

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 1995

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Soccer champions

Vardar III '83, an under-12 boys soccer team, recently captured the Hallmark Sports Club Indoor Tournament in Frankfort, Ill., by defeating the host Sports Club in a shootout, 5-4.

Vardar III '83, coached by Morris Lupenec, reached the finals with a 5-3 win over the Ohio Internationals.

Observerland members of Vardar include: Mike Thomas (Livonia), Scott McKee (Canton), Karl Lopata (Farmington Hills), Matt Fernandez (Bloomfield Hills), Mike Bramlet and Ricky Strong (both of Rochester), Nick Baratta, Ndy Lecura and Erik Spreitzer (all of Troy). Other members include Dan Mulcahy, Bret Bailey, Cliff Orr, Paul Georgandellis, John Mauro, John Palazzolo, Brandon Felker, Ben Sobczak and Justin Dettler.

AAU volleyball

Registration for the Crusader Junior Volleyball Association, an AAU Junior Olympic program, will be from noon to 2 p.m. (12a and 14a), 2:30-4 p.m. (16a), and 5-7 p.m. (18a), on Sunday, March 19 at the Madonna University Gym.

Registration day will consist of a variety of physical tests as well as some volleyball skills, testing and play.

The program begins this month and will continue through June. Practice time will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Competition is on Saturdays.

Program fees are \$150 (12a), \$175 (14a) and \$275 (16a and 18a). There is an additional \$275 expense for elite team players who participate in the AAU state championships and junior nationals in June at St. Louis, Mo.

For more information, call Brian McClain at 525-0547 or 591-5163.

Lasers runners-up

The Livonia Youth Soccer Club Lasers, an under-9 boys recreational team, recently finished second in the North American Indoor Soccer Championships in Dayton, Ohio. They have earned a trip to the national finals in Lansing.

The Lasers, coached by Tom Kusch, qualified by finishing second at the Total Soccer West regional on Christmas.

Members of the Lasers, who defeated three different select teams from Michigan and Indiana, include Brian Baumgartner, Gregory Georvasilis, Jason Horton, Patrick Kolodziejczak, Jeffrey Kusch, Dario Malnelli, Patrick Miller, Rob Petke and Nick Trosien, all of Livonia; Nathan Sermen, Farmington Hills; and Christopher Sidor, Redford.

Linda Jedlowski is the assistant coach. The team manager is Michelle Georvasilis.

Farmington Hills softball

Softball teams can register for the Farmington Hills summer season at the recreation office (Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake roads) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The leagues are classified as resident/industrial (one non-resident for every Farmington resident or employee with a maximum of 20 players), open and coed. There are no residency restrictions for the latter two.

The fees are \$425 for men's and women's residential/industrial leagues, \$405 for men's and women's open, \$370 for coed. Fees must be paid in full at the time of registration.

For information call (810) 473-9570.

Blue Chip Shootout

College scouts are eligible to be in attendance for the 1995 Spring Blue Chip Shootout, April 14-15 at River Rouge High School.

Each participant will compete in four games during the two-day tournament with guaranteed 50 percent playing time.

For more information or obtain an application brochure, call Ken Phillips or Liz Bujak at (313) 697-8381.

Midget state tourney

Local hockey fans should get their fill of the fast-paced ice sport this week as the Birmingham Hockey Association will host the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association 1995 Midget AA State Championship Tournament.

The tournament will feature some of the finest teams of 16- and 17-year-old hockey players in the state. Games will be played at the Birmingham Ice Arena and the Wallace Arena on the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood campus.

It is the first state championship tournament the Birmingham Hockey Association has hosted in its 27-year history.

As an added attraction, Booth Communications Cable Sports will broadcast the tournament's championship game live. It is the first live sporting event to be produced by Booth.

The championship game is set for 7 p.m. Saturday at the Birmingham Ice Arena.



Court action: Mercy's Kim Sanders digs up a Ferndale spike in the first game of the regional tournament at Ladywood.

Marlins lose to rival Blazers in regional tournament final

By C.J. RIBAK
STAFF WRITER

Two for two.

It's not a record Farmington Hills Mercy is particularly proud of — two trips to the volleyball regional finals in the past two years. The season is both times the Marlins could advance no further, thanks to Catholic League nemesis Livonia Ladywood.

The Blazers met Mercy in Friday's Region V final at Ladywood and emerged with an easy 15-5, 16-4 triumph. The win gives Ladywood, now 38-5, a return trip to the state quarterfinals at 7 p.m. Friday at Portage Central against the Midland Dow regional champion.

The semifinals are 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Portage Central, with the

Volleyball

finals slated for 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Kalamazoo Central.

This was not the way it was supposed to be Friday. In fact, it was not the matchups any of the coaches expected. Mercy was supposed to be playing Plymouth Salem in a rematch of last year's regional semifinal, when Mercy upset the Rocks. Ladywood was then going to play Ferndale.

However, on Friday morning the Michigan High School Athletic Association notified Ladywood officials that conflicting information had been inadvertently issued, and that the pairings were crisscrossed.

