

# Mercy miscues let Pats off hook, 4-1

By Dan O'Hearn  
staff writer

Even when the Patriots struggled early in the season, Livonia Franklin coach Joe Epstein thought his softball team had the talent to win a district championship.

And since the Patriots were eliminated by Farmington Hills Mercy last year, senior Lisa Allen wanted to be the winning pitcher when Franklin won that district title.

Both got what they wanted Monday as Franklin defeated the Marlins 4-1 in eight innings at Claude Allison Park in Redford. The game was postponed from Saturday when rain washed out the tournament finale.

"At the beginning of the year, I sat down with my coaches and said, 'We can win a district, and that's why I'm so happy today,'" said Epstein, whose team has won 10 straight games and takes a 19-8 record into the regional Saturday at King Boring Field in Dearborn.

The Patriots, who won the Class A title in 1988, play Detroit Cass Tech at 10 a.m. and No. 1-rated Taylor Center faces Westland John Glenn at noon. The final is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Allen, who pitched in the late innings last year when Franklin lost in the district semifinals to Mercy, tossed a two-hitter Monday and had possibly the best performance of her career.

"SINCE THE beginning of the year, our goal was to beat Mercy and win the district," Allen said. "We had to play good defense, and I couldn't have done it without the infield and outfield behind me."

The coaches have been real supportive and have helped me work on my pitches," she added.

Allen also struck out six and, with a history of walking batters, limited that number to five. After watching her dominate the Marlins, Epstein couldn't say enough good things about the way Allen pitched.

"She was on today," he said, emphatically. "She said she was going to do it and she did it."

Lisa was a controlled pitcher today. She had maybe one wild pitch, and she's averaged eight or nine throughout the year.

## softball

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— Suzanne Brown  
Mercy softball coach

"The second thing is we played real good defense behind her, and it takes those two things to win in fast pitch," he added.

Mercy pitcher Amy Edward was just as tough for seven innings during which time Franklin had only two hits, also. But the Patriots got to her in the eighth, deciding the game with three straight hits to start the inning.

SHERRY WEISS led off with a single, and Leslie Szafranski's double put runners at second and third. A fly ball off the bat of Emily Skura fell in short right field, scoring Weiss and putting her in the lead.

"We felt we could hit (Edward)," Epstein said. "We did it last year, and we put it into their heads. She's good, but she puts the ball over the plate, and if she does that she's hittable."

"In fairness to Amy, when they play that 2-3 ball (in the Catholic League), the first pitch has to be a strike. I tell the girls, 'When you go up there against a parochial team, you have to swing at the first pitch.' I thought it was just a matter of time."

Mercy's Kathleen Berrigan drew a leadoff walk in the eighth and worked her way over to third but

was left stranded there as the Marlins saw their season end at 24-12.

"If we could have put the second batter on, that would have brought Amy Edward up, and maybe she could've put one out there," Mercy coach Suzanne Brown said. "If she could have gotten herself to second, we would've had a ballgame."

While the Patriots made three errors, Mercy made six in the last two innings. In the seventh, the Marlins committed four on one play that allowed Franklin to take a 1-0 lead.

Edward, who struck out five and walked four, bobbled Trish Vasselou's grounder and threw wildly to first. Vasselou raced to third, and she threw to tag bag went into left field. The run scored when the ball rolled between the outfielder's legs.

THE MARLINS answered with the tying run in the bottom of the seventh, however. Moe Paulin was at third when Amy Miller put down a squeeze bunt. Weiss, the third baseman, checked the runner and threw to first, but Paulin raced home before Franklin could get the double play at first base.

"I felt once we scored the tying run we had momentum going our way," Brown said, "but we just couldn't bring (runners) around. We had second and third (in the third), which was especially frustrating."

"I don't feel teams beat us as much with their hitting as they do by us throwing the ball around and giving them runs."

"And it seems teams have had a day with us all year," she added. "They play the best they ever have. That's how it's been all year long; we never get the breaks."

Epstein, however, was confident. If Allen had a good day and held the Marlins in check, Franklin would fare well.

"My main concern was how little we were going to give up," he said. "I felt if we could keep them under two runs, we were going to win the ballgame."

"We were struggling at .500, but everything is starting to click now," Epstein added. "The sophomores (Mayle) pitching very well, which makes the senior pitch that much better. Lisa has pitched fantastic here at the end of the year."



