

# Mercy needs win to clinch division

Entering its double-header against Harper Woods Regina Tuesday, Farmington Hills Mercy needed only one win in its remaining four games to capture the Catholic League Central Division softball title.

However after being swept by Regina, the Marlins must win one of two games against Livonia Ladywood Friday if they hope to repeat as champions. Mercy will be host to the red-hot Blizzers, who have won 12 out of their last 13 games.

Regina's Jenny Kotal no-hit Mercy in the first game Tuesday. The junior pitcher struck out two and walked three.

"We've beaten them before," Mercy coach Suzanne Brown said. "I don't think she was that tough to hit."

Regina scored seven times in the third inning to put the game out of reach. The Marlins also contributed by making seven errors. Debbie Breckin took the loss.

Mercy was unable to capitalize on scoring threats and dropped the night cap 8-4. The Marlins had the bases loaded three times with none or one out but were only able to muster two runs.

"That's been our problem all along," Brown said. "We get

## SOFTBALL

runners in scoring position but can't score them."

Kathleen Bergigan was 3-for-4, knocked in a run, and stole two bases. Krista Miller took the loss.

A grand slam and a bases-loaded walk prevented Mercy from winning the Milford Tournament Saturday.

The Marlins, who were runners-up in the eight-team tournament, fell victim to a five-run rally by Lansing Everett in the champion ship game and lost 8-4.

Everett capped the rally with a grand slam off Dziekan after the reliever got ahead in the count with two strikes. Everett scored another two runs in the fifth inning after a Mercy error.

Katie Heffernan, Kathy Mielovich and Bergigan each had two hits for the Marlins, who outhit Everett 10-6. Heffernan knocked in three runs.

Dziekan scattered four hits in the 6-1, opening-game victory over Alpen Park. Bergigan went 3-for-3, scored three times and stole home twice.

Mercy exploded for seven runs in its 9-2 semifinal win over Walled Lake Western. The Marlins outhit the Warriors 17-4.

Bergigan and Andrea Thibodeau had three hits apiece for Mercy, as Dziekan recorded the win. Heffernan, Erin Wiehe and Jackie Rajkovich chipped in two hits each.

GLENN 12, FARMINGTON 2: Walled Lake John Glenn improved to 11-3 overall and 6-2 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association with its mercy-win over visiting Farmington (1-7) Monday.

Cathy Mrak allowed four hits while striking out three. Jenny Walaszek led the Rockets' attack with three hits and three RBI. Karen Olack added two hits and Jamie Cook had a two-run triple.

The Falcons scored their runs in the fifth inning, highlighted by a Jenny Sever triple.

NORTHLILLE 8, HARRISON 2: The Mustangs broke open a close game Monday with a five-run fifth inning en route to its no-hit win over host Harrison.

The Mustangs, 6-6 overall and 6-2 in the WLAA Western Division,

were led by pitcher Stacey Nyland, who struck out 10 and walked four while allowing no hits over five innings.

Nyland also helped herself with two hits and three RBI. Kara McNeil added two hits, two RBI and two stolen bases for Northville.

Tracey Toketa and Jill Mihnevener scored the Harrison runs in the third inning after an overthrow by the opposing catcher. Trish Saboe took the loss for the Hawks, 1-7 and 2-0.

CENTRAL 14, N.FARMINGTON 0: The Raiders were no match for Walled Lake Central's offensive Monday as the Vikings mercied the Raiders.

Pitcher Carrie Cassinelli struck out three and walked three while collecting two hits. Laura Drapal also had two hits for Central, 6-2 in the Lakes Division.

Central's big blows were a first-inning, three-run homer by Carrie LaCossen and a two-run homer by Toni Flood.

Amy Kolman and Toni Conti got North's only hits. The Raiders fell to 6-7 overall and 3-5 in the division.

games ended in five-inning mercy verdicts.

Against Trenton, junior right-hander Brian Paluk scattered three hits, struck out seven and walked two for the win. Paluk had two doubles and scored twice, while Hicks was 2-for-2, both hits being doubles.

Brian Justice had a two-run double.

Kummer threw a one-hitter with six strikeouts and a walk in the eight-run victory over RU. Habisz delivered a two-run homer for the Shamrocks, while Justice was 2-for-4 with a pair of RBI.

Kummer helped his own cause with an RBI double.

CHESTERFIELD 5, CANTON 4: Sean Scheuerle scored the winning run in the 10th inning Monday as Livonia Churchill edged the Chiefs in a WLAA Western Division game.

Scheuerle walked in the top of the 10th, stole second base, moved to third on Marcus Sarnowsky's single and scored on a wild pitch.

# St. Mary's

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## The bottom line

Frank Anthony was one of the two school trustees who voted to keep the program. "All they look at is the bottom line," he said. "If you have to raise money, cut it."

No options. No alternatives.

"None were really offered. I never had an opportunity to appear before the board at all," said Glen Donahue.

Asked if any alternatives were considered, college president Meyer said yes. "We looked to see if there was a way we can cut back on expenses," he said. "When we realized ours were in line with other schools

our size, we decided we'd have to drop it."

Nothing else considered? Meyer's reply: "I'm not going to try and second-guess the board of trustees now."

The suddenness of the action has left everyone looking for real reasons. Glen Donahue is convinced "politics" has played a great part. St. Mary's is in actually three schools on one campus: the college, the prep school and the seminary. All three are for funds, which, apparently, have been shrinking in recent years.

Donahue was aware problems existed. In a February meeting with Meyer, he said he was told cutbacks

might be necessary. But he never anticipated what would happen when he walked into Meyer's office April 27.

## Small school problems

Tim Dornke, the current West Bloomfield HS basketball coach who first revived St. Mary's collegiate program and served as coach 14 years ago, is acquainted with some of the school's troubles. "Everything there becomes major because they're so small," he said, noting the school's enrollment of 566 (full and part-time).

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It was always an argument there: Should we do that (have basketball) or hire another chemistry teacher? Do that or buy more computers?"

Keeping a collegiate basketball program always won out — until the board's April 13 meeting. Donahue thought the board never considered a small-college basketball program to be a moneymaker, but "I don't think they wanted it to be a drain, either. I think they wanted it to eventually break even."

That would take time to do. Some sort of alumni base would have to be established before any negligible funds could be generated, and St. Mary's program was just starting to approach that stage.

Anthony said more fundraising events had been discussed with Donahue, but they "never materialized." Donahue would differ with that claim. "I assured my superiors I would work within any confines they had," Donahue said in his defense.

But he was never given that chance.

## Need a coach?

So now, the 57-year-old Southfield resident, already retired as a Highland Park school teacher, is hoping to find another position. He has no intention to retire. "I told the people at St. Mary's I'd like to

be coaching there for the next 15 years," Donahue said.

Sorry. You're outta here.

But Donahue knows finding other coaching positions won't be easy, particularly in the current job market, which was shrunken further by new NCAA standards trimming the number of assistant coaches a school may have.

So after taking their team to the NALA quarterfinals two years ago, after posting a school-record 25 wins (against seven losses) last year, after taking a small-college team which was on the verge of collapse five years ago and building it into a national powerhouse, they have no where to go.



Frank and Edna Jekile

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