

SPORTS

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MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1995



BRAD EMMONS

Disney Channel provides magical tournament tour

Somebody had the audacity to copyright the term "March Madness." It was somebody in Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, of all places. Royalties or not, March Madness is upon us. It starts tonight. Who is going to Disney World? This year's Michigan High School Athletic Association boys basketball tournament winners are anyone's guess. I have a few ideas, courtesy of a free spring preview provided over the weekend on my cable system by the Disney Channel. I can't get enough of those cartoons, movies and specials. It was the next best thing to being in Orlando. So let's share the fun of a magical ride. Time to check your local team listings to see where your program may fall.

MAKING OF THE LION KING

Wayne Memorial (16-4): Coach Chuck Henry's team proved to be the best observed and had to offer during the regular season. The Zeros, led by sophomore point guard Lorenzo Owens, could be king of the jungle if they get past the tough Belleville district. A trip to the quarterfinals would be worth each.

SHAD, EYES OF THE TIGER

Plymouth Canton (14-4): Ted "Donkey" Docks and Ron "Big Game" Hunter make this team a co-work in the Novi district. The Chiefs play good, straight-up solid defense, a trademark under Bob Domeschke. Better chance: Perry Young (Canton's first-year coach). But Detroit Public School League champion Pennington awaits in the first round of the District regional.

YOGI'S GREAT ESCAPE

Westland John Glenn (18-3): The Rockets, who got a break in the tough Belleville district draw, could make a repeat ride to the state quarterfinals again if three things happen: 1. Guy Rucker starts hurt. 2. Drew Washington provides leadership and stays out of foul trouble. 3. The Rockets don't let undermanned Garden City lighty on Tuesday.

FRAGGLE ROCK

Plymouth Edison (14-4): The team has no superstar, but five solid players in its starting lineup. The Rockets are solid offensively, but could use some Dennis Rodman-type intensity on the defensive end if they want to make it out of the Novi district, to another five-over-time game with Canton in the works?

UNDER THE UMBRELLA TREE

Westland Catholic Central (9-9): The Shamrocks' record is deceiving. They've played a relatively tough schedule and lost starting point guard Justin Horner early in the year to a broken leg. CC could get out of its district, but game who's next in the Southfield regional? PSL runner-up Cooley.

Riverview Stuyvesant (14-14): The Spartans took their lumps in the Catholic League's Central Division, but now have a chance to advance out of the Class C district at Dearborn St. Alphonsus. Southgate Aquinas and Catholic League champ Detroit DePauls provide obstacles in the Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher regional.

KIDS INCORPORATED

Berkley City (10-10): The young Cougars have made great strides under coach Greg Williamson. They look Belleville and Wayne to the wire this year. 80 John Quinn better be ready. Pete Mates and Brad Buddenberg are two fine players.

ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Berkley St. Agatha (14-4): The Apples, led by the versatile Olan Davis, are expected to get out of the Class D District at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep. They already have tournament experience, having reached the Catholic League C-D Division final. Potential state power Detroit East Catholic would be Agatha's first opponent in the regional at Central Line St. Clement.

KEENE, INDIANA

Riverview Thornton (14-4): The Eagles, coached by senior Jeff Corbett, have enjoyed a good season. What a cruel joke to put Thornton in with the state's top two teams in Class B, host Orchard Lake St. Mary's and Detroit Country Day. A fortunate draw, however, could put Thornton in the final.

Livonia Stevenson (13-4): The Spartans, who routinely like the three-pointers better than defense, lost three straight in the Western Lakes playoffs to end the regular season. Stevenson, however, could reach the Riverview CC district final with a victory Tuesday over RU. Rumor has it that Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre will receive a white nylon CC Dad's Club jacket during halftime ceremonies.

CAT FROM OUTER SPACE

Riverview Union (10-4): Basketball season could begin by Wednesday for Brian Berryman and the Panthers. RU has never ventured past the CC district and indications are that it won't happen this time around either.