"We played really well against Ferndale," said Mercy coach Peggy Spangler. "But we went into the match thinking we would play Salem, and we were really up for it."

"We didn't know anything at all about Ferndale. We went out without any expectations, and we played really well."

Indeed the Marlins did. They disposed of the Rocks 15-5, 15-11, pulling away from a 4-4 tie in the first game by scoring 10 points on

See VOLLEYBALL, 3C



Over the top: Elizabeth Janes spikes the ball as teammates Kathryn August (4) and Sheyanne Mooter (12) follow the play.

Trojans stop No. 1 Warriors in semifinal

By MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

Something had to give.

Brother Rice and Trenton, the state Nos. 1- and 2-ranked teams, respectively, entered Friday's Class A semifinal clash at the Flint IMA Arena with identical 25-1 overall records. In fact, their only losses were to each other as they split their regular-season series.

Unfortunately for Rice fans, the Warriors did the giving and fell to Trenton, 3-1. The Trojans advanced to the state championship game Saturday against Marquette in quest of their seventh state title in school history while the Warriors returned home with unfulfilled tournament memories.

"It's disappointing. We were 25-2 and you never want to lose your last game," said veteran Brother Rice coach Mike Brown.

The Warriors, who averaged seven goals per game, had only 13 shots on goal in the game and simply couldn't get going against the young Trenton defense. And when they did enjoy a rare scoring opportunity, Trojans goalie Shawn Greene was there to stop them.

A couple of uncharacteristic giveaways led directly to a pair of Trenton goals.

Trenton's Mike Lamb picked up an errant Rice pass and skated in all alone to beat Warriors goalie Casey Orling late in the first period as the Trojans took a 1-0 lead. Late in the third period with Rice down by one goal and desperately storming the Trenton zone on a power play, Joe Ottenbreit took

CC best in hoop district

■ Redford Catholic Central rolled over Livonia Stevenson to win its own district tournament in boys basketball Friday.

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER



The pizza arrived as promised, and the Redford Catholic Central boys basketball team also delivered, defeating Livonia Stevenson 74-65

in Friday's Class A district championship game at CC.

CC coach Rick Coratti usually has pizza for his players following games, courtesy of his brother who owns Greg's Pizza in Detroit.

But Coratti decided to put the order on hold for the first two games of the district — victories over Detroit Henry Ford and Detroit Redford.

Coratti promised pizza if the Shamrocks reached the final — and it was worth the wait.

The Shamrocks devastated the Spartans' zone defense, making 11 shots from three-point range in a victory that was wrapped up after the first quarter.

"Against a bad club, you might be able to come back, but we left ourselves in a real bind against them," Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre said of the Spartans' early deficit, which was 23-5 after one quarter.

The win sends CC, 12-9 overall, into Wednesday's 7:30 p.m. regional semifinal against No. 1-ranked Detroit Cooley. The Cardinals advanced after beating defending state champion Detroit Murray Wright, 59-57, in another district championship.

Coratti might use the pizza as motivation again.

"Maybe we'll wait until next Friday (the regional final) to order pizza," Coratti said with a smile. "We're just glad to have the opportunity to still be playing."

After Stevenson's senior forward Niko Jovicic made the first three-point shot of the night, CC responded with three straight triples (two by Chris Misiak and one by Marc McDonald) to open up a 16-5 lead.

Senior forward Mike Ridley added a pair of free throws and a basket, followed by Eric Gilbo's triple from the wing as time expired in the first quarter for a commanding 23-5 lead.

If the Spartans weren't already reeling, the Shamrocks made sure of it by hitting seven straight shots (including three triples) midway through the second quarter to build a 45-12 lead.

Ridley started the streak with a two-handed dunk and he ended it with a triple from the wing.

The Shamrocks finished 27 of 53 (51 percent) from the floor and the Spartans were 17-72 (23 percent), including 3-26 during mop-up time in the fourth quarter.

Stevenson finished 13-9 overall.

"We realized two of their kids (McDonald and Misiak) were very good shooters," said McIntyre, whose son John starred at CC from 1982-85. "Ridley can shoot, but he usually looks to drive. But he got loose and didn't even look to drive. They said, 'All the three are falling.'"

The Shamrocks enjoyed a 48-24 lead at the half and led by as many as 31 in the second half.

See SHAMROCKS, 3C

control of a loose puck and scored a short-handed insurance goal.

Lamb tallied a second-period power-play goal to put the Trojans up 2-0 and five minutes later Jeff Wojcik made it a 2-1 game with a short-handed goal to account for Rice's only scoring.

Rice had a great opportunity to tie the game early in the third period. The Warriors started the period with a power play, and then had a two-man advantage for 44 seconds a short time later.

Rice shot wide on its only decent scoring opportunity with the two-man advantage, and, later on the power play, Greene stoned Mike Jalabe on a clean shot from the left slot.

"We just couldn't get anything going. We're a team that's used to flying and we haven't played from behind like that much all year," said Brown.