Moe Paulin slides into home plate with the tying run for Mercy in the bottom of the seventh inning Monday. She scored on Amy Miller's squeeze bunt. Franklin got the putout on

Miller, but Paulin beat the throw to the plate. The Marlins lost the game 4-1 in eight innings, however.

# Rockets beat Garden City in final

By Ray Setlock  
staff writer

Christina Hoffman's double in the bottom of the seventh inning proved to be the difference, as Westland John Glenn defeated Garden City, 5-4, in the Class A district softball final Monday at Garden City Park.

Hoffman's two-bagger scored Tracy Martin from first and provided the Rockets with the victory.

"It was an alert play by Tracy that enabled her to score from first base," said John Glenn coach Linda Jimenez. "She watched the ball during the entire play and judged the play well."

The victory improves the Rockets record to 21-8, while the Cougars conclude the campaign with a 20-8 mark.

John Glenn held a commanding 4-1 lead until the sixth inning when Garden City scored a pair of runs, thanks to a single by Cindy White, which scored Kim Falkowski and Krystal Matesic.

Kim Reith added another in the seventh, when she stole home, deadlocking the game at 4-4. JENNIFER MASSEY pitched 6 1/2 innings for John Glenn, but Sara Morey got the last two outs in the sev-

enth inning to earn the victory.

"Both Sara and Jennifer pitched well," said Jimenez. "They did a terrific job."

Masey struck out three Cougars and gave up nine hits, while Morey was perfect in her third of an inning. Tracy Thompson pitched the entire game for the Cougars, as she gave up nine hits and struck out four.

Garden City coach Barry Patterson felt there were no excuses for his team's loss. It was just a well-played game and the team that got the key hits won.

"John Glenn just flat out hit the ball," said Patterson. "They got the big hits when they needed them and they won."

THE ROCKETS' nine hits included three doubles, two of which scored runs.

"We hit the ball well today," said Jimenez. "It was a team effort. We took batting practice before the game and I guess it just paid off."

Martin, Hoffman and Kowitz all had two hits apiece for John Glenn. With the victory, the Rockets will advance to Saturday's regionals at Dearborn's King Boring Field. They will play at noon against the winner of the Romulus district.

# Falcons rally behind coach Cole

By Jean Anzlovic  
special writer

Girls soccer at Farmington High is enjoying its most successful season ever with a record of 15-0-4 under first-year coach Cathy Cole.

"The girls have been fulfilling what they set out to do," Cole said. "They really want to do well."

Dedication and hard work are the main reasons for the team's success, according to Cole, who instilled those values in her team early in the season.

"The girls themselves have to want to win," Cole said. "They realize the only way this will happen is through dedication and discipline."

Cole is no stranger to soccer, having played at North Farmington and later at Central Michigan University. She graduated from CMU in 1983 with a dual major in physical education and health, but it's Cole's emphasis on coaching that landed her a job.

COLE WAS content on giving something back to the sport which

## soccer

brought her so much satisfaction. After graduating from CMU, Cole took over the soccer program at North Farmington, compiling a 26-39-3 record in her first four seasons.

While coaching at North Farmington, Cole took a teaching job at Farmington High. It was this connection that brought Cole to her present position.

When former Farmington soccer coach Ed Bartram stepped down last spring, Cole filled the void. "The coaching and teaching blended together well for her."

"The girls know what respect they have to pay me as a teacher, so the role of coach is easily established," Cole said.

She said there has to be open communication between players and coaches regarding any situation. The relationship between her and the

players is special.

"She is a friend as well as a coach," Farmington co-captain Carrie Mater said.

FARMINGTON won the district championship by defeating Farmington Hills Mercy and the regional with a victory over Birmingham Marian, but the Falcons were eliminated by Troy Athens in the semifinals Wednesday, 2-1. The Red Hawks tied the game in the last minute of regulation and won in overtime.

Farmington finished the season with a 16-1-4 record. They will play Northville, another Western Lakes Activities Association team, in the state final at 1 p.m. Saturday. The game will be played at North Farmington.

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Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the School District of the City of Birmingham at 550 W. Merrill St., Birmingham, Michigan, until 4:00 p.m. on June 20, 1989 for Evergreen Elementary School Architectural Work. Bids will be opened and read publicly at the board meeting that evening. Bidders may obtain contract documents from Barton Malow Co. The Construction Manager at 2777 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan 48034. Attention: Jim Robertson. Telephone (313) 351-4500. A \$50.00 deposit will be required to obtain documents.  
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