

Team best puts North 3rd

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Canton coach John Cunningham didn't mind being the best of the rest in the Plymouth Invitational.

Midland Dow, the state's No. 1-rated gymnastics team, won the meet as expected Saturday, but finishing second in competition that featured eight of the top-ranked squads was an accomplishment in itself.

"To be honest, it was an eight-way battle for second place," Cunningham said. "I don't think any of the top six teams could be displeased. Everybody did an exceptional job."

Dow didn't run away with the championship, either. The Chargers edged Canton by just six tenths of a point. Dow scored 139.40, the Chiefs a school record 138.80.

North Farmington's third-place total of 137.90 also was a school record, and Plymouth Salem captured fourth with an impressive 137.45.

FRIBELAND was fifth (136.95), and sixth-place Troy Athletes (135.90) undoubtedly would have finished higher if standout Melissa Miller hadn't been forced out of competition with pneumonia.

Among other area schools in the 17-team meet, Wayne Memorial ended up ninth, Westland John Glenn 11th, Farmington 12th, Livonia Clarenceville 13th and Birmingham Seaholm 15th.

Dow was considered a prohibitive favorite, but Canton actually had a chance to win the meet. The Chiefs were leading until the final rotation when the Chargers went on beam and Canton the uneven parallel bars.

"They went into a high-scoring event, and we went into a low-scoring event," Cunningham said. "They were giving 95 on beam, and they weren't giving 95 on bars."

gymnastics

"To tell you the truth, I never expected to finish first. I can't displace with second. It's just that I was tantalized by the prospect of winning it."

Dow, which won the meet despite not having one of its top gymnasts (Melanie Bugg) because of illness, clinched the victory when Jennifer Johnson, the last person on beam, scored 9.25. That put her third in the final tally and moved her ahead of fourth-place Heather Murphy of Canton, whose 9.2 had been the top score until late.

JOHNSON ALSO was fourth in floor exercise and placed fifth in the all-around. Teammates Tracee Lewis and Kim Henning were third and fourth on vault.

In addition to Murphy on beam, Canton's top performances included freshman Kim Rennolds, the team's lone all-arounder who finished seventh in that category. Jenny Tedesco took sixth on bars, and Johanna Anderson and Danielle Miru placed sixth and seventh on floor.

"I was extremely pleased with Heather's and Danielle's beam (sixth with 9.0)," Cunningham said. Murphy set a school record on beam, breaking Mary Jo Charron's 1988 mark of 8.95. "Those are performances we haven't seen. Tedesco's bars were terrific, also."

Cunningham added the Chiefs are capable of an even better showing when they're able to put their full team together. Sophomore all-arounder Dawn Chaffa continues a slow recovery from a broken ankle suffered during warm-ups at last year's state meet.

"We're still not at full strength," he said. "This

is a team that hasn't peaked. The first time we'll all be together will be the Salem meet (Monday). When it comes to that, we'll probably go all out and see if we can win the meet."

North coach Jeff Dwyer was pleased by his team's third-place finish and high score, especially after the Raiders had scored 129 and lost to Troy last week.

THE TEAM had a serious discussion about motivation after that, and Dwyer said the meeting provided a spark Saturday. North then set another school record of 142.2 Monday in a dual meet with Salem.

"We needed a meet to turn us around," Dwyer said. "That's where experience helped. (Kym) Heller and (Heather) Kahn had good meets and so did (Jameelah) Galer, too."

Kahn and Heller were second and third, respectively, in the all-around to Kristie Kelly of Freedom, who was the individual star with first places on beam, vault and floor.

Kahn finished second on bars and beam and was fifth on floor, and Heller's sixth on vault was North's best in that event.

"Our goal was to beat at least one of the teams in our region, and we ended up beating both (Athens and Fraser). If we plan on making it to state, we'll have to beat one of those three teams (including Troy)," Dwyer said.

Michelle Agretti of Athens scored 9.05 to claim first place on bars, and she also took second on vault. The team's top all-around was Amy Krebs, who was sixth with 34.80. Her best events were vault (seventh) and floor (eighth).

Salem's top gymnast was freshman Kim Miller, who was fourth in the all-around with 35.70. Miller was second on floor, third on bars and 11th on beam. Third place on floor went to teammate Courtney Gonyea.

sports shorts

• SOCCER SIGN-UP

The Farmington Soccer Club is registering players (boys and girls) for the spring season.

Forms are available at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Office and the Farmington YMCA. The deadline is Thursday, March 1. The fee is \$35 per person, which includes cost of the uniform.

There also will be walk-in registration sessions on Saturday, Feb. 10, 17 and 24, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Farmington Hills City Hall. The age groups for boys and girls are 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 19-under. The season starts Saturday, April 21.

For information, call Greg Popp at 477-5723 or Tom Farow at 471-5137.

• HOCKEY STAR

Scott Dolish of Farmington Hills was recently named Little Caesars Player of Tomorrow for his hockey achievements.

Dolish, 16, is a defenseman for his Little Caesars Midget Major Travel team. He has been playing hockey since he was 5 years old.

