



## Newman strives to be even better

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Following her freshman year at Eastern Michigan University, Allyson Newman took the summer off and stayed away from gymnastics.

That won't happen this year. The Farmington sophomore is beginning to realize her potential as a gymnast could be limitless, and her resolve to reach new heights is stronger than ever.

Newman helped the Hurons to a third-place finish in the Mid-American Conference women's meet last month, and she's come to realize the difference between that and winning.

"This year I'm going to work out because I need more difficulty in my routines to stay up there," she said. "All of the (Mid-American Conference) teams are so close. It's basically the difficulty that's going to make the difference."



Allyson Newman  
Eastern Michigan gymnast

### gymnastics

tumbling, because the passes were a little bit low. I wanted to make them higher, but in doing that I took a step backward. Still, I was happy because the actual passes were better."

Besides making a resurgence on floor exercise, Newman has the goal of learning a more difficult vault for next season.

"I'VE NEVER been strong on vault," she said. "It's probably been my weakest point in all my years in gymnastics. I've done a 9.5 vault previously, and I'm working on a 9.9 so I'll be judged by a greater degree of difficulty."

Wilce believes Newman, who was the club state champion in the all-around in 1984 and qualified for the Eastern Nationals four times, has the ability to be the No. 1 gymnast in the MAC during the next two years.

"I believe she's always had it," Wilce said. "It's a matter of her stepping up and doing a little higher skill level. She performs as well as anybody."

"We're looking for some good things out of Allyson next year. If she keeps going, we've got ourselves a pretty good little athlete."

Newman, who has been EMU's top all-arounder in the conference meet the last two years, hopes to lead the Hurons to a MAC championship before she ends her collegiate career. EMU is 24-5 in dual meets since Newman joined the team.

"We only lost the conference meet by five tenths, which is really nothing," she said. "After that, we realized we can be the top team in the MAC."

"When we went back to work after that meet, everybody was doing new things. We were happy with how we did at the MAC meet but disappointed, because we knew we could have won it. We realize we need to do a little more to win it next year."

EMU COACH Steve Wilce said he's seen a change in Newman's attitude since he recruited her from the club team at Farmington Gymnastics Center where she had trained and competed since age 10.

"At one point, I think she had grown tired of the sport," he said. "With each year she seems to have become more and more hungry. She's taking bigger risks, pushing her skill level more than she ever has in the past."

"This is the most motivated she's ever been in her gymnastics career, as far as I've known her. Going from club to college, it becomes a team sport. It's a little more fun to compete as a group, and she's really taken hold of the idea."

Newman's best event had always been floor exercise. She won the MAC title in that event as a freshman, but the uneven parallel bars has become her strong suit, holding the school record of 9.55.

She broke Sharon McNie's 1987 record of 9.45 in early March, and she also had the record on floor exercise (9.35) and balance beam (9.45) until the second half of the season.

The bars were Newman's best event at the MAC meet. Newman,

who graduated from Farmington High in 1988 but didn't compete for the high school team, tied for fourth with a 9.45 and just missed winning it since 9.50 was good enough to do that.

"IT'S EXCITING to change, because it shows I can do other events," she said. "If you work hard enough, it pays off. I just have to work out as much as I can."

Vault is another event in which Newman is committed to improvement. She was in danger of not competing on vault at the MAC meet. But she did, scoring 9.15, and ended up fifth in the all-around with a 36.95 total.

"I had a vault I didn't know was good enough to make the lineup at the league," she said. "I was afraid I wasn't going to vault, and I wanted to do all-around really bad."

"I decided to do a vault I did in club gymnastics, and I never lost it. It was still there, and it worked for me."

The only disappointment, ironically, was in floor exercise. She scored 8.95 in the meet at Ball State University on March 24.

"I was going extra hard on my



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

### Lady Raiders romp

Kelly Koss of Farmington flips the ball toward the middle of the infield after making Thursday. The Lady Raiders swept two an inning-ending putout for the Oakland Community College women's softball team games from St. Clair. See story on Page 2C.

## Sacrifice fly gives Rocks 9-8 victory

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Warren DeLaSalle picked on the wrong player Thursday afternoon, daring Tom Noonan to hit the ball out of the infield in the final inning.

Noonan did just that, sending a fly ball into right field that scored Steve Mantays and gave host Plymouth Salem a 9-8 win over the Pilots.

