

Marlins avenge loss to Blazers

Farmington Hills Mercy didn't have to wait long for a chance to avenge its loss to rival Livonia Ladywood in volleyball, and the Marlins made the most of the opportunity Thursday.

Mercy, which lost a three-game match to the Blazers a week earlier, avenged its defeat with a 15-12, 15-9 victory last week at Mercy.

"They were very good games but we didn't breeze through, even the second game," Mercy coach Ann Kohnitsy said. "We had to play tough to beat them."

The Marlins, who dropped from the coaches statewide poll after the loss to Ladywood, improved to 5-1 in the Central Division of the Catholic League and 23-3 overall. The ninth-ranked Blazers also are 5-1 in the division, 14-3 overall.

A pair of senior outside hitters led the Mercy attack. Karen Pinkerton had 12 kills and Shannon Goff served Goff also did a great job serving, Kohnitsy said, with 13 errorless serves and three aces.

Junior Angela Assad thwarted the Ladywood offense with five solo blocks and five assisted blocks, and senior teammate Wendy Wolski had four and five, respectively.

Junior setter Jill Jarosz controlled the game and "played with a lot of confidence," Kohnitsy said. "She is a big reason why we performed so well."

Junior Marcela DeAugustino excelled on defense for the Marlins and had five consecutive digs during a key series of volleys that cut short a Ladywood comeback attempt.

NORTH FARMINGTON got its first victory in the Western Lakes Activities Association, defeating Westland John Glenn in four games Wednesday (15-12, 7-15, 15-8, 15-7).

The Raiders are 1-3 in the WLA

and 10-9-1 overall.

"We played a couple tough teams to begin with," North coach Sandy Lubieniec said. "We can get back to the intensity we had before exams with a strong second half."

"This is a good hard-working group. We have a lot of individual skills that have improved. We just have to put it all together."

Sarah Lungren had 12 kills and six blocks to lead the Raiders. Karen Seremet recorded 12 assists and Mandy Terrell 10. Tracey Miller made nine digs and Karen Miller seven kills. Freshman Al Lord played all four games, was 6-of-6 hitting and had three blocks.

FARMINGTON HARRISON spotted Northville a one-game advantage Wednesday and then won three straight to defeat the Mustangs (13-15, 15-8, 15-13, 15-10).

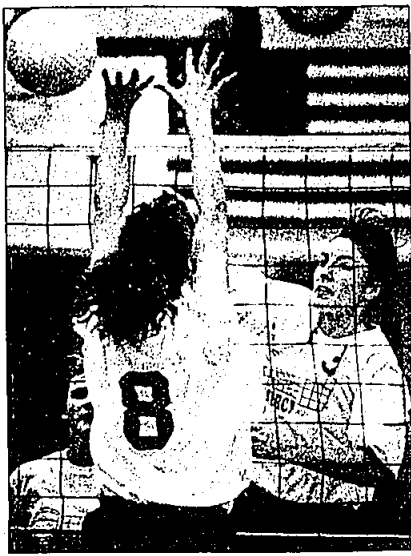
Northville was able to counter Harrison junior hitter Julie Heist early in the match, but she finished with 17 kills out of 28 attacks.

Jodie Whitehead slammed down nine kills, and Amanda Ault managed to get seven kills to go with 24 assists. Ault and Lori Lubbe served four aces apiece, Jill Mincewaser three.

FARMINGTON HAD A good start against WLA power Livonia Stevenson, winning the first game Wednesday 15-6. But the Spartans regrouped to win the next three (15-12, 15-1, 15-4).

Sue Gibson and Amy Sosnowski served seven straight points in the first and second games, respectively, but Stevenson dominated the last two games (15-9, 15-12).

"We usually start the game strong, because we have Sue serving and Debbie (Schroeder) in the front row," Farmington coach Julie Ingalls said.



Jill Jarosz delivers a sharply hit ball at the Ladywood defense. Mercy avenged its earlier loss to the Blazers.

"She served hard and got them all rattled. We had them playing our game."

The Falcons are 2-2 in the WLA and 7-7-5 overall. Stevenson is 3-1 and 29-4.

The Stevenson setter took us out of our game," Ingalls said. "She was tipping over the second ball on us, and we didn't adjust quickly enough."

If you don't get that good first pass, it throws your whole offense off.

"We're a team that has to do the little things to be at the top of our game to win matches. We have the right players and right attitude. It's just a matter of using them."

Farmington plays at North Farmington tonight, and Harrison will host to John Glenn.

CC skiers best; Mercy takes 3rd

Heading into the final week of the regular season, Redford Catholic Central won a three-point lead in the overall Mount Brighton Division skiing standings.