THE GLASS BEARS

Farmington Hills Marquette (14-14): The Hawks didn't make the WIAA playoffs for the first time in a while. Harrison also missed Bloomfield Hills' district doubleheader West. Bloomfield in the opener on Wednesday. League prize is on the line.

Livonia Stevenson (13-4): The Spartans drove a first-round bye, but all first round games looked as if it would be a rematch of last year's Western Lakes playoff championship Plymouth Canton. Not a hard draw for coach Tim Lenz's team.

Livonia Franklin (10-10): The Patriots are actually 7-13 if you count the 72-71 double-overtime OT win over the alumni team back in December. Coach Larry Jackson, however, can look to the future because the Patriots may be a better draw than the rest in the WIAA.

WELCOME TO POOH CORNER

South Farmington (14-14): The Raiders rank No. 2 in the Farmington district of boys. They're also in a weak district and getting a victory tonight against the Novi district. The Raiders get a shot at the Lakeshore Farmington senior on Wednesday. Coach Davey Miles coached his

See BROWNS, 3C

Marlins win another district crown



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Mercy is battling a thousand in district volleyball tournaments under third-year coach Peggy Spengler.

The championship game Saturday was a replay of the previous two as the Marlins once again defeated host Berkley, 15-13 and 16-14.

"I want to be able to talk to you after we beat Mercy one of these years," Berkley coach Theresa Stanichuk said. "This was our year to do it, too."

Spengler was wondering if her team was ever going to play. The Marlins waited nearly four hours before spiking a ball in competition.

Mercy played only one match since Southfield forfeited the semifinal contest because it didn't have enough players.

The Marlins arrived early to see Detroit Henry Ford beat Southfield-Lathrup (16-14, 15-7), and they had to wait through a three-game contest between Berkley and Ford (15-12, 13-16, 16-14).

"It could have been detrimental," Spengler said. "But when you play in a lot of tournaments you're used to sitting for three matches in a row. That's not uncommon."

"I almost think it was better. We hadn't seen Berkley and were facing an unknown. We got a chance to watch them and knew what to expect."

The Marlins will play Plymouth Salem at 5:30 p.m. Friday in the Livonia Ladywood regional.

"We'd like to win in the semis and get another crack at Ladywood," Spengler said. "Salem is a good team, but we have very strong defense; so hitting is not something we worry

about. We look forward to it; it will be a big challenge."

Berkley rallied to tie Mercy late in both games (13-13 and 14-14) only to lose the last two points.

The Bears committed attacking errors off Heidi Wehl serves to end the first game, and Jamesa Emerson served consecutive aces for Mercy in the second.

Berkley was ahead 8-2 in the first game, but the Marlins rallied for a 9-8 lead when Mitzi Ruddock served five straight points — three of which resulted from Elizabeth James kills.

James and Emerson led the offense in the first game with six and five kills, respectively. James also had two blocks for points.

Emerson also played a big role in the second with six kills and a block. Ruddock's three kills were impressive and timely, and James had another five.

"Jamesa has been outstanding," said Spengler, adding Emerson didn't play back-row defense. "She has a little water on the knee, but we'll get that taken care of and have her back playing all-around next week."

"Mitzi didn't have as many hits, because our middle hitters were so on and the setter was setting in the middle. But the senior captain has done a tremendous job, too."

The Marlins also played some good defense Saturday. Mercy took a hitter out of its lineup and played Wehl on defense the whole time to bolster the back row.

"We changed our defense specially for (Berkley)," Spengler said. "Normally, we use a two-man block, and we went with one because they tend to place ball. Their hitters aren't overpowering, but they can see the holes and put them in. The five-man defense helped."

The Bears won their division of the Oakland Activities Association and finished 20-8-5. They were down 6-0 and 12-4 in the second game but nearly forced a third.

"There's no conditioning you can do for two very intense matches in a row," Stanichuk said, adding the Bears were tired. "It's hard enough to get up for one big game, but two in the same day within 20 minutes of each other?"

