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(F10)

Blazers win volleyball clash with Mercy

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

You could say Livonia Ladywood's volleyball team went out with a bang. Behind the powerful hitting of juniors MaryJo Kelly and Liz Gunn, the Blazers made their final match in their tiny gym a memorable one, rallying for a 6-15, 16-14, 15-8 win Thursday over Farmington Hills Mercy.

The next match Ladywood hosts will be held inside the Blazers' recently completed new gym on Thursday, Feb. 6, against Birmingham Marlin. Ladywood coach Tom Teeters has many memories of the old Ladywood gym, most of them forgettable.

"I have a lot of memories, including shin splints, slipping and sliding, balls hit into the low ceiling," Teeters said. "Of course, the low ceiling always helped our team because we're a low passing team. The ceiling is

about 20-feet higher in the new gym."

Ladywood, 14-2 overall, is in first place in the Catholic League's Central Division at 5-0 and the Blazers hope to still be there when they make their debut in the new gym. Mercy, which brought a No. 4 state Class A ranking into the game, fell to 18-4 overall and 4-1 in the Central Division.

Ladywood was ranked 10th in Class A prior to Thursday but Teeters doesn't put much stock in the victory with the season so young.

"THE RANKINGS are nice for exposure, but they're too early to be accurate," he said.

After winning the first game in relative ease, the defending Central Division champion Marlin blew a chance to take the match when they couldn't close out a 14-11 advantage in the second game.

"If I can go three games with any team in

the Catholic League, that's fine," Mercy coach Ann Kolnitsy said. "Ladywood was probably more consistent and we made more mistakes. It was good competition. I've never seen them play and didn't know anything about them, but Gunn is a good hitter, probably the best we'll come up against in the Catholic League."

Gunn and Kelly controlled the net most of the evening, but Teeters credited the Blazers' comeback in the second game to strong defense. After a net violation gave Mercy a point and a 14-11 lead, Ladywood held the Marlin scoreless in eight serve rotations while scoring five unanswered points to force a third game.

Gunn and Kelly each had kills during the rally, while Mercy was doomed by a double kill, an attempted kill that went out of bounds and a hit into the net.

Nancy Burr, a senior outside hitter, excelled as a server for the Blazers in the second game. Teeters couldn't remember a

time when one of his teams, college or high school, held a team scoreless on game or match point on eight serve rotations.

"WE'VE HAD six, but never eight," Teeters said. "I contribute our comeback a lot to offense, but I was as much, if not more impressed, with our defense. We had key blocking by Andrea Putti. We were too excited at first and coming out like that early hurt us a little bit."

"Ann (Kolnitsy) does a great job with them. In some ways Mercy outplayed us, but they made mistakes at the end."

Ladywood fell behind, 7-3, in the third game, but the Blazers scored five straight to lead 8-7. After Mercy tied the score, 8-8, Ladywood scored the last seven points to go home victorious.

Gunn, who finished with a season-high 25 kills, closed out the win with a pair of kills. Gunn finished with a .440 hitting percentage to go with 10 digs, while Kelly had a .310

hitting percentage, 10 kills, 20 assists and six digs.

Senior middle blocker Jannel Hermene, playing with a knee brace, also helped at the net with three blocks.

"Liz's 25 kills could be a school record," Teeters said. "I don't think she's had half that many in a match this year. Anytime we're hitting over a .250 percentage that's very good and when we get in the .300's there's a good chance we'll win."

Burr finished with only one error and one ace in 19 serves. Senior defender Michelle Wilson led the Blazers with 16 digs and junior setter Valerie Adzima had 10 digs.

Mercy was led by senior Karin Kivela, who had seven kills, three service aces, 11 digs and 16 serve receptions. Senior Shannon Goff led with 20 serve receptions, while junior Angela Assad had seven solo blocks, and Katie Heffernan and Kathy Mistravich were strong off the bench, Kolnitsy said.

Farmington swimmers prevail over city rivals

Farmington High dominated on the victory stand Thursday, winning all but one event to defeat crosstown rival and host Harrison 110-65 in boys swimming.

The Falcons are 2-3 in dual meets, the Hawks 0-5.

