

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

FARMINGTON
HILLS
SPORTS
SCENE

Gable paces Marlins

Farmington Hills Mercy Junior Niki Gable appears ready for another successful ski season.

She placed first Tuesday to lead the Marlins to a first-place finish in the first Southeast Michigan Ski League giant slalom event of the season at Mount Brighton.

Gable posted a 33.82 time for the combined, two-run time. Mercy sophomore Dani Spiewak was sixth (39.19), senior Jon Werner seventh (39.44) and junior Erika Healy 11th (40.36).

The Marlins have a slalom meet at 4:30 today at Mount Brighton.

OCC cagers get help

The Oakland Community College men's basketball team hopes the addition of three players will help the Raiders improve on their 3-9 record.

Willie Payne, Cedric Randolph and Jeffries Scott will be eligible Saturday when OCC plays host to Flint Mott at 7:30 p.m. in the Orchard Ridge campus gym.

The 28-year-old Payne, nicknamed "Sarge" because he's a member of the Army reserve, is a 6-foot-4, 240-pound center/forward.

The 6-4 Randolph (Pontiac Northern) is the best jumper on the team, according to assistant coach David Rose. Scott (6-10), who played at Detroit Murray-Wright, "can be a good center in the future; he's a real good shot blocker," Rose said.

OCC blew a 13-point halftime lead Dec. 22 and losing 83-77 to host Henry Ford Community College. Tony McNeal had 20 points for the Raiders, Harold Gelson 18 and Craig Martin 16.

The Raiders defeated visiting Macomb 61-57 on Dec. 18. Corey Young had 12 points and four blocks for OCC, which led 42-31 at halftime. Martin added 11 points.

AAU hoop tryouts

The West Oakland Chargers will hold under-14 and under-15 girls basketball tryouts beginning at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Northville High School. For information call Gary Schwan at 459-8509.

Raiders maintain positive outlook



BILL BRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior leader: Michelle Tsai earned first-team, all-area honors last year and returns to lead the Raiders again this year.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

North Farmington gymnastics coach Jeff Dwyer is confident the Raiders will have another fine year despite losing a pair of excellent gymnasts.

The outlook would have been all the more positive, but Annie Jud decided to concentrate on club gymnastics and Jenni Japenga switched to the pom-pom squad.

Jud, though she missed most of last season with a back injury, still placed 10th at the state meet on the vault, and Japenga was an all-around state qualifier.

"I never look at it that way," Dwyer said. "You take the girls who come out at the beginning of the year and go with that. I try not to look at what might have happened if we had Jenni and Annie because they're gone."

The Raiders, who were 7-3 in dual meets and third in the Western Lakes Activities Association, do return their top gymnast of a year ago.

Senior Michelle Tsai, an all-area performer who should be North's top scorer again, scored in every event at the WLLA meet and finished eighth in the all-around, but she just missed qualifying for state.

"She had a few bad breaks at the end of the year," Dwyer said, adding Tsai let a fall on bars at the regional affect the rest of her meet.

"That was a learning experience about dealing with pressure, and she got better because of it. She's stronger than last year as far as the difficulty of her routines."

The Raiders also return senior Elyse Turner, another fourth-year gymnast who will serve as co-captain

along with Tsai. She tied with Tsai for 10th on vault in the league meet.

"She's always been there, giving us high scores, and that's going to continue," Dwyer said. "One of her better events is vault, and she's pretty strong on beam as far as being consistent. She can reach the mid 8s on every event."

The Raiders enter the season with Dwyer counting on five gymnasts to form the nucleus of his team.

The others are junior Marla Pinsky and sophomores Hillary Lum and Stephanie Cohen. Lum and Pinsky return from last year, and Cohen is new to the team but has gymnastics experience.

Lum, who qualified for regional, and Pinsky worked out the year round and have improved their tricks, Dwyer said. Cohen has been away from the sport for 1½ years but will be a nice addition to the team once she gets her strength back, Dwyer said.

Other returnees who might help are junior Amanda Quivrola and sophomore Heather Overstreet and Jenny McCann. First-year prospects include freshmen Marcy Cash, Jackie Allen and Nikki Lambert.

The Raiders, who were fifth in the regional, hope to qualify for the state meet. Dwyer believes North can score as high as the low 130s.

"Usually, that comes close to making it to state, so I think we have a shot," he said. "If you can score in the high 120s that's respectable. That means you have a fair amount of girls hitting high 8s, and that's the sign of a good team. I think that's about where we're going to be."