The Rocks (2-1) lost to Hager Woods Noire Darn, the defending Class A champion, earlier Thursday in the first game of a double-header, 12-4.

Salem had to rally twice to win the nightcap, the second time coming in the bottom of the seventh with the score tied 8-8.

DeLaSalle, the reigning Catholic League champ, pulled even on Darren Audia's two-run single in the top of the seventh, and the Pilots

intentionally walked Scott Rodgers to load the bases with one out in Salem's half.

THAT BROUGHT Noonan, a senior and one of the team veterans, to the plate, and he delivered the game-winning RBI with his sacrifice fly.

"It was probably a ball. It was a little high," said Noonan of the pitch he hit. "I didn't want to pop it up but just hit it hard and keep it out of the infield."

"I knew I didn't have to hit it too far for Steve to score because he runs so fast."

Salem coach John Gravin said the Pilots might have changed their strategy if they had been more familiar with the Salem personnel.

"If DeLaSalle had known who we were and who Tom Noonan was, they never would have walked Scott Rodgers to pitch to him," Gravin

said. "He's an all-conference player who made our team go last year."

"The walk to Scott Rodgers took away the suicide squeeze more than anything," creating a possible force play at any bag.

Noonan didn't hit the ball deep, but Mantays, who entered the game as a pinch runner for Kevin Craggs, had no trouble scoring on the play. Mantays went to third on Jeff Belsie's double.

"WE'RE REAL fortunate to be able to put in somebody like Steve Mantays, who runs as well as anybody who plays this game," Gravin said. "He wanted to score that run. He ran aggressively."

Rob Kowalski entered the game in the fourth inning in relief of starter Jeff Paluk and worked four complete innings to get the victory.

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JIM JAGDFELD/staff photographer

Paul Pirronello of Farmington and Catholic Aaron Bush to score a run for the Shamrocks Central High School athletes past Rice catcher in the first game of the double-header.

## Shamrocks split twinbill with Central rival Rice

By Ray Setlock  
staff writer

Birmingham Brother Rice and host Redford Catholic Central split a baseball double-header Wednesday at Capitol Park. The Shamrocks easily won the first game 7-1, while the Warriors rebounded to capture the nightcap 2-1.

Rice even's its record 4-4 overall and 3-3 in the Catholic League's Central Division. CC is 5-2, 3-1.

Junior hurler Steve Ross went the distance in the opening game for CC, picking up the win and striking out four Rice hitters.

Senior Paul Pirronello scored the winning run for the Shamrocks in the bottom of the first inning.

Senior first baseman Matt Fennelly also contributed offensively for CC, pounding four RBIs.

"CC HAS a good team," Rice coach Ron Kalczynski. "They are always tough and you have to admire their coaches. John Salter (CC coach) fields a class team."

The second game was a pitchers' duel, as Shamrock hurler Scott Kapla and Warrior lefty Pat Karle battled the entire seven innings, with Rice edging CC by a run. Kapla started the seventh inning by striking out Charles Taylor and Greg Sharbaugh. He then struck out Matt Fleury, but the ball got past CC catcher Kevin Wheeler and Fleury beat the throw to first. He advanced to third on a single by Matt Green and scored on a wild pitch by Kapla.

Karle pitched a solid game for the Warriors, giving up just one run in the fifth inning. With the bases loaded, the Shamrocks Brett Walter walked, allowing Wheeler to score.

KARLE WAS credited with eight strikeouts and eight walks. He surrendered four Shamrock hits.

"My arm felt good today," Karle said. "When we scored our run in the seventh inning to take the lead, I knew we were going to win."

Kapla mustered seven strikeouts, while allowing just one walk. The Warriors rallied for six hits off the CC starter and two runs, none of which were earned. In the second inning, Aaron Bush got on base and scored thanks to an error by Shamrock shortstop Pirronello.

"That second game was a very tough loss for us," CC coach John Salter. "It's really too bad that such a strong pitching performance by Kapla had to go to waste."

WHEELER PACED the Shamrocks offensively in the second game, belting a single and a double.

Green contributed three hits for the Warriors, all of which were singles. Senior outfielder Shawn Cross added an RBI double in the second inning. Kalczynski says the win is especially fulfilling because of the competition between the two schools.

"This was a good win for us," he said. "Playing CC is fun. There is such a great rivalry between the two institutions. I am pleased with the way we bounced back to win the second game."