Scott Frump won two individual events and assisted in a pair of relay victories for Farmington. Steve Scario, Dave Kandt and Scott Brown also had two or more firsts.

Frump triumphed in the 50-yard freestyle and backstroke with 24.08 and 52.1 times, respectively.

He also was the leadoff man on the medley and 200 freestyle relays. Scario, Jeff James and Kandt combined with him to win the medley race in 1:52.06. Frump and freestyle teammates Scario, Brown and Kandt finished in 1:41.55.

Brown won the butterfly (1:03.29), Kandt the 100 freestyle (55.67) and Scario the 500 freestyle (5:32.88).

Farmington also had three other individual winners: John Reed in the

100 (2:19.44), Brandon Richardson in diving (265.1 points) and Kevin Yoder in the breaststroke (1:08.12).

The Falcons finished the meet with a victory in the 400 freestyle relay as Mario Nordini, Brown, Mark Scario and Mike Enburg posted a 3:50.59 time.

Harrison's lone victory came from Todd Farabee, who had a personal best of 2:01.63 in the 200 freestyle.

Others with personal-best swims for the Hawks included Nat Canbasser in the butterfly (1:05.23), Elliott Sperber, butterfly (1:14.74), Mark Springer, 100 freestyle (59.3); Roger Stadler, backstroke (1:05.53); and Mike Schaner, breaststroke (1:17.83).

NORTH FARMINGTON won just as many events Thursday while defeating host Northville in a Western Lakes Activities Association dual between two quality teams, 56-37.

Senior Chris Knoche and sophomore Karl Kozicki, a transfer from Redford Catholic Central who just

became eligible, were double winners for the Raiders (5-1).

Knoche won the 200 freestyle (1:51.35) and 100 freestyle (49.80) while Kozicki posted victories in the individual medley (2:01.29) and the 500 freestyle (4:53.45).

Both swimmers played a role in North winning all three relays, too. Knoche anchored the 200 and 400 freestyle teams. Kozicki also was part of the 400 squad, which included Jonathan Kershaw and Mike Drelles and had a 3:25.98 time.

Keith Lee, Brian Darold and Jason Charnas comprised the other three quarters of the 200 freestyle squad (1:37.55), and Kershaw, Drelles and Adam Kammer were members of the medley relay unit (1:45.84).

North's other individual winners were Drelles in the butterfly (55.33), Jason Fisher, backstroke (57.69), and Kammer, breaststroke (1:05.91).

Northville won the 50 freestyle, with Bob Holdridge sprinting to the finish line in 23.24, and Mike Maloure compiling 198.45 diving points.



Dave Kandt of Farmington won the 100-yard freestyle and helped the Falcons win a pair of relay races Thursday against Harrison.

Hawks hammer hoop opponent

Farmington Hills Harrison overcame the absence of two starters on its varsity basketball team Friday and still won 74-53 over visiting Northville.

The Hawks were without center Mike Pesci, who made a football visit to Boston University last weekend, and forward Andy Fitzpatrick, who was ejected after receiving a second technical foul.

Fitzpatrick, who will miss the Tuesday game against North Farmington, was penalized first for hanging on the rim and later for slapping the backboard.

"We played under big-time adversity," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "Everybody reached back for something extra and got it. The team refused to fold."

The Hawks led 30-29 at halftime but outscored Northville 20-10 in the third quarter in which junior guard Jeremy Teachman and senior center Paul Gilyvdis combined for 23 points.

Both players finished with 18 points apiece to lead Harrison. Gilyvdis scored 12 and Teachman 11 in the third period. Gilyvdis also had nine rebounds.

Senior forward Duante Anderson added nine points for the Hawks, and Fitzpatrick had eight before leaving the game.

Senior Justin Romans did a nice job as the replacement for Fitzpatrick, coach Teachman said. Ryan Cahill came off the bench in the third quarter to score a pair of three-point baskets and help to keep Harrison in front.

Please turn to Page 2

Rocks refuse to budge for North

By Darren A. Nichols
staff writer

There was nothing flashy or exciting — just a good ol' fashion win.

Host Plymouth Salem used a 14-5 mid-third-quarter run to defeat North Farmington 61-41 in a boys basketball game Friday night.

