paced Farmington with victories on the uneven bars (8.4) and floor exercise (8.8) and a second on the balance beam (8.6). She also was fourth on the vault (8.15).

Teammate Debbie Ford was second on bars (8.16) and third on vault (8.3). The Falcons, 5-1-1, got second place on vault with Jennifer Reed scoring 8.4, and Amber Arbuckle earned an 8.4 for third on beam.

"We're glad to have a few days off



Heather Kahn of North Farmington was third on the balance beam, but that was the lowest she finished in any event. She was second in the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise, leading the Raiders to their 11th win.

gymnastics

from meets, so we can work on some new tricks," Farmington coach Mary Beth Schornhorst said.

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE ran its dual-meet record to 6-3 Wednesday with a 127.60 to 124.00 victory over visiting Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Lisa Grant of Clarenceville won all-around honors with a score of 32.7, finishing first on bars (8.3), tied for third on both beam (7.95) and floor (8.2); and sixth on vault (8.25).

Other standouts for the victorious Trojans included Colleen Wood, who was first on beam (8.65), tied for third on floor (8.2) and fourth on vault (8.35); Jennifer Kalpio, second on bars (7.9) and sixth on floor (7.9); Christy Nagorka, tied for third on beam (7.95) and fourth on bars; Roberta Wiggle, fifth on vault (8.3).

Edsel led a pair of firsts led by Kelly Doovon on vault (8.5) and Kristi Welsh on floor (8.4).

HEATHER MURPHY and Dawn Clifford were the top all-around gymnasts Wednesday as Plymouth Canton trounced Farmington Harrison in a Western Division meet.

The Chiefs, 3-0 against Western Lakes Activities Association teams and 4-0 overall, scored 129.55 and the Hawks 107.45.

Clifford, who won the uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise competitions, totaled 33.8 points and Murphy, the vault winner, 33.35.

Clifford scored 8.35 on bars, 8.65 on beam and 8.75 on floor, and Murphy was second in each event with 8.15, 8.6 and 8.5 scores, respectively.

It was the other way around on vault with Murphy scoring 8.1 for first place and Clifford tying with teammate Johanna Anderson for second with 8.05 marks.

Anderson also was third on beam (7.7), fourth on bars (7.05) and floor (8.35). Kelly Fortier's 8.45 was good for third on floor, and Shannon Connel tied third on bars with a 7.8.

Harrison's Jenny Rich finished fourth in the vault competition (8.0), and Michelle Doecker was fourth on beam with a 7.55.

Hawks hold off Western

Farmington Harrison, playing without injured star Chad Burgess Friday, made 10 of 11 free throws in the final 2 1/2 minutes to secure a 62-58 win over host Walled Lake Western.

The Hawks, who will have Burgess (ankle injury) back for Tuesday's game at Farmington, improved to 6-1 in the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, 11-2 overall. Western is 3-4 and 4-9.

Jason Lichtman and Bryan Wauldron tied for Harrison scoring honors with 16 points apiece. Lichtman and backcourt partner Mill Coleman had seven and five assists, respectively.

Ron Karbowaki, who replaced Burgess in the starting lineup, scored nine points and added 10 rebounds. Steve Hill had seven points off the bench.

Wayne Paris scored 18 for Western and Tom Kubik added 17 for the Warriors.

Harrison took a 22-14 lead after one quarter and led 32-26 at halftime.

FARMINGTON 54, W.L. CENTRAL 38: Farmington kept the Vikings winless Friday, thumping Central in a Lakes Division game played at Farmington.

Chris Schmidt had three 3-point shots and finished with 11 points for Farmington, 3-3 in the division, 3-9 overall. Derrick Wallace led Central, 0-6 and 0-12, with 12 points.

Mike Myers was the only other Falcon player in double figures with 10 points. Jason Brown had eight points and eight rebounds for Farmington.

2nd-half rally rips Raiders

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Salem's basketball team figured it was time to stop fooling around, and the serious approach worked fine.

After a see-saw first half Friday night, Salem straightened things out at halftime and buried North Farmington in the second, 78-48.

The victory enabled the Rocks, who defeated North 56-74 three weeks ago, to clinch a share of the Lakes Division title with a 7-0 record. Observers' No. 1-ranked team is 11-1 overall.

The Raiders, who entered the week on a three-game losing streak, suffered their second lopsided defeat in a row and slipped to 4-3 in the Lakes and 6-7 overall.

"THEY CONTROLLED the tempo the whole first half," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "Our kids more or less let them do it."

"When we went into the locker room at halftime, I said, 'No more changing defenses, no more trickery. We're just going to play.'"

Play they did.

The Rocks scored the first 10 points and turned a one-point deficit into a 41-32 lead before North used a timeout at 8:24 in an attempt to stem the tide.

But Salem was on a roll by then and outscored the Raiders 19-4 in the third quarter. Craig Marshall, who had two key baskets to ignite the in-

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