

## Sports

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(F1C)

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## Marlins caught in Ladywood net

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Elvis in Kalamazoo? That's only a silly rumor, but it's a good bet. Machine Gun Kelly will be in town by Friday and ready for the kill.

Well, they're not exactly 1930s gangsters from Memphis, but Livonia Ladywood's volleyball team has come on like gangbusters in the 1992 state volleyball tourney, led by the juniors Liz Gunn and Mary Jo Kelly.

The dynamic duo led the Blazers to the Class A regional title, coach Tom Teeters' fourth, with victories over Farmington Hills Mercy (16-18, 16-14, 15-11) and Livonia Stevenson (15-11, 15-5) Saturday at Ferndale High.

The prize is a trip to Nazareth College in Kalamazoo for the state quarterfinals, where the Blazers will meet South Lyon regional champion Temperance-Bedford. (Game time is 4 p.m. Friday.)

"Kelly is 'Miss Consistency' and Gunn is 'The Boomer,'" said Teeters, whose team is now 42-9 overall. "They've been 95 percent of our offense this year with Andrea Putti in some of the rotations. But we really live and die offensively with those two players."

Gunn, a lefty with power, and Kelly, a right-hander with penetrating and well-placed shots, were certainly a hit. They could not be stopped by Stevenson (39-15-5) in the championship final.

THE TWO combined for 15 kills, offsetting Stevenson's tall block con-

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— Lee Cagle  
Stevenson coach

sisting of 6-foot-1 junior Julie Martin (12 kills), 5-11 junior Patty Diamond and 5-11 senior Teresa Sarno.

"Ladywood is an efficient team and they play their roles extremely well," Stevenson coach Lee Cagle said. "They force all the mistakes to happen on your side of the net."

"Serve reception has been our weak spot all year and it showed up again. The only bright spot for us at the net was Martin's hitting."

Stevenson was never really in it against the Blazers, falling behind 11-1 in the first game and 10-3 in the second.

The Spartans had six bad serves to Ladywood's one.

"We passed soft balls that were not on target and not high enough," Cagle said. "And we were not able to mix it up at the net. It always seemed we hit the ball right into their defense."

By no means was Ladywood's championship run a two-girl attack.

Gunn and Kelly had plenty of accomplices.

Valerie Adzima, a 5-foot-4 junior, had five ace serves and 12 digs in the tense battle over Mercy in what turned out to be the match of the day. (Stevenson won the other semifinal against host Ferndale, 15-10, 15-5.)

"She (Adzima) had some real good broken play sets in at least 10 different situations," Teeters said.

Senior Jannel Hemme also made a major contribution in serve and serve reception, while patrolling the middle.

"IT WAS TWO evenly matched teams," said Teeters, whose team won the season series against the Marlins, 3-1 (all three wins were determined by two points each). "I thought we were dominating in serve and serve reception, but they (Mercy) definitely had us in hitting and blocking, but we may have had the edge in setting."

Ladywood couldn't hold a 14-9 first-game lead as Mercy stormed back behind the serving of Karin Kivela to win 18-16. The Marlins also received some big hits from Karen Pinkerton, Shannon Goff, Wendy Wolski and Angela Assad.

Late in the second game, Mercy was within a point of serving for the match, but missed a sitter at the net, giving Ladywood new life.

The Blazers then pulled out the second game, 16-14, and held on to win the third, 15-11.

"You never have any match when you play against Ladywood," said Mercy coach Ann Kohnits, whose



BRIAN FORDE/staff photographer

Jannel Hemme (left) waits for ball hit by Mercy's Wendy Wolski (right). Ladywood's Nancy Burr (No. 9) tries for the block.

team bowed out at 34-10 overall. "We lacked consistency, we just hit balls out of bounds."

But when it came down to the crucial points, Gunn and Kelly came up

big along with Ladywood's defense.

"Our defense and serve reception have stepped up," said Teeters, who

led Ladywood to the 1988 and '89 state crowns. "But the offense re-

quires setters and passers who are also in sync."

With the ammunition supplied, Gunn and Kelly were able to finish the job and move into the next town.

## Sub's effort helps CC win district crown

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Marc Gondek cut Detroit Henry Ford star Marco Hammond off at the pass Friday night, then made the pass that helped send Redford Catholic Central to its second straight Class A district championship.

The Shamrocks held off Ford, 57-49, in a defensive battle sparked by Gondek, a near-ly-forgotten junior reserve guard, Gondek, who entered the game when senior teammate Tom Laco fouled out with 7:27 remaining in the third quarter, was later assigned to guard Hammond in the fourth quarter. Hammond finished with a game-high 23 points, but missed five of his last six shots. Two of the misses were air balls and a third missed badly as Ford (5-11 overall) tried to rally late in the game.

"When we put Marc on No. 32, he never got another shot," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki, who won his 14th district title as

Shamrocks' coach. "Marc can jump out of the gym."

