

Wildcats take AAU honor

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

For the last three years, Jill Estey often wondered what it would be like playing in the same backcourt as Michelle Fortier instead of against her.

It would have been a headache — for opposing coaches. The two were rivals when Estey played point guard for Plymouth Salem and Fortier played the same position at Canton. Their high school playing days are over, but now they're teammates on the Western Wayne Wildcats AAU team, which last weekend won the state title in Sanduski.

Estey, bound for the University of Illinois on a basketball scholarship, was named the tournament's most valuable player, leading the Wildcats to a 61-43 win Sunday over the Flint Lady Wolverines in the title game. Fortier, who signed with Western Michigan, was the perfect complement, scoring eight points in the championship game of the double-elimination tournament.

"WE WERE JUST talking about it last week in practice, this being our first time ever playing on the same team," Estey said. "I would have liked it in high school. It would have made for a nice full-court pressure defense."

The win qualified the Wildcats for the AAU nationals, which begin June 30 in Charleston, W.Va.

basketball

and Western Wayne coach Fred Thomann, who also coaches the Salem girls team, can't wait to reunite the guard tandem. Of course, there's one other starting guard on the team, and her name is Jennifer Shasky, this year's Miss Basketball from Class A champion Birmingham Marian.

"They (Estey and Fortier) would have been a tremendous high school backcourt," Thomann said. "They play off each other so well and then you throw in Jennifer Shasky as another perimeter player who doesn't do anything but shoot and make it."

"They had good quickness and played good defense. The thing that really made us successful was our post players got the ball in three."

"We had really outstanding individuals in terms of team players," he added. "Even the great players on our team were great team players. There were no individual players among the group. Estey, playing in her third straight AAU 18-and-under tourney, was surprised about being named MVP. Shasky led the Wildcats in the six-game tournament with a 16-point average. Estey averaged about 10 points per game, but she drew rave reviews because of her passing ability."

"IT WAS A super shock because I wasn't even thinking about it, to be honest," Estey said. "I said 'No, wait a minute. The whole team deserved it. It's a shame it has to go to one player.'"

Eleven players made up the Wildcats' roster, including Estey's teammate at Salem, Teri Kiger, and Canton senior forward Candl Jones. The others on the roster were 6-foot-4 center Michelle Hall, and forward Diane Hall, both from Walled Lake Western; East Detroit's Dana Flitzak, Anchor Bay's Stephanie Selfert and Karen Baird and Debie Stephens of Northville.

The tourney began Friday when the Wildcats knocked off the West Bloomfield Knights 64-41. They advanced through the winner's bracket with wins Saturday over the Detroit Brick City Bombers, the Flint Lady Wildcats and the 131 West Side Express.

Flint fought through the loser's bracket and gave the Wildcats their only loss early Sunday in the finals, 64-47. The Wildcats came back, however, later in the day to finally dispose of the Flint team. Shasky scored 21 in the title game.

"I thought there were four real good teams there (Western Wayne, Flint, Detroit and 131 Express)," Thomann said. "And we had the toughest road, because we had to play all of them to get to the finals. We did a very good job of it."

Said Estey: "We had a lot of height, and that's one thing that helped us get through. And we had a good coach — it helped a lot."

CHEERLEADING

Tryouts for the Farmington High School cheerleading squad will take place April 17-22 from 5-7 p.m. each day in the gymnasium. For more information, call Kathy Lips at 855-0932 or Shirlee Ketcher at 470-3270.

FISHING CLASSES

Farmington Adult Education is offering two classes in fishing instruction 7-9 p.m. every Wednesday at the Farmington Community School on Sileswasse Street.

One class entitled "Michigan Fishing Fun" is for beginners and experienced anglers and will stress how to keep fishing simple. The fee is \$20.

The other class is for women only and is a beginner-level course. The class starts May 10 and costs \$10. For information, call 477-9373.

The instructor, Joe Derek, also will teach a class in tropical fish 7-9 p.m. Monday. The fee is \$10.

HEALTH TESTS

Pre-athletic health screening for all male and female athletes in the Farmington Public Schools system during the 1988-89 school year will be conducted on Tuesday, May 16, at North Farmington High School. The cost (cash only) is \$5. The scheduled time for middle school participants is 5:30-8:30 p.m., for high school students 6:30-8 p.m.

TRAIL MARATHON

The Third Annual Michigan Trail Marathon and Half-Marathon will take place Sunday, April 30, on the Potawatomi Hiking Trail in the Pinckney Recreation Area.

The race headquarters will be Running Fit, 200 E. Washington, in downtown Ann Arbor. The phone number is 782-5016. A full slate of pre-race activities is planned, including a carb-loading pasta dinner and pre-race check-in and campfire at the Crooked Lake Campground on Saturday, April 29.

SOFTBALL TOURNEY

A double-elimination, pre-season mens softball tournament is scheduled for April 21-23 at Claude Allison Park in Redford. The tourney is for Class B teams and below.

Cost is \$125 per team, plus a ball per player. For more information, call 534-8787.