The Shamrocks won Thursday's slalom meet, finishing with 11 points as a team, far ahead of second place Brighton's 31½ points. Birmingham Groves took third place with 74 points, followed by Sealhorn (77), Hartland (82½), Howell (101) and East Lansing (109).

CC's Jason Darnell took first place individually in a time of 29.26 seconds, while teammates Steve Witok (23.37) and Matt McIntosh (29.73) took second and third place, respectively. All six Shamrocks finished among the Top 10: Andrew Ciesla, fifth (30.05), Tim Williams, sixth (30.22) and Mike Williams, 10th (33.79).

The top-three showing leaves CC with 47 points in the overall standings, three ahead of second place Brighton (44). A makeup meet is scheduled for 4 p.m. today and the division championship is set for 4 p.m. Thursday.

Seahorn is in third place overall with 31 points, while Howell is in fourth place (23), Groves, fifth (22½), Hartland, sixth (18) and East Lansing, seventh (9½).

FARMINGTON HILLS Mercy had the two best skiers in the girls competition Thursday, but the Marlins managed only a third-place showing.

Seahorn won the competition with 27½ points and Brighton came in second place (33½). Mercy came in third (42), Hartland, fourth (56) and East Lansing, fifth (96).

Mercy's Nicole Sinclair took individual honors with a time of 31.24 and freshman Nicole Gable came in second place (31.41).

Mercy is in a third-place tie with Hartland in the overall standings with 34 points. Brighton is in the lead with 44 points, and Seahorn has 41 for second place. East Lansing brings up the rear with 22 points.

Mercy has a makeup slalom meet at 4 p.m. today and the division championship at 4 p.m. Thursday.

the week ahead

<p>BOYS BASKETBALL</p> <p>Monday, Feb. 3</p> <p>GC at West at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 4</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>GC at West at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p> <p>West at GC at Linton, 7 a.m.</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 6</p> <p>MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</p> <p>Tuesday, Feb. 4</p> <p>St. Thomas at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Western Michigan at Central, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Central at Western Michigan, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Western Michigan at Central, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Central at Western Michigan, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Western Michigan at Central, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Central at Western Michigan, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Western Michigan at Central, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Central at Western Michigan, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Western Michigan at Central, 7:30 p.m.</p>
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Hawks crowned tourney champs

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Nothing seems to bother them. We just keep doing it right now.

"YOUR SETTER leads the team and, with a sophomore setter (Ault), we've been coming back. Julie and Mo (Amanda) are the leaders on the team, and they've done a real good job of pulling the kids together."

Heist had six kills out of 18 attacks against Farmington, Whitehead five of 11. Ault added three kills and had 24 assists. Mincewaser served four aces.

"(Heist) didn't have the best night," Sherritt said. "Her spiking wasn't bad, but just wasn't Julie. Heist. She had more errors and not as many kills."

Heist still played well enough to make the all-tournament team along with Ault, Whitehead, Jenny Heff and Karen Miller of North Farmington and Farmington's Debbie Schroeder.

"It's a matter of doing the little things to win the points and finish off the games. We're not getting the hits at the end and set-ups to earn the points. We're praying they'll hit one in the net instead of us winning the point."

HARRISON SCORED seven straight points (two aces) on West's serving to lead 7-1 against North in the first game. Mincewaser served the last four, two resulting from Whitehead kills.

After spotting the Hawks a 6-0 lead in the second, North rallied to within 7-6 and 10-8 before Harrison finished it. Whitehead had an ace and Heist a kill for the last two points.

"Harrison outplayed us in every way," Lubieniec said. "Their passes were there all the time, and I thought Amanda played outstanding. We've got some young kids out there. Tracey Miller is always a steady player, and I thought she continued that today."

Heist had eight kills out of 18 attacks against North, Whitehead eight of 10. Ault assisted on 24 kills, and West served three aces. Sherritt also cited the play of surprising freshman Lori Lubbe, Mincewaser and West, who adds another dimension to the offense with her hook spike.

IN THE TWO matches, Karen Miller was 20-of-21 serving with 11 points, seven kills and 12 digs for the Raiders. She put all 10 serves into play against Harrison and had six points (two aces). Heff was 18-of-19 serving and was 24-of-24 on serve reception with eight digs overall.

Stefanee White had eight kills and Karen Miller five in the Farmington match. Karen Seremet served 11 points and Sarah Lungren 10. Seremet also had 11 assists in that

match and was 60-of-61 setting the ball overall.

Ingalls cited the play of senior setter Sosnowski, who "reacts to every match ready to play," and Schroeder. "Though she didn't hit well against North, (Schroeder) is still responsible for a lot of our points through serving, starting the offense with a pass and finishing off with a hit. She is our strongest player."

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