

Chargers avenge defeat, retain crown

By Brad Emons
and Bill Parker
staff writers

Livonia Churchill avenged its only Western Lakes Activities Association defeat of the season, spiking city rival Stevenson to win the playoff championship Saturday at Walled Lake Central, 15-9, 15-3.

It was their fourth consecutive WLAA crown.

"We played exceptionally well all day long," Churchill coach Mike Hughes said.

Churchill ran off 15 straight points against the Spartans in the opening game thanks to three kill shots apiece from Christina Garry and Julie Campau. Teammates Janine Sproul and Kerl Hawkins added two each.

Garry, Sproul and Alyssa Belaire all stood out at the net for the Chargers.

In the second game, Belaire had five kills in eight attempts and Garry added four of seven as Churchill romped to victory.

Hughes also singled out the defensive play of Hawkins, Sproul and Stephanie Speen.

In Churchill's 15-3, 15-6 semifinal win over Northville, senior Amy Baron played superbly despite a heavily bandaged knee.

But it was the play of Garry in the final that had Stevenson coach Lee Cagle buzzing.

"SHE (GARRY) was just unstoppable," said the Stevenson coach. "She was high in the air."

"Our game plan was to establish the middle, then back-set and outside-set, but we didn't block a single ball. They just got the momentum going and we didn't get started."

"It was a great win for Churchill. The way they played, they deserved it."

Stevenson was riding high going into the finals, having polished off North Farmington (15-3, 15-10), Plymouth Salem (15-1, 15-11), Walled Lake Western (15-6, 15-6) and Farmington Harrison (15-1, 15-5) in pool play.

Stevenson, behind the play of senior Laura Zatorski, then bounced host Central in the semifinals, 15-9, 15-11.

"We didn't make any errors, we couldn't be any more prepared for the final," Cagle said. "But you never know the psychological or emotional factor that comes into play."

Zatorski, who stood out defensively, also had 17 kills on the day.

Senior Sue Bell led Stevenson with a total of 20 kills to go along with 15 ace serves. Junior Teresa Sarno added

ed 10 kills and 14 blocks, while sophomore setter Patty Diamond recorded 56 assists.

"I THOUGHT we were going to make the finals, but we were inconsistent at time during the day," Central coach Mike Lindstrom said.

The Vikings held first-game leads of 9-0 and 8-2 against Stevenson, but couldn't maintain their momentum.

"They started to roll and we weren't tough enough to hang in there," Lindstrom said. "Stevenson played well all day long."

In pool play, Central defeated

volleyball

Plymouth Canton (15-3, 15-5) and Farmington (15-9, 15-10). The Vikings split with Westland John Glenn (15-0, 15-17) and Livonia Franklin (12-15, 15-3).

Forced to play Glenn in a tie-breaker for a semifinal berth, the host Vikings came through in a one-game playoff, defeating the Rockets, 15-13.

Central's top hitters on the day included Stacie Barrett (46 kills), Bridget Norris (42), Cindy Muha (39) and Shannon Capstick (36).

Jacie Friend had 14 ace serves in 23 attempts. Teammate Sharla Yakulin made good on 96 percent of her sets.

GLENN, MEANWHILE, nearly earned a semifinal berth despite a 5-8 conference record during the season.

The Rockets went an impressive 6-2 in pool play, splitting with Churchill (8-15, 15-13) and Central

(8-15, 17-15). Glenn also downed Franklin (15-3, 15-4) and Farmington (15-8, 15-4).

Nikki Wojcik paced the Rockets (11-16-6 overall) with 33 kills and 20 solo blocks on the day. Teammate Kara Beeny collected 19 kills and 10 service aces.

Other Glenn contributors included Kerry Byberg (13 aces serves), Nikki Nagel (29 digs) and Jennifer Massey (50 assists).

"I'm very proud of these girls," Glenn coach Linda Jimenez said. "We set a tournament goal to finish in the top four. We came close. The

highlight of the day was the effort we put forth against Churchill."

The WLAA champion Chargers not only had some anxious moments against Glenn, but also struggled with city rival Franklin in pool play.

Down 13-3 in the second game to the Patriots after winning the first game handily (15-1), Garry came to the rescue, serving eight straight points to head a 12-point comeback.

Churchill, the Western Division champions, reached the semifinals with a 7-1 pool record, defeating Franklin, Canton (15-1, 15-7) and Farmington (15-1, 15-11).

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OCC to be site for judo tournament

The largest-ever judo tournament for high school age athletes will be Saturday, March 9, at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

The competition is sponsored by Judo Affiliates of Michigan, Inc.

More than 200 entrants are expected based on early registration figures. Among the talented individuals signed up: Caron Catana of Mount Clemens, the state champion who was third in the 1990 national championships; Tony Okada of California, the 1990 national champion at 60 kilograms and Olympic hopeful; Marcus Dawson of New Jersey, the national champ at 78 kilos and a junior national champion since age 9; Harold Gettings of New Jersey, the national champion at 71 kilos; and Afrika King of Florida, the national female champ at 66 kilos.

"The caliber of competition at this tournament will be very impressive," said Noboru Saito, the event chairperson. "We expect to see all of the top competitors of high school age from around the U.S."

Judo, which evolved as a modern sport in 1882, has been part of Olympic competition since 1964. It derives from the ancient Japanese art of Jiu Jitsu, which was traditionally practiced by Samurai warriors.

Judo is well known for providing training for the mind as well as the body since the sport calls for a focusing of mental faculties.

In addition to the competition, there will be workshops and instructional sessions at OCC and the event's host hotel, the Farmington Hills Holiday Inn. There will also be testing for referees, leading to certification for participation in future tournaments.

For information on the 1991 U.S. High School National Championships call Saito or Cindy Silk, 585-7582.

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