GOLF BENEFIT

The Masonry Institute of Michigan, located in Farmington, will have its 12th annual benefit golf outing on Thursday, June 15, at Tyrone Hills Golf and Country Club.

The proceeds will be used to fund eight scholarships for students enrolled in the School of Architecture at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

Tickets are \$35 for golfers or \$65 for non-golfers. For information, call the Masonry Institute at 478-6455.

CONNIE MACK

Seventeen- and 18-year-old boys are invited to the two-day tryout for the South Farmington Connie Mack-Little Caesars baseball team of Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, at Farmington Hills Harrison High School.

There are no boundary restrictions. Tryouts will be at 12:30 p.m. each day. Coach Mark MacDonald will answer any questions at 522-4072 after 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL TOURNEY

Baseball teams in the 11-12 and 13-14 age groups are invited to enter The Third Annual Memorial Day Baseball Classic. The entry fee is \$130 per team.

The Central Macomb Cardinals and the Macomb Family are co-sponsors of the tournament, which will be played at Mount Clemens Memorial Park. Each team is guaranteed two trophies. The winners will receive trophies. AABC rules will be followed.

For information call Gordie Wilczynski at 469-4510 during the day or 455-3775 in the evening.

BASEBALL SEMINAR

The Mill Wilcox Baseball Seminar, sponsored by the Livonia Junior Football League and the Livonia Parks and Recreation Department, will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, April 15, at Ford Field and adjoining Edgar Arena. Registration is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

For more information, call 464-

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Vicky Kowalski begins her 10th year as coach of the Farmington Hills Mercy golf team hoping for a first.

She's keeping her fingers crossed the Marlins will have enough consistent low scorers to give Mercy an edge over the competition.

"The potential is there for us to have five girls shooting under 50 for nine holes, and we've never had that before," Kowalski said.

Two who figure prominently in those plans are senior Bridget Burke and junior Renee Lossia, both of whom return from a team that was 8-4 in dual meets and seventh in the Oakland County and regional meets.

Burke, who usually shoots in the low 50s, and Lossia, who is stilled with a muscle pull, were tournament players for Mercy last year. Burke had the team's best score in the '88 county meet, and Lossia filled in nicely when Nancy Margherio was hurt last year, Kowalski said.

SHE EXPECTS senior Shelly Sell

Mercy goal to have five reach 40s

and juniors Anne Bonzrak and Sue Broughton to be among the top six, too. All three are returning players. Bonzrak shot 50 on the first day of practice, and all three are consistent, low-50s golfers.

"(Bonzrak) seems to have matured a lot," Kowalski said. "I see a more serious attitude from her toward the game this year."

Mercy's sixth-best player could be freshman Kristyn Schulkins, who carded 55 and 53 in early practices. She was expected to compete on the varsity Tuesday when the Marlins played Dearborn.

"She'll be someone to contend with in the future at the Oakland County meet," Kowalski said.

Junior Jennifer Eastford is a first-year varsity player who does have a golf background, and Junior Jen Washelski returns for her third year on the varsity. The Marlins also have senior Nicola Hampel, who played as a sophomore but transferred to Bloomfield Hills Kingswood last year where she played lacrosse.

"We could have a real good team if we get five girls shooting in the 40s, because that's going to make us competitive," Kowalski said. "If we can, we should be in pretty good shape, because other schools lost a lot of people."

BIRMINGHAM Marian graduated its top five players, while the Marlins lost three of their top eight — Margherio, Kim Schlaff and Deirdre Gula. Kowalski has 19 girls out for the team, but she will carry 12 on the varsity since Mercy will have a JV team this year, too.

The Marlins play Dearborn again at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Plum Hollow Golf Course.



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— Vicky Kowalski
Mercy golf coach

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Marlins split with softball rival

The two favorites in the Catholic League's Central Division softball race met Tuesday, but we're still not sure which is the better team.

Harper Woods Regina, the defending champion, was host to Farmington Hills Mercy, the runner-up in 1988, and the two teams split the double-header.

Regina won the first game 2-0, getting a one-hitter from Denise Nicker. Mercy won the nightcap 5-1 behind the three-hit pitching of senior Amy Edward.

Oh well. The two teams have the rest of the season to prove who's better. Edward helped herself at the plate in Game No. 2, doubling home two insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning. Kathleen Berrigan scored two runs in the second game and stole four bases. Pam Thompson

scored one run and knocked in one.

"In the second game, they came alive and decided to score a few runs," Mercy coach Suzanne Brown said. "Our defense was pretty good today. I was kind of impressed."

Nicker stymied Mercy in the first game, outdueling Edward. Berrigan was the hitting star, collecting two hits for Mercy, which stranded runners with less than two outs throughout the game.

NOVI 11-4, FARMINGTON 5-1: Farmington split a double-header Tuesday at home against Novi, getting a four-hit pitching performance in the nightcap from Lisa Gale. Novi won the first game 8-0. The scoreline was called after five innings because of cold weather. Michelle Miller, Melissa Tisdale and Lisa Rockefeller all had three hits in the second game.

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