

Mercy's Kowalski top coach in golf

By C.J. RISAN
STAFF WRITER

In Observeland, there are two leagues that feature girls golf: the Western Lakes Activities Association and the Catholic League.

It's a testament to teams from this area that both were dominated by Observer-area squads.

ALL-AREA

In the Catholic League, Farmington Hills Mercy gained the first official conference championship.

A league tournament has been conducted every year for the past five - and Mercy has won all five - but this was the first season there were enough schools competing for it to be a sanctioned league sport.

The league medalist was Laura Kowalski from Livonia

Ladywood with an 89.

In the WLAA title meet, Livonia Stevenson simply blew away the competition, winning the championship by 50 strokes to complete an unblemished season.

The medalist for the WLAA was Katie Collins of Plymouth Salem, who carded an 84.

So there was no lack of choices to fill the spots on this season's All-Observers team.

Coach of the Year honors were also up for grabs. Vicky Kowalski of Mercy not only took the title but also the Catholic League title but guided them to the state meet for the third time in four years.

John Wagner of Livonia Stevenson also had solid credentials with the Spartans' lopsided win at the WLAA final and their qualifying for the Class A tournament, too.

In the end, however, the honor went to Kowalski. Mercy went

on to finish ninth at state, even with a lack of seniors (just two in the top six players).

Among the seven chosen to represent the Observer area, only three are seniors, which means we'll be hearing a lot more about these players:

ALL-AREA GOLF TEAM

Laura Kowalski, senior, Ladywood: Selection to the All-Observers team is hardly anything new to Kowalski. This marks the third straight year she's been chosen to the first team. A four-year letterwinner at Ladywood and team captain, she certainly earned her way with a stroke average this season of 44.

Besides gaining medalist honors at the Catholic League Tournament, Kowalski was individual medalist at the Pinckney Invitational with an 82 and placed third at the Class A regional at Sylvan Glen. At the state final at Forest Aker in East Lansing, Kowalski shot a 98.

"During the 1996 season, Laura earned a place as one of Ladywood's finest players of all time," said coach Phil Heyer. "Laura's 44 scoring average led the team for the second year in a row."

Laura also leads in the classroom with a 4.1 GPA, ranking fourth in her class.

Kowalski is headed to Florida State University in the fall, where she will be part of the golf team.

Andrea Khoury, senior, Stevenson: Much of what the Spartans accomplished this year could be attributed

to Khoury, a senior co-captain.

She was a team leader, both on the course and in the clubhouse. A four-year letterwinner, Khoury posted a 91 at the WLAA tournament to earn all-conference honors, shot a 93 at the Class A regional at Brighton's Huron Meadows, and earned medalist honors with a 92 at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational. She had five nine-hole scores under 45.

"Andrea Khoury has contributed her skills to our team for four years as a variety of player," said Stevenson coach John Wagner. "Her fiery spirit and determination to be a part of our team that we will sincerely miss."

"Andrea has helped and influenced our new team members with a positive, never-say-quit attitude."

Emily Bischoff, senior, Churchhill: Bischoff was another senior who contributed mightily to making her team even better.

A co-captain, Bischoff had a 49.7 stroke average and fired a 92 at the WLAA Tournament, placing sixth and earning all-division honors.

Her other top performances were at the Class A regional (104) and the Monroe Jefferson Invitational (108).

"Emily really committed herself to golf this year," said her coach, Sharon Laskowski. "She set some high goals, worked hard on her short game and it paid off."

"She was a real delight to coach. She was our No. 1 player all year and will be missed."

Katie Munnas, junior, Salem: Munnas was one-half of a powerful one-two punch for the Rocks.

Her numbers were perhaps the best in the Observer area in this area at the Class A final with a 90, missing the state cut for individuals by two strokes.

Her nine-hole average was an equally impressive 45.7, which was a clear indication of her greatest strength: her consistency. Munnas was third at the WLAA with an 87, earning all-WLAA honors, she was third in the Class A regional with an 85; and she teamed with Katie Collins to card a 79 in winning the Pinckney Best Ball Tournament.

