Unbeaten Marlins are best in Central

The dual-meet record stayed perfect for Farmington Hills Mercy's girls swim team, which swamped previously unbeaten Birmingham Marian 95-76 Tuesday at Oakland Community College, handing the Marlins their first Catholic League Central Division less.

Polly Tenuta won two individual events for Mercy, the 200-yard (2:05-62) and 500-yard (5:31.60) freestyle. Other Marlin winners were Liz DeMattla in the 100 butterfly (1:00.80), Michelie McCaffrey in the 100 free (58.39) and Katie Westhoff in the 100 backstroke (1:05.92). Karen Neyer, Katle Nipper, DeMattla and Becky Wiquist won the 200 medley relay (1:56.68). The win improved Mercy's dual-meet record to 7-0 overall; their 4-0 mark clinched the Central Division title.

title.

LAST FRIDAY, the Marlins whipped Birmingham Seaholm 103-63 at Seaholm. Double-winners were Wiquist in the 200 (20-023) and 100 (55-71) free and DeMattia in the 200 individual medley (2:2-0.45) and 100 fly (1:00.2).

Neyer was best in the 50 free (25.77), Westhoff won the 100 backstock (1:05.44) and Nipper finished first in the 100 breasstrake (1:05.91) method first in the 100 breasstrake (1:05.91). Westhoff, Nipper, DeMattia and Ericka Smith captured the 200 medley relay (1:5.55) and Mitchelle McCafrey, Mary Quinn, Wiquist and Neyer took the 400 free relay (3:5.125).

"We just have more depth that hey do," said Mercy coach Chuck McClune of the Seaholm meet. "I was surprised we were able to win so many events. They have a good deam, we're just a stronger team." Winguist in the 200 (2:00.28) and 100 (55.71) free and DeMattia in the 200 individual medley (2:20.45) and 100 (55.71). Weathoff wo missing the 100 backstroke (1:05.44) and Nipper finished first in the 100 breaststreke (1:09.10). Weathoff, Nipper, DeMattia and Erisk Smith captured the 200 medley relay (1:55.59) and Mitchelle McGarley, Mary Quinn, Wiquist and Neyer took the 400 free relay (3:51.25). "We just have more depth than they do," saild Mercy coach Chuck McCline of the Scaholm meet." I was surprised we were able to win so many events. They have a good team, we're just a stronger team."

DEARBORN CAPTURED the final three events in Monday's dual meet agalant visiting Farmington, and that was enough to propel the ploneers to a 6-637 victory.

The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-1 duals; Dearborn is 3-6.

Jill Hawkins and Katie Hobl each won two individual viewns to Farmington, and that was enough to propel to 10 to

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(57.74) freestyle. Hohl finished first in the 200 (2:09.2) and 500 (5:33.16) free. Other Falcon winners were Tonya Silcker in diving (195.6 points) and Missy Kendall in the 100 butterfly Missy Ke (1:05.15).

(1:05.15).
Farmington had six firsts to Dearborn's five, but the Pioneers closed out the meet with whis in the 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke and 400 free relay, and that proved to be the difference.
Farmington swims at Plymouth Salem Thursday.

NORTH FARMINGTON Improved its dual-meet girls awimming record to 8-0 Thursday when it trounced host Walled Lake Central 141-30.

The Raiders, 4-0 in the Lakes Divi-

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TIFFANY MARBLE

Salem's luck still rotten

HERE'S A THEORY, concocted by whom I don't know, which maintains that for every bad break there's a good one. In the end, it all balances out. If so, the guy who've played football at Plymouth Salem are waiting still for the scales of fortune to start thipping in their favor.

It's hardly news anymore, bearing the Rocks missed the Class A football playoffs by the narrowest of margina. In fact, after examining their playoff history, could anything clse have been expected?

expected?

Safer in has qualified for the playoffs once —
Safer. Old-limers might remember. The Rocks'
best player was quarierback Rich Hewlett, who
went on to play at University of Michigan.
Hewlett was knocked out of action in the last
regular-season game; he never played against
Portage Central.

SINCE THAT '77 appearance, Salem has had two 8-1 records. Neither was good enough to qualify, of course, the Rocks can still boast the highest computer playoff point total ever accumulated for a Class A team.