"We lost, there's nothing else you can say," North Farmington coach Tom Negoshian said. "It wasn't something that my team didn't do. You have to give Plymouth Salem credit."

Salem, which improved to 6-3 overall and 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association, was led by senior center Mike Abraham, who scored 16 points. Sophomore forward James Head scored 12 points and junior guard Bob Schneider, playing in his first game since transferring from Redford Catholic Central, 10 points.

Senior guard Dean Pennala led North Farmington with 14 points. Senior forward Eric Hewett contributed eight.

THE RAIDERS dropped to 3-5 overall and 1-2 in the WLA.

"I think we did a decent job tonight," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We held a good three-point shooting team to 41 points, and I'm pleased with the number of contributors we had coming off the bench."

"I'm still not satisfied with the offense. We shot a little better, but we were not into the flow. We

basketball

saw shades of it coming."

A Schneider three-pointer with two seconds left in the first half gave Salem a 27-21 lead heading into halftime.

The three-pointer broke an eight-point spurt by the Raiders that cut the Salem lead to 24-21 with 36 seconds left in the first half.

Salem led 24-13 with 2:13 left in the second quarter after scoring five straight points on free throws by center Don Johnson while Schneider hit a basket and a free throw. North scored the next eight on a three-pointer by senior guard Brian Lee and five straight points by Hewett on a three-point play and a pair of free throws.

"I THOUGHT we had some good things going, but Schneider hit a three-pointer to make it a six-point game at the end of the half," Negoshian said. "It carried the momentum (for Salem) into the second half."

Salem, which led most of the game, broke it open in the third quarter.

Head took a feed from Schneider and hit a layup to open the third-quarter run with 5:31 left in it. Schneider hit a trey from the right wing to put Salem up 34-25.

A basket by Abraham put Salem up 36-25 before North scored five straight points on a three-pointer by Pennala and a basket by senior center Brad Pawlowski.

Salem finished the run, scoring the last seven points of the quarter, including five from Head.

Salem led 43-30 at the end of three quarters. "We got down 10 or 11 points and we did some things to get back into the game because we were playing to win," Negoshian said. "They did a nice job executing their press breaker."

EACH TEAM traded baskets early in the fourth quarter and Salem, leading by 15 points midway through it, cleared the bench.

"We're about where I expect us to be at this point (of the season)," Brodie said. "We're not great but we're getting better."

"James (Head) is capable of playing a little better, but he's playing well off the glass. Abraham has been steady every game and Schneider stepped in and contributed quite a bit. He's a welcome addition to our team. He fits into the mesh of the team and takes some of the pressure off the guards. Now we have three players that can step in and bring the ball up the floor."

Negoshian said he found some positive things from the outcome.

"Our bench brought us back and played hard," he said. "We will be positive and hopefully we learned something from this loss."



Jeff Silverman studies his notes while reviewing game film involving a client and potential college recruit.

Silverman's goal to land scholarships for clients

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Jeff Silverman used to be a regular at Tiger Stadium and Joe Louis Arena.

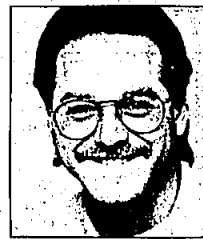
"I'm a sports junkie, and I've been all my life," said Silverman, a 34-year-old Farmington Hills resident. "I was one of those 35 to 40 games a year Tiger fans. I went to 25 to 30 Red Wings games a year. . . . I can't do that anymore."

Silverman now spends evenings sitting in bleachers at smaller venues across the metro area and beyond — watching players who dream of someday playing in larger stadiums. Silverman runs Scouting

Report of Michigan, a Farmington-Hills-based scouting service that helps high school athletes have a better chance of earning a college scholarship.

Silverman, a three-sport athlete at Farmington Hills Harrison in the late 70s, never played collegiately, but he's hoping to give high school boys and girls that shot.

FOR \$650, Silverman will make sure every college in the country hears about a potential recruit who may not be as well known as other blue-chip athletes. After joining the service, the athlete will tell Silver-



Please turn to Page 2

Jeff Silverman