"Katie has a passion for the game and is truly a student of the game of golf," said Rick Wilson, her coach at Salem. "In a relatively short career, Katie has achieved much in high school golf."

"Katie has high expectations and she works hard to improve her game."

Katie Collins, junior, Salem: Perhaps the worst day of the past season came at the worst time for Salem's Collins. At the Class A regional at Oakpointe, she shot a 95 and failed to qualify for the state finals as an individual.

That wasn't like her. Collins had earned runner-up honors in the Ann Arbor Invitational at the University of Michigan golf course with a 90. She and teammate Munnas had been twin terrors for the Rocks all season long and had paired to win the Pinckney Best Ball Tournament with a 79.

Then came the disappointment at Oakpointe. Collins' reaction? In Salem's next competition, which happened to be the WLAA Tournament at Huron Meadows, she fired an 84 to capture medalist honors.

For the season, Collins had a 47.1 stroke average for nine holes. "Her demeanor and commitment to golf was a good example for all the other



Jennifer Borowiec
Farmington Mercy

Laura Kowalski
Livonia Ladywood

Emily Bischoff
Livonia Churchill



Katie Munnas
Plymouth Salem



Katie Collins
Plymouth Salem



Kelly Kristy
Livonia Stevenson

team members," said her coach, Rick Wilson. "Katie has the complete package, in terms of her golf game."

"She hits the ball well and accurate, and has the short game to complement. Katie will return as a senior and will be considered one of the top players in the state."

Kelly Kristy, junior, Stevenson: What made Stevenson so powerful this season was exceptional talent throughout its lineup. Kristy was at the top of that scale.

She led the Spartans by earning medalist honors in eight of 10 dual matches and never really faltered. She was medalist at the Stevenson HS Invitational, was second at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational, was on the all-tournament team at the Tri-verse City Invitational with a season best round of 80, earned all-division honors at the WLAA Tournament, finished fourth at the Class A regional with a nine-hole average of 45.7.

"Kelly led our team to the most successful season in Stevenson High School history," coach John Wagner said. "She has the work ethic that will allow her to continue her growth as an individual with superior skill."

Jennifer Borowiec, freshman, Mercy: Borowiec is a vision of the future, in terms of golf in the Observeland area.

She set a Mercy record for freshman by shooting 42 for nine holes, at Sycamore Hills vs. Mount Clemens Lutheran North. This at the state that produced LPGA standout Meg

GIRLS GOLF

ALL-OBSERVER TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Laura Kowalski, senior, Livonia Ladywood; Andrea Khoury, senior, Livonia Stevenson; Emily Bischoff, senior, Livonia Churchill; Katie Munnas, junior, Plymouth Salem; Katie Collins, junior, Plymouth Salem; Kelly Kristy, junior, Livonia Stevenson; Jennifer Borowiec, freshman, Farmington Hills Mercy.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Vicky Kowalski - Farm. Mercy

SECOND TEAM

Elise Pratt, senior, Ladywood; Mara Mazoni, freshman, Stevenson; Kristy Bartholomew, senior, Stevenson; Kristen Smith, sophomore, Farmington Hills Mercy; Anne Alioto, senior, Plymouth Canton; Angela Heber, freshman, Farmington Hills; Kim Stafford, senior, Plymouth Canton.

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Becky Gajda, Jenny McLaughlin; Mercy: Erin Moug, Gina Mazzoni; Canton: Alyson Young; Stevenson: Julie Kozar; Salem: Chrysal Koppert, Julie Ueda.



Vicky Kowalski
Farmington Mercy coach

MEDICATION RESEARCH STUDIES

The Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Community Research Clinic is seeking healthy males, ages 18-55, for participation in medication research studies. Length of study time is approximately two-four weeks. Research subjects will be paid approximately \$500.00 - \$1000.00 for participation.

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Jansen from page 1C

with a strong background in sports, her 12 years of coaching in the Catholic League with two state titles, a job that should allow her the time to devote to coaching.