Hawks fall short in loss to Vikings

BY JIM TOTH

STAFF WRITER

Farmington Hills Harrison did its best Saturday to try and end Walled Lake Central's run on district volleyball championships.

Battling the taller and supposedly more talented Vikings to a split of the first two games in Class A District 23 play at Walled Lake Western — Central prevailing 15-13 in game one and Harrison coming back for a 16-9 triumph in game two — the Hawks matched the Vikings slam for slam and dig for dig in an intense and emotional third game before falling by a 15-12 count.

The loss put an end to a roller-coaster season for coach Ron Shortt's Hawks, who finished with a 19-14-8 record overall.

"I was certainly happy with the way we played (in the final)," Shortt said after a day of volleyball that in-

VOLLEYBALL

cluded a 15-13, 15-13 victory by the Hawks over Walled Lake Western in semifinal play. "We've been an up-and-down team all year, but this was definitely one of the better matches we've played."

"We seemed to play with a lot more confidence," Shortt went on. "We held on to beat Western and we knew that we had nothing to lose going against Central. Central's been a step above everybody all season, but we stepped it up ourselves and played pretty well."

As well as the Hawks played, the Vikings managed to go one better in winning a district championship for the fourth consecutive year.

See VOLLEYBALL, 3C



Staying alive: Heather Cornwell keeps the ball in play for the Raiders in the district tournament.



Block attempt: Krista Snow (middle) and Erika Greene (right) were key players for Harrison again.

Raiders prep for tourney with 47-40 win

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

A poor second quarter had been North Farmington's downfall in recent boys basketball games, and it nearly was again Thursday.

But the Raiders righted themselves in the second half to defeat Farmington and end the regular season with a 47-40 victory.

North scored only four points and made one of 18 shots in the second quarter but still led 17-15 at halftime.

Senior guard Mike Feld netted 11 of his team-high 14 points in the second half. He sank two of three three-point field goals early in the third period and was 5-of-6 shooting free throws in the fourth.

"I told Mike at halftime every game he shoots poorly in the first half he comes out and makes them in the second," North coach Brian Swinehart said. "When he made that first shot, he looked over and smiled."

The rebounding stats came down on the side of the Raiders, too.

BASKETBALL

the first gym. Junior Tim Dolan had seven defensive rebounds to go with six points. Jeff Trzoce chipped in eight rebounds for North, Dolan five assists, Feld four steals and three assists.

The Raiders were without junior John Kelley, who was dismissed from his team Tuesday.

"One of the keys to us winning was how well we rebounded," Swinehart said. "We put an emphasis on rebounding in this game, and those guys (Pawlowski, Dolan, Rich Beal and Trzoce) rebounded very well for us."

The intra-district rivals could meet again Wednesday in the district tournament at Bloomfield Hills Lahser. North meets the winner of the Farmington-Lahser game at 6 p.m.

"The group we had out there gave it everything they had the last two nights," Swinehart said. "We're trying to find seven, eight guys who will give it everything they have and do what we want to try and win a district."

The Falcons (2-18) went the first six minutes of the game without a field goal and shot 2-of-14 in

the first quarter. When North went into a tallapin in the second, Farmington got within two points at halftime but was only 4-of-14 itself from the floor.

The Raiders scored the first seven points of the third quarter and led by 10 (27-17) after Feld's third triple. The tally was 38-27 at the end.

Farmington's Simon Juncal had 10 of his 14 points in the second half, including eight (with two threes) in the fourth quarter. Jake Siskosky added eight and Jon Hood seven.

Juncal scored the first five points of the final period, and Tim Strelt's free throws put the Falcons within three, 37-34.

But Trzoce, Beal and Feld combined to score the next five and give North a 42-34 lead with 3 1/2 minutes left. The Raiders worked the clock and made free throws after that.

"This has been a good group; they've been very positive the whole season," said Farmington coach Denny Mikal of his players. "I'm sure they're just as disappointed as I am."

"In the first half, North got a lot of second looks and putbacks. We did a better job of rebounding in the second half and didn't give them as many second shots."