

Sports

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Marlins maul rival Ladywood again

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy simply couldn't pass up on a chance to clinch the Catholic League's Central Division volleyball title Thursday night.

Playing before a near-capacity home crowd, Mercy methodically wore down rival Livonia Ladywood with precision teamwork in a battle of state-ranked teams, 15-8, 15-5. The win increases the Marlins' overall record to 22-2 and 6-1 in the division. They also earned the Central's top seed for upcoming eight-team Catholic League A-B Division playoffs, which start Monday, Feb. 11, at two sites to be determined.

The defending Catholic League champions led from start-to-finish to win the opening game, as Karen Pinkerton and Maureen

Paulin recorded six and three kills, respectively. Pinkerton's kill sealed the opening game.

The Marlins trailed briefly (4-2) in the second game before Gail Murie served eight straight points to take control of the match. Mercy went on to close it out as Nora Hand served the final four points.

For the game, Paulin and Pinkerton led the attackers, combining for seven kills.

"Everybody chipped in, it's not a one-man show and that's a great thing to see in a game like this," Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso said. "We had good solid serving and sometimes that's as good as a hard attack. The fundamentals of the game I thought, we executed well."

IT WAS MERCY'S second victory this season over the Blazers. The Marlins also

volleyball

won the first meeting (on Jan. 14) convincingly, 15-4, 15-3.

"We played a little better," said Ladywood coach Tom Treeters, whose team fell to 4-2 in the division and 22-9-1 overall. "At least we got to the point of hitting. The last time we didn't get to that point."

Seniors Kelli Hauger and Rebecca Willey tried to make things interesting for Ladywood with some big hits, but as a team the Blazers couldn't sustain much consistency.

"You have to be consistent versus a team like Mercy," Treeters said. "We need better

passing and serving. We had some people hit well, but those same people also had too many unforced errors."

Mercy used a well-rounded attack, paced by the pin-point passing of Paulin, Hand and setter Susie Atchinson, along with the steady play of Shannon Goff.

"Their strength is in their passing," Treeters said. "They have two primary passers and they control everything."

DeBeliso was also able to go to the bench and not miss a beat with middle blocker Laure DeMatta, Karin Kivela and Wendy Welski, a transfer from Walled Lake Central who saw her first action of the season.

"THE KIDS CAME in late and performed well," DeBeliso said. "Hopefully its an added dimension we can use down the line, perhaps in a long match or a tournament. Wol-

ski just became eligible Tuesday and we had to see what she could do. We put her in the first night away and she did a good job."

Treeters, who led Ladywood to back-to-back state Class A titles in 1988 and '89, as well as a runner-up finish in 1990, knows Mercy, a state semifinalist last season, is for real.

"They're a good team and well-coached," he said. "I don't know if we want to play them again. But hopefully we'll have one more chance, maybe in the playoffs."

It was a satisfying night for the Marlins, who captured the Central Division for the second year in a row.

"I'm really excited for our seniors, they're the heart and soul," said DeBeliso, referring to Marie, Paulin, Atchinson and Hand. "Our top players came through when they had to, and the other kids made some big plays."

Hawks rally late in game to top Canton

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

In preparing his team for Friday's basketball game, Farmington Hills Harrison coach Mike Teachman noted in his scouting report Plymouth Canton had lost five games to "very good" teams.

Teachman challenged his players by asking a rhetorical question: "Are we a very good basketball team? In other words, are we good enough to beat them?"

The Hawks answered in the affirmative when they scored the last 10 points of the game to overtake Canton on its own floor 66-63 and steal what seemed an almost certain victory from the Chiefs.

"Our theme all year is 'Can we improve and become an outstanding team?'" Teachman asked.

"I felt we had become a good team. To be an outstanding team, we had to take care of the average teams and win tough games on the road. We just won a tough game on the road."

Harrison improved to 5-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 10-2 overall. The victory also was significant in light of Plymouth Salem's loss to Livonia Stevenson, because it gives the Hawks a share of first place in the W.L.A.A.

THE CHIEFS slipped to 6-2 and 11-6. Harrison also gained control of first place in the Western Division at 3-0 while Canton is 2-1.

The Hawks were led by senior forward Andy Smith, who scored a game-high 31 points, and virtually carried his team until others arrived with help in the last quarter.

Junior center Paul Gilyvisky, after being blocked off the boards by Canton counterpart Tony Cossitt for most of the game, came up with 11 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter.

The only other Harrison player to score in the finale was guard Roy Granger, but his points were arguably the most important of the game. His three-point basket with 33 seconds to play gave the Hawks their first lead (64-63) since the opening minute of the first quarter.

"Paul Gilyvisky became a player in the second half," Teachman said. "He didn't care if his foot movement was just right or if the shot was just right. It had to go in."