GONDEK ALSO made an alley-oop back-door pass on an in-bounds play to senior center Chad Varga, who banked in a two-foot shot for a 54-49 lead with 1:15 remaining in the game. Varga made a pair of free throws with 37 seconds left and split another pair with 26 left for a 57-49 lead, but both coaches agreed the back-door pass was the key play of the game.

"That was the one play we worked on in practice, we've seen them do it at least six times in the tournament, and know it was coming," Ford coach William Carter said. "We didn't allow them to execute it the entire ballgame but our kids were tired and broke down mentally. It was the play that broke our backs."

The play, as usual, came after a CC timeout.

"It's a safe play and it's been good to us," Holowicki said. "Even the kids on the bench wanted to call it."

## basketball

THE WIN WAS the fifth straight for CC, which improved to 18-4 overall. The Shamrocks in all probability will meet Detroit Southwestern in Tuesday's 8 p.m. regional semifinal at Southfield High School.

Each team struggled miserably, especially in the second quarter, from the field. CC missed its last 12 shots of the first half and for the game was 18-for-52 (34 percent) from the floor. Ford missed its last 11 shots of the first half and finished 17-58 (29 percent).

The Trojans wanted to hold CC's powerful tandem of Varga and senior forward Bob Kummer to less than 35 points and they almost did. The pair combined for 37, with Varga scoring 12 of his 31 points in the

fourth quarter and Kummer finishing with 16 points.

The Shamrocks received an early boost from Laco, who scored nine first-half points. Junior Brian Paluk (seven points and nine rebounds) and reserves Damien Baskerville, Will Marcoux and Andy Slankater played strong in the second half.

But no one could stop Hammond in the last four minutes of the third quarter, when he made three shots from three-point range and a three-point play to erase a 34-29 deficit and put Ford up 41-35.

A steal and two-handed dunk by Kummer pulled CC within one, 41-40, with 25 seconds left in the third quarter and the Shamrocks scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter to open up a 48-41 lead.

A THREE-POINTER by Paluk and tip-in by Varga highlighted the run.

"Our goal was to stop Varga and Kummer and allow the rest of them to pick up whatever they could pick up and we could still

win the ballgame," Carter said. "But late in the game we lost our concentration, took a couple ill-advised shots, but nevertheless played hard. Give CC credit. Kummer and Varga are fine players and are going to make great Division I players."

CC enjoyed a 41-27 rebounding advantage with Kummer leading the way with 12 and Varga adding 10. Ford's 6-foot-7 sophomore center Maurice Taylor didn't score a point until he got a dunk in the third quarter and finished with six points and seven rebounds.

Taylor blocked several shots by Varga and Kummer in the first half but didn't grab as many rebounds as expected. Senior John Lathan gave the Trojans a boost with nine points, all on threes in the first half. Ford led 15-13 after one quarter but trailed 25-24 at halftime.

"I don't think I got out of Taylor what I wanted," Carter said. "I asked him to stop up and rebound, but people here at CC saw a young kid who is not quite ready for this step."

## Lakers sideline Raiders in final

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

The Lakers like to practice what they preach.

The warm-up T-shirts of the West Bloomfield boys basketball team proclaimed, "Defense wins." Friday, the Lakers used a stingy team defense to limit North Farmington to 39 points and win the championship of the Walpole Lake Central Class A state district tournament with a 56-39 victory over the Raiders.

West Bloomfield, which has won two straight district championships and three in the past four years, returns home to host a state regional tournament. The Lakers set a school record with a 22-1 ledger this season and will put a 21-game winning streak on the line at 6 p.m. Wednesday when they square off against the winner of Saturday's U-D Jesuit/Ferndale game in a regional semifinal contest.

"We played good defense," said Laker coach Tim Donke. "We preached that all year. You have to play good defense. You can't give up easy layups and you have to contest each shot."

Tommy (Negoshian) is a very good coach and one of my best friends. We knew what to expect from them. He has some smart players and some patient players. We wanted to come out and go after them and keep it up-tempo. The kids had the green light to shoot the threes in the first half."

## basketball

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THAT GREEN light made the difference from the start. Senior Mike Roberts opened the Lakers' scoring with a triple and junior Matt Donke added two more three-pointers early as West Bloomfield rolled to an 18-10 lead.

Roberts opened the second quarter with another three-point basket and scored five more points before halftime as West Bloomfield stretched its lead to 11 points by the break, 31-20.

The Raiders had trouble finding the range in the first half, hitting just 34 percent (eight of 22) of its shots.

"We're an awfully small team," admitted Negoshian. "We have to shoot the ball extremely well from the perimeter to have a chance." (The Raiders' tallest player is 6-foot-3 and there are eight players on the team who are 6 feet or less.) "We couldn't have played any harder than we played tonight. It was too physical of a game for us to win. We don't have the bodies to play that kind of basketball. . . . We don't have

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

North coach Tom Negoshian raises a point of concern with an official Friday night in the district championship basketball game. The Raiders lost to West Bloomfield.