Although she admits making the jump from the high school to college level is a bit intimidating, "I was always interested in coaching college sports."

"The big mistake to me isn't the coaching. It's the trips, the recruiting, the length of the season... all those things are going to be different."

And how different will Jansen's approach to the game

be? "No two people do the same job the same way," said Jansen. "My plans are very similar to what they are at any coaching level. Make us extremely competitive whoever we play and build toward a championship season. And still make the game fun, too."

Her 58-20 mark as head coach at DC, a position she's held since '93, includes the Catholic A-B League championship in '94. Jansen also coached the Falcons softball team for eight seasons, collecting a record four-straight Catholic A-B League titles ('92-'95). She gave that up after the

'95 season.

And if that isn't enough, Jansen has coached boys' freshman and junior varsity basketball at Grrosse Ile.

She won't coach any of those next year, except DC's varsity girls basketball. At present she plans to have an open-gym tryout at Madonna in July. "We want to find the best 12 girls to play at Madonna," she said.

With a team that had just two seniors and its best-ever season in (20-13), there shouldn't be many holes to fill.

Seems the biggest vacancy is filled.

SWIMMING

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN SWIM LEAGUE RESULTS		39.50; Alissa Melvin, 11-12 girls, 50 breast, 44.76; Patrick Dutille, 15-18 boys, 50 fly, 30.24.	Andrea Park, 25 free, 23.71; Cayn Swift, 25 fly, 21.97; Katie Purcell, 25 back, 28.49.
CRANBROOK 299 WOODBROOKE 253 (Friday, June 24)		Woodbrooke relay winners: 52-year boys 200 medley (John Kern, Jon Zaid, Patrick Dutille, Mark Rogers), 2:29.09.	Kendallwood single winners: Greg Morissette, 5-under boys, breast, 26.57; Sarah Swital, 9-10 girls, 50 fly, 42.74; Samantha Lawrence, 9-10 girls, 50 back, 1:01.38; Lance Denno, 9-10 boys, 50 free, 40.03; Michael Rooney, 11-12 boys, 50 breast, 45.42; Pat Brady, 13-14 boys, 50 back, 38.94; Neve Alvar, 15-18 girls, 50 breast, 37.01; Caroline Gregory, 15-18 girls, 50 back, 37.81.
Woodbrooke double winners: Eddie Rogers, 7-8 boys, 25 back, 24.41; 25 breast, 27.35; Kelsey Haschem, 7-8 girls, 25 fly, 25.54; 25 free, 18.10; Jason Speer, 15-18 boys, 50 back, 30.18; 100 IM, 1:07.6; Christopher Best, 7-8 boys, 25 free, 20.07; 25 fly, 25.27.		KENDALLWOOD 288 ORCHARD VALLEY 243	Kendallwood triple winners: 40-year combined 200 medley (Kathleen Bendick, Glenn Legocki, Matt Billa, Sarah Swital), 3:09.33.
Woodbrooke single winners: Amy Finkel, 15-18 girls, 50 fly, 37.05; Phil Zaid, 15-18 boys, 50 breast, 32.89; Christine Copocchia, 7-8 girls, 25 back, 26.02; Jacob Winston, 13-14 boys, 50 fly, 40.01; Jon Zaid, 13-14 boys, 50 breast, 38.93; Tim Muir, 15-18 boys, 100 free, 1:04.98; Jessica Sepek, 9-10 girls, 50 back, 48.76; John Kern, 13-14 boys, 50 back,		Kendallwood double winners: Glenn Legocki, 9-10 boys, 50 fly, 46.40; 50 back, 48.00; Michael Lech, 15-18 boys, 50 breast, 41.16; 11-12 boys 100 IM, 1:43.12; Aaron Rycroft, 15-18 boys, 50 back, 35.70; 50 fly, 34.32; Paul Ryan, 15-18 boys, 100 free, 1:21.49; 100 IM, 1:10.26.	64-year combined 200 freestyle (Loch Rycroft, Michael Griffin, Aaron Rycroft, Paul Ryan), 2:03.06.