See GYMNASTS, 2B

CC overcomes Borgess

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Redford Bishop Borgess boys basketball coach Glen Donahue knows there will be a second meeting against Redford Catholic Central, but he's not sure about a third.

The Catholic League playoffs start in mid-February and they are a long way off for Borgess — not just because Tuesday's game at home against CC was the Central Division opener.

CC jumped to a 34-20 halftime lead and held off a late Borgess rally to achieve a 59-53 winner.

The two teams play again at CC on Jan. 28, but there's no chance of a third game unless both make the playoffs. Borgess, a preseason favorite to win the Class C state playoffs, fell to 1-4 overall.

"We lost the battle of Redford, there's one more, and maybe another," Donahue said. "Who knows, if we can sneak into the playoffs . . . But we have to play a lot better if we're going to make anything. We have to learn what's important. Talent is enough to win a lot of games, but talent never wins out over intelligent play."

The win puts CC coach Bernie Holowicki two wins shy of 600 for his career.

The Shamrocks made 24-of-51 shots from the field (47 percent), including 9-10 during a stretch in the second quarter. CC's defense forced 13 turnovers in the first

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half and held Borgess to 32 percent shooting for the game (19-59).

Borgess avoided a blowout with a 36-30 rebounding advantage and some excellent play by senior guard Charles Smith, a Ball State signee who scored 20 of his game-high 27 points in the second half.

Borgess scored 11 straight points in the fourth quarter and tied the score at 51 on a turnaround jump shot by senior forward Perry Robinson, but a backdoor layup with 2:20 left by CC senior guard Andy Kummer put the Shamrocks ahead to stay.

The Shamrocks made six of seven free throws down the stretch and moved to 3-2 overall.

"They put pressure on us and we knew they'd come back, get the crowd into it, but we weathered it," Holowicki said. "Smith is tough, knows what to do and how to play the angles. I think the Lakeshore loss (60-48 on Dec. 22) was good for us."

Kummer had 18 points on 5-10 shooting and he also held the University of Detroit-Mercy bound Robinson to an unimpressive 17 points on 7-22 shooting. Robinson ended his frustrating night with a show of lack of sportsmanship, rolling on top of CC reserve center Sean Gallagher after the final buzzer sounded.

Robinson and Smith each grabbed 11 rebounds and they combined for 17 of the 19 Borgess field goals.

"We knew they were going to go to it, they have two or three main guys, and we tried to shut them down," Kummer said. "We've been practicing our defense all week. A lot of us have played together since grade school and if we get all 13 going, we're set."

CC sophomore guard Justin Hoener scored 13 points in his first starting assignment and Gallagher scored a season-high 10 points on 4-4 shooting from the floor. Senior guard Andy Slankster added nine points and 10 rebounds and shared the point guard duties in the second half with Hoener.

Senior center Joe Daly had eight points and tied Slankster with 10 rebounds.

CC scored six straight points to take a 12-10 lead after one quarter. The Shamrocks were 11-15 from the field in the second quarter, ending the half with a 10-0 run.

The 6-foot-6 Robinson was 2-10 from the field in the first half, with several attempts coming from beyond 15 feet.

"Perry's got liberty to shoot but sometimes I wish he was in closer so he could follow some of his misses," Donahue said.

Central led Rice 35-23 at halftime. The Warriors cut the margin to 48-41 after three quarters, and Rice outscored the Indians 17-9 in the fourth period.

Rice 79, Notre Dame 45: The host Warriors need out to a 25-8 lead after one quarter and were never headed in this Catholic League victory Tuesday over the Fighting Irish.

Biden Kalczynski and Rob Chrysler each scored 14 points to lead the Rice attack. John Tugart added 11 points and D.J. MacAlone had nine.

Anthony Vile topped Notre Dame (2-3) with 15 points.

Rice (5-1) will travel to Warren DeLaSalle Friday.

Kevin Hamilton topped Central

Catholic, while Central fell to 4-1.

"We have a special group of kids on our team," Carico said. "Ballers it or not, we outbounded Central 27-19 and they went 6-7, 6-6 and 6-6 across their front line to our 6-4, 6-1 and 6-0."

A driving layup by senior point guard Brian Kalczynski with five seconds left put Rice in front 58-57, and that was the Warriors' only lead of the game. Central's DeAngelo Mitchell banged an open three-point shot off the rim at the buzzer.

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