"Roy was standing there with his hands out, begging -- begging for the shot."

With under two minutes to play, a Gilyvisky free throw and Smith field goal cut the Canton lead to 63-59.

THE CHIEFS then committed three turnovers, missed a pair of one-and-one free throws and lost the 6-8 Cossitt with his fifth foul.

Gilyvisky sank two more free throws with 43 seconds left (61-61), grabbed the rebound after Canton's second miss and fed Granger, who raced up court to pop the three.

"We gave Granger that shot all night," Canton coach Dave Van Wagener said, noting it was his first try. Granger finished with six points.

"He just made it when it was money time. But that's the mark of a clutch player. When the game is on the line, you have to hit your shots and tonight we didn't."

"Harrison made their breaks toward the end of the game," he added, "and everything they did seemed to turn out right in the last few minutes."

Gilyvisky led the win with another

basketball

pair of free throws with 12 seconds remaining.

That culminated what was a remarkable turnaround in a game that was all but dominated by the Chiefs, who led by as many as 10 points in the first half and were in front virtually from the start, though Harrison stayed close in the second half.

"IT WAS JUST an infusion of Hawk pride," Teachman said. "We stepped it up, we had to have it. I don't know where it would have happened if the game had been 30 or 31 minutes long."

The Chiefs didn't score a field goal in the last 3 1/2 minutes and didn't score another point after Karl Wukie made two free throws for a Canton lead of 63-56 with 2:16 to play.

"I hate to think you play defense giving up 63," Teachman said, "but there was some defense being played out there. It wasn't all O."

"I think our defense confused them in the second half, and we took turns coming up with great plays. Andy Fitzpatrick played a tremendously intelligent floor game."

The Chiefs were led by senior forward Brett Howell and sophomore guard Mike Stafford with 13 points apiece. Senior forward Kevin Holmes chipped in 12 points, and Cossitt added 10 in addition to his strong rebounding.

But Canton's perimeter shooting, which nearly pulled out a victory over Salem on Tuesday, was noticeably absent in the second half.

The Chiefs took a first-half lead on the three-point shooting of Stafford, who had four triples, and Jon Paupore. But they went scoreless in the second half, and another outside scoring threat, Derrick McDonald, had only two points.

"WE DIDN'T get the right people the ball in their scoring spots in the second half," Van Wagener said. "We weren't doing mentally or physically on offense or defense."

"We had the wrong guy shooting the wrong shots, and we missed some free throws that would have tied the game."

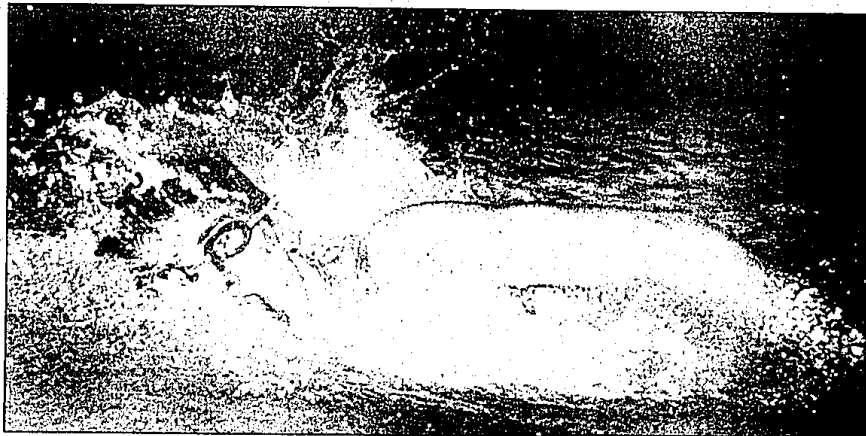
While the Chiefs took control with their outside shooting in the first half, Smith struggled to keep Harrison in the game with 13 points, which included a pair of treys.

"We have a saying about Andrew Smith," Teachman said. "Any time he takes a 15- to 20-footer, that's like someone else taking a layup. Andrew is an easy player to take for granted because he is so consistent."

Gilyvisky didn't become a factor until late in the game, largely because of Cossitt's presence in the middle. For that reason, the Hawks scored 6-3, 230-pound forward Blazo Sarcevic, who just landed in Hawaii for a football recruiting visit, Teachman said.

"There 3-2 zone really baffled us (in the first half), and Tony Cossitt played a heckuva game," Teachman said. "Brett Howell did everything he could to win the basketball game, and Paupore is one of the great role players in the league."

Tony played (Gilyvisky) well, but our wings didn't dig down in the second half," Van Wagener said. "So he was able to turn and get a nice, easy set shot in the basket."



Jonathan Kershaw of North Farmington won the 200-yard freestyle Thursday to help the Raiders defeat city rival Farmington

in a swimming dual meet. He also was part of the winning 200 freestyle relay.

