

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1992

## SPORTS

## Marian halts Mercy's tourney run

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

When the Birmingham Marian basketball team was assigned the same locker room as last year for Tuesday's regional championship game, senior Stephanie Storen felt apprehensive.

The Mustangs had lost to the same Farmington Hills Mercy opponent on the same floor at Southfield-Lathrup High in the same regional a year ago.

"But we were on the winning bench, and I figured the two would balance each other out," Storen said. "We're not superstitious but we don't want to take any chances."

Yeah, so much for those fears. Marian had nothing to worry about and everything its way as the Mustangs rolled over Mercy for a third time this year, 59-28.

"I couldn't concentrate all day during school," Storen said. "I was thinking about this game. We said we were going to change it this year. We knew we had the team and talent to beat Mercy and we proved it."

Marian (24-1) advances to the Class A quarterfinal game at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at Berkley High School.

The Marlins (13-12), who reached the state final last year before losing to Detroit King, were winless against Central Division teams but had their eight-game winning streak snapped Tuesday.

"Things were going fine until we found another Catholic League opponent," Mercy coach Larry Baker said. "One thing we might have in common with last year's team is that we might have lost to the best team around. (The Mustangs) pass and catch the ball better than any team I've seen in several years."

Marian scored the first six points before sophomore center Julie Angell, who led the Marlins with 10 points, made it 6-4. But the Mustangs scored

the next 10 and were in control of the contest from there.

The Mustangs displayed the fundamentals of a well-rounded team: balanced scoring, crisp passing, good shooting and sound defense.

"We handled their pressure and got the ball across half court," Baker said. "But they took us out of our offense. They started doubling on Julie and then it was a real adventure to find the open girl."

Senior center Tara Walsh scored a game-high 14 points and Judy Stuart 11 for Marian. Jennifer Jalaba and MaryHelen Diegel contributed nine and eight off the bench, and Storen added six points to go with an all-around solid game.

Walsh, Storen, Diegel and Jalaba had six points each in the first half as Marian scored the first 10 of the second quarter for a 26-7 advantage and led 36-15 at halftime.

The Mustangs shot 53 percent (16 of 30) in the first half, including a 10-of-17 performance in the second quarter, compared to Mercy's 21 percent (five of 24).

Both teams attempted 49 shots overall, but the Mustangs made 25 and Mercy nine for 51 and 18 percent. Marian allowed just two more points than its postseason average.

"The kids are just clicking; everyone is seeing the floor so well," Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone said. "You want everybody to play at their best and I think we did."

While Marian has the team this year, Lillie-Cicerone anticipates future battles with Mercy, which returns two-thirds of its roster.

"It was a fine experience for the young kids to get here," Baker said. "We may look back at this game as being a key transition point in the program. The seniors gave us a neversay-die legacy, and the young kids showed us they can be a regional factor in the future."



BILL DRESLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Scoring drive: Mercy's Katie Heffernan scored two of her eight points in the Monday victory on this move. See story on Page 3B.

## Fitzpatrick wins award

Only Cross freshman quarterback Andy Fitzpatrick of Farmington Hills was named Patriot League Rookie of the Week for the fourth time this year.

Fitzpatrick had season highs of 17 completions, 33 attempts and 183 yards passing Saturday when the Crusaders defeated Fordham 21-13. He also threw a touchdown pass.

The former Harrison High quarterback was 87-of-196 for 972 yards and four TDs overall. He had nine passes intercepted but only two in the last six games — both on long passes at the end of the first half.

Fitzpatrick was 10-of-26 for 163 yards and two TDs the previous week in an 18-17 win over Colgate. Holy Cross finished 4-1 in the league and 6-6 overall.

## Golf ace has big payday

For many golfers, the ultimate fantasy is to make a hole-in-one. John Eads of Farmington Hills not only achieved it but was handsomely rewarded.

Eads won a new Lexus LS 400 luxury sedan valued at \$50,000 by hitting his hole-in-one during the Lexus Champions for Charity event Sept. 28 at Plum Hollow Country Club.

Lexus and GOLF magazine co-sponsor 150 charity events involving amateur players nationwide. In three years, the events have raised \$12 million for charity.

## Training camp winner

John Hall will compete in the second biggest football game on Super Bowl weekend.

The 23-year-old Shelby Township man won the regional competition Nov. 16 at Mr. Sports in Farmington Hills and will play in the Jose Cuervo Margarita Bowl.

Hall won an armchair quarterback's dream — a trip for two to Cancun (Mexico) and the chance to play for the Cuervo Bandits against eight former NFL stars in the flag-football game Jan. 30.

Hall competed in one of several Jose Cuervo-sponsored training camps at Mr. Sports that tested football-related skills in the tire run, crab crawl, spike/dance and super hike.

## Shamrocks must contain QB

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central senior linebacker Joe Herman watched last year's Class AA football championship against Saginaw Arthur Hill from the Pontiac Silverdome sidelines.

Herman suffered a shoulder injury the week before against Detroit Martin Luther King and watching then-junior quarterback Marvin Wright rally Arthur Hill to a 13-12 win over CC was just as agonizing.

"It was terrible, just looking at the scoreboard at the end of the game, knowing you can't do anything — and not doing anything," Herman said. "I just wanted to go out there and spank his (Wright's) butt."

Herman, who leads CC's defense with 130 tackles, will finally

get his chance when the two undefeated teams meet again to settle the 1992 championship. Kickoff is 1 p.m. Saturday at the Silverdome.

CC earned its way into the final with a 17-14 overtime victory Saturday over Utica Eisenhower in a Class AA semifinal.

Arthur Hill advanced with a 13-7 win over Adrian, making it 20 wins in a row dating back to the fifth game of the 1991 regular season.

Wright didn't do much wrong in last season's comeback win over CC. His 2-yard run with 1:43 left in the fourth quarter capped a 73-yard, 12 play scoring drive and gave Arthur Hill the lead for good.

This season, Wright has rushed for 680 yards and completed 47 of 104 passes for 939 yards, five touchdowns and six interceptions.

Arthur Hill runs out of the triple option and Wright distributes the ball equally well to senior tailback Howard Foster (Wright's cousin who has 700 yards rushing) and fullback DeWohn Lyle (860 yards rushing).

Wright's favorite receiver is Kedrick Reddemer, who has 29 catches for 600 yards and four TDs.

"He'll hold the ball until the last second, get hit and still flip the ball," CC coach Tom Mach said of Wright. "Three guys can get the ball every time. If you come up for the run, he'll hit you with the play-action pass. The coach from Air Force was in here last week and he said they'd love to have him run their triple option."

See SHAMROCKS, 3B

## Marlins are 10th in state

Farmington Hills Mercy fared the best of any Observersland team in the Class A girls swimming/diving championships Saturday at Michigan State University.

The Marlins finished 10th and one point ahead of third-ranked Livonia Stevenson, 45-46.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won the state title with 211 points, and five other Oakland County teams placed in the top seven.

Pioneer was followed by Birmingham Seaholm (141), Troy (116), Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Birmingham Groves, Grand Blanc, Rochester, Portage Northern and Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central.

"We had fabulous times drops, which I expected," first-year Mercy coach Jodie Cooper said, "but the top-10 finish was not expected."

See MARLINS, 3B



PAUL HUBSCHMANN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Swim success: Celebrating a league victory, Mercy's 400 freestyle relay team of (from left) Erika Smith, Hope Harrison, Katie Scallen and Andrea Hoeslein placed eighth in the state.

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