Dolish, who was named an all-star in the Silver Stick Tournament last year, is a junior at Farmington High School where he carries a 3.8 grade-point average.

• SOFTBALL NEWS

The Knights of Columbus in Farmington Hills is organizing its spring, summer and fall softball leagues. There are openings for men's, women's, coed and over-35 teams.

Registration for returning teams is Saturday, Feb. 24. Open registration is Saturday, March 3. Call 476-9888 for league descriptions and fee information.

• COACHES NEEDED

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools needs assistant coaches for boys and

girls track, football and baseball. Candidates should send their resumes to Robert Atkins, Walled Lake Consolidated School District, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, 48088. They also can call Atkins at 624-6604 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the week.

• Farmington Hills Mercy High School is searching for a JV soccer coach, two part-time assistants in track and a cheerleading head coach. Candidates should call Athletic Director Suzanne Brown at 476-2835 or write to her at 29300 11 Mile, Farmington Hills 48018.

• COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 100,000 athletic scholarships are available to male and female high school and junior college students each year, but much of the money goes unused.

A new publication with forms, sample letters and tables of factual information is available. It explains the process of getting an athletic scholarship and includes college and conference listings.

For details student athletes should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to The National Sports Foundation, 612A Willow Dr., P.O. Box 940, Oakhurst, N.J., 07755.

• EMU BASEBALL CLINIC

The Eastern Michigan University McDonald's Baseball Clinic will be Sunday, Feb. 25 at Bowen Fieldhouse in Ypsilanti.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$10 for per-registered coaches and \$5 for students and Huron Daguer Club members (43 additional at the door). Lunches are available at \$2.50 per person.

Featured at the clinic will be Rob Sepanek, AAA first baseman in the New York Yankees organization, along with EMU strength and conditioning coach Steve Mandreger.

For more information, call 487-0315.

CSU routs Madonna

Monday's pairing of Madonna College at Central State in Dayton, Ohio, was a study of two programs presently at opposite ends of the spectrum.

Central State is second in its NAIA District 22, it could very well be the top team and representing the district in the playoffs by season's end. Madonna, on the other hand, is struggling for both respectability and stability in its District 23.

Su Monday's outcome could hardly have been unexpected: a 100-56 rout by Central State.

"They just did whatever they wanted," said Madonna coach Bob Belf of Central State. "I was disappointed with our effort against them. We allowed them to do whatever they wanted."

Not that the Fighting Crusaders could have stopped Central if they wanted to. The outcome was never really in doubt; at halftime, the host team led 53-27, and Madonna made it that close with a surge late in the half.

"THEY NEVER played against a team of this caliber," explained Belf. "A good, well-coached, disciplined team would give (Central) some problems, so a matchup with Aquinas would be interesting. But at one time or another, (Central's) athletic ability's going to show."

Aquinas currently leads District 23 and, if it wins the playoffs, would meet the District 22 winner in the first round of the NAIA tournament.

The Crusaders missed their first 10 shots of the game and trailed 19-1, according to Belf. Madonna was outbounded 50-25 and suffered 12 blocked shots.

Only Jiri Burt "came to play," the coach said. Burt got 18 points and five rebounds, hitting in for the injured Becky Poszywak. Lisa Kline got 13 points and seven boards, Michelle Dykinski had nine points and Heli Murphy notched eight.

Mercy keeps winning

Farmington Hills Mercy might look invincible in the Mount Brighton High School Ski Association, having won another all-school slalom Monday.

But the Marlins were tested this time, winning over Birmingham Seaholm in a close call. Mercy finished with 30 points, the Maples 31 and Brighton 44.

"It wasn't easy," Mercy coach Cass Zarlikowski said. "We were lucky because the other team's skiers were spread out."

The Marlins, as usual, won with superior team balance, but Mercy skiers weren't grouped together as tightly as usual.

"It's hard to win if you don't put four in the top 10," Zarlikowski said. Taya Tipaya was Mercy's top skier for the first time this season, placing fourth with a 44.52 time. Mary Kay Jarneye finished seventh (51.20), Tracey McElharris eighth (51.94) and Megan Lombardi 11th (52.99).

The Marlins still skied as a pack

better than Seaholm. The Maples had the first- and second-place finishers, but its next two were 13th and 15th.

Mercy won another all-school slalom Tuesday. The Marlins had 29 points, Brighton 32 and Seaholm 40. Jarneye was second (39.07), Lombardi sixth (41.55), Nicole Sirelu seventh (42.11) and Jenny Buffer 14th (48.89).

Redford Catholic Central also won twice in boys competition. The Shamrocks came in with 27 points Monday, Brighton 35 and Hartland 43.

CC's Steve Witke placed second (38.93), Jay Worley third (39.97), Jeff Turnas ninth (43.81) and Mike Kirkman 13th (45.00). Peter Kent of Brighton was the individual winner at 37.21.

On Tuesday, it was CC (16), Brighton (35) and Hartland (37). Chris Jones was second (34.72), Worley third (34.96), Witke fifth (35.59) and Turnas sixth (35.65).

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