Knoche paces win for Raiders

North Farmington, led by Chris Knoche's four first place swims, defeated crosstown rival Farmington 105-81 Thursday at Oakland Community College.

Knoche had individual victories in the 100-yard freestyle and the breaststroke, and he helped North 50-20 win the medley and 200 freestyle relays.

Knoche had times of 50.41 in the freestyle and 1:07.09 in the breaststroke. Mike Drelles, Keith Lee, Knoche and Alan Kanner won the medley relay in 1:46.67, and Kanner, Lee, Jonathan Kershaw and Knoche captured the 200 freestyle relay in 1:35.35.

The other relay team members also had some victories. Drelles won the 500 freestyle (5:31.53), Kershaw the 200 freestyle (2:34.79), Lee the individual medley (2:15.89) and Kanner the 50 freestyle (24.46).

North's John Juliano was the first place diver with a total of 254.40 points. Farmington won three events. Tom Heener was first in the butterfly with a 59.43 time, and Scott Frump swam the backstroke in 1:02.98. The Falcons took first in the 400 freestyle relay with a 2:23.02 time.

PLYMOUTH CANTON scored an impressive dual meet swimming victory Thursday over host Livonia Churchill. The Chiefs are 2-2-1.

Canton swept the relays and had a double winner in Doug Nevi, who won the 200-yard individual medley in 2:13.07, and the backstroke in 1:02.25.

The Chiefs started with a victory in the 200-yard medley relay in which Mike Orris, Shawn Machins, Mark Lefkowitz and Doug Stetsch combined for a 1:47.92 time.

Orris also anchored the 200 free relay relay team and won the butterfly in 1:09.09. Kalovega, Dave Nevi, Jeff Clark, and Orris had a 1:40.7 time in the relay.

Doug Nevi was the anchorman in the 400 freestyle relay, which included Pat Lancaster, Josh Hunt and Wes Shocks, and posted a 3:48.84 time.

Lancaster was an individual winner, too, as was Canton diver Nick Atwell. Lancaster swam the 100 freestyle in 54.04, and Atwell compiled a total of 266.45 diving points.



John Juliano accumulated 254.40 points to win the diving competition.

Borgess back picks N'western

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

With the national letter-of-intent signing date just two days away (Feb. 6), players around the serverland will have to make decisions soon.

The latest verbal commitment came last week from Anthony Hood, a 6-foot, 195-pound running back from Redford High-Borgess with a 4.4 speed. Hood will sign Wednesday with Northwestern University of the Big Ten, joining North Farmington tight end/linebacker Todd Pawlowski, who committed to the Wildcats earlier in the week.

"I knew the environment was right for me when I visited there (Jan. 15 in Evanston, Ill.)," said Hood, an honor roll student who plans to major in mechanical engineering. "The coaching staff was to my liking and it's a great academic school. The professors seem in tune with the athlete. They're interested in the students graduating in four years."

Other Overland players expected to sign Wednesday (given verbal commitments) include Redford Catholic Central defensive end Brian

football

Chaney (Eastern Michigan, CC tight end Mike Games (Central Michigan and Livonia Churchill running back safety Mike Brooks (Ferris State)

FERRIS STATE has also made an offer to Westland John Glenn quarterback Lawrence Scheffer, who is expected to make a decision to day. But the 6-2, 205-pound passer may opt to wait for baseball offers in the spring.

The picture is not so clear for CC defensive back tailback Mike Thomas, who is hoping to hear from Michigan or Michigan State, but may likely wind up at CMU or Western Michigan.

Meanwhile, Farmington Hills Harrison linebacker Blazo Sarcevic is expected to decide to day between the University of Hawaii, Central Michigan or Western Michigan. Sarcevic (6-3, 230) arrived home late Sunday

from a week-end visit to Hawaii, which had already extended a full scholarship offer.

UCLA had canceled a planned visit by Sarcevic, saying it had signed all the linebackers it needed.

Arizona had received early commitments from two linebackers it was pursuing, but it still wanted Sarcevic to make a visit because it might want to sign another linebacker.

Sarcevic canceled the visit because the Wildcats wanted him to come last weekend. He opted for the Hawaii visit because the Rainbow Warriors were definite about wanting Sarcevic to play for them.

BORGESS RUNNING BACK David Dobbin is reportedly leaning toward Bowling Green, while teammate Al Fernandez, linebacker/offensive guard, could wind up at Hillsdale, which is courting CC fullback Jon Barbra.

Barbra, who paced the Shamrocks to the state championship, is also considering WMU, Bowling Green, Northwest and Wayne State. Clarenceville's Kendrick Harrington may opt for Northwest or Saginaw Valley.