Unfortunately, it was in 1974, the year of the "paper playoffs." The computer system was just being tested; there were no playoff games that

year.
Typical.
But just when it seems one school has suffered
enough disappointment and heartache, enough to
plead "Stop already!" to whomever controls the
lates, another lump of cool is dumped into their
Christmas stocking.

THIS TIME Salem missed because their rival, Ann Arbor Ploneer, played a team with an eight-game schedule (Ann Arbor Huron). That gave Pl-oneer, which beat Huron, three additional bonus points, points Salem coach Tom Moshimer hadn't.

sigured on. Moshimer thought Salem had edged Pioneer by three. When those points were added in and the tie was forged, Moshimer knew his team didn't have a chance in the thebreaking format because it had more wins than Pioneer.

Let me explain. Ploneer is 7-2: Salem was 8-1.



Because Salem had more wins, it obviously had more points. For Pioneer to even catch up to Salem would take a lot of bonus points, and the only way to get those bonus points was to hope your opponents won a lot of games.

Pioneers' foes did. The the brought into effect the thebreaking formula, which begins with head-to-head competition. Pioneer and Salem didn't play each other.

NEXT WAS total wins for each team's opponents. Since Ploneer had to make up all those points because it had noe less win it's obvious the Ploneer's foes had a lot more wins. Blingo—they're in the playoffs.
What bugs Moshimer is nowhere does the tlebreaking format mention better records. Ite thinks a team's record should be considered first or second, either before or after head-to-head play.

or second, either bettere or atter measurement play.

"I'm pretty sure they were thinking that if there were two teams with equal records, this would be a fair way of breaking the tle," said Moshlmer, referring to those in charge of making up tiebreaking options.
He's right, Said Jerry Cvengros, assistant director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association: "I believe it was designed to consider the team's strength of schedule."

TRYING TO be fair about it — and there isn't much doubt the Pioneers played a tougher schedule, so if they'd be asking similar questions — doesn't much ease Salem's agony, as Moshimer noted, "This team's been snake bit all year."

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game, Salem surrendered a 37-yard completion on third-down-and-38 in the game-winning 82-yard drive (Gleno, by the way, is in the playoffs). After that loss, Moshimer figured his team's playoff chances were slim at best. But the Northville pulled a major upset, joliting Novi in the final week of the season. And suddenly, Moshimer and the Rocks had bope.

"I told them Friday night the chances of us making it were not very good," said Moshimer, "But Novi gets beat and we beat a 7-1 team (Can-ton), and I start to think we've got a great chance."

HOW CRUEL can fortune be? Like a carrot on a stick, the Rocks could see the playoffs dangling in their sights, teasing them. But then . . .

"Then Pioneer's opponents win seven of eight imes in the final week," said Moshimer, "That's

games in the final week," said Moshimer, "That's how they caught us.

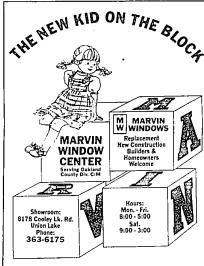
"They're down," he said, in reference to his players. "The only thing I feel bad about is the kids. I'm still planning on being here next year. They won't be."

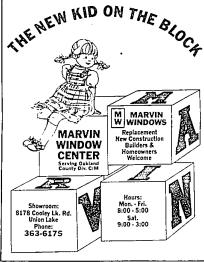
Salem used 12 to 14 players as starters (depending on how many went both ways), and all but one is graduating. There will be no second chance for them.

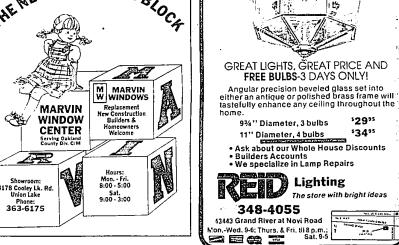
"I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure mis doesn't happen again," vowed Moshinko Course, his promise won't help the '89 Rocks: As the Salem each noted, "The sad part about this is, the only time a rule is changed is after it hurts someone."

THERE ARE alternatives. Cvengros said a committee responsible for the football playoffs meets every January to consider possible changes. "I can tell you this," Cvengros said. "This will be on (our agenda) this year."

Options include Moshimer's idea to consider a cam's record in the tlebreaking formula. Or how about altering the regional concept? Instead of taking four teams from each of four regions, take the top two teams per region and then the next eight teams with the most playoff points as wild cards.









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