

AREA HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL PREVIEWS

Falcon spikers taking refresher course

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

It has to show the students something when the teacher goes to school.

Julie Ingalls visited a few volleyball camps last summer and brought some new techniques back to her Farmington volleyball team.

"The things I've been able to share with the girls so far," she said, "they've been real receptive to."

"It's something I've done with my teaching, but I haven't done with my coaching."

Ingalls switched from teaching advanced math to physical education, health and art at Dunkle Middle school. She decided to refresh her knowledge of volleyball during the summer, in part a response to the dedication some of her players showed in their offseason training.

"The main thing we've added this year," she said, "was conditioning as far as distance running, for a period of about 20-25 minutes."

"Also we do some work in the weight room. That was all based on the girls going to camp. So I went to camp."

It was mostly a case of keeping up for Ingalls, whose team starts its season Saturday at Farmington Hills Harrison.

"We have seven returning varsity players," the fifth-year veteran said, "many of whom spent

their summer with AAU teams and in camps. For this early in the season, it looks like they've done a lot of work with techniques in hitting, passing and serving."

"I think the competitive play over the summer will really help them out. We've got probably some of the best athletes we've got at Farmington High. Many compete in two or three other sports -- and they're outstanding in all of them."

If that sounds like Ingalls is expecting good things from her team, so be it.

The Hawks have fine seniors expected to lead. Jennifer Neale will play in both rows while Emily Engelman will mainly be on the front row, hitting, with a little bit of back row setting thrown in.

The co-captains are Sarah Mikel and Brittany Dixon. Mikel, in her second year on the varsity, will do most of the setting and also hit in the front row. Dixon, a third-year member of the varsity, will play in the front and back rows.

Senior, Karie Heist, begins her first year playing all-around. She is a strong front hitter who spent a lot of summer time working on her back row play. Another senior, third-year varsity player Anna Newman, will spend most of her time in the front row and serving.

Senior Maureen Carolan will

see mostly back row action along with first-year varsity member Angela DeDomenico, a junior. Sophomore Emily VilleMonte will be placed with juniors Lisa Juncen and Kelly DePotter as a second front row unit while sophomore Kristen Brown trains to be the Hawks' setter of the future.

FARM, HILLS MERCY

A solid returning nucleus and a good balance of players may translate into a successful season for the Farmington Hills Mercy girls volleyball team.

"Our team looks pretty strong," sixth-year Coach Peggy Spengler said on the eve of her team's season opener, the Madonna Tournament this weekend.

"We have a lot of girls who worked pretty hard in the offseason," Spengler said. "They played AAU ball and went to a lot of camps. They made good improvements in areas we weren't necessarily expecting."

The Marlins lost their No. 1 outside hitter, Jameson Emmons, now playing volleyball at Division I Tennessee State. The good news is there is someone to fill the slot, left-hander Gail Agacinski will play the outside left.

"That was our biggest loss to fill," Spengler said. "Other than that, we have six returning var-

sity players. Plus four new ones.

"So we have a good solid foundation to build on."

Junior Ashley Schumacher returns at middle hitter and Mercy has a veteran setter back in senior Kathy August.

A pair of juniors, 6-foot Krista Kelley and Erin Fitzgerald, will fill out the front row. Kelley will play the middle while Fitzgerald will play outside.

New right-side hitters include junior Liz Dillion and the lone sophomore on the Marlins, Mary Gignac.

"The backbone of our defense," Spengler said, "will be two seniors, Anne Ward and Lindsey Elton."

Spengler will work in junior Shayla O'Mara as her backup setter and on defense.

Mercy plays in the Catholic League Central Division and Spengler expects her toughest competition to come from Bloomfield Hills Marian and Livonia Ladywood.

Mercy starts Saturday in the Madonna Tournament and is in the same pool as Plymouth Salem, Livonia Clarenceville and Dearborn High.

The Marlins are scheduled for a Christmas Tournament Dec. 26 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

NORTH FARMINGTON

Coach Lynn Temby is

approaching her inaugural season as North Farmington girls volleyball coach like any other rookie -- she's nervous and excited.

"We're very excited with what we've seen so far," Temby said. "We don't have a lot of specialized players, but we feel with the team that we have we should do all right."

Temby is being assisted by Kevin Patrick and the two are going to take a more laid-back approach to coaching the team. Not that they won't get testy on occasion as the season rolls along.

"Our approach is more like, 'We're the coach and they're the team,'" Temby said. "We're there to instruct them, support what they want."

"We're trying to get a lot of input, let them feel they can make a lot of decisions. If those decisions don't work, we'll work on improving the decisions they make."

"We want this to be a group effort and work with that."

North Farmington's go-to girl is likely to be Tricia Traczky, a middle blocker/hitter who might see some action outside from time to time.

Junior Katie Callahan and setter Vivian Cheng figure to see a lot of action, also.

Kelley Wachsberg will lead with Traczky. "She," Patrick said, "is a defensive and serve

specialist who brings a lot of maturity to the court."

Kelly Brannack "brings a little aggressiveness to the court," Patrick said before Temby chimed in "she's tough, real tough."

"She hits the weights hard," Patrick said, "and is a real tough server."

Patrick called little Diana Guskay, who might be 6-foot on a humid day, "a little dynamo. She's a defensive specialist."

"But she can also come in and set when asked to. She's the tiniest player we've got but probably has the most hustle, the biggest heart on the court." She's a junior.

Junior Lynn Liverio will play defense or be a relief setter while Kristin Timmer brings maturity plus a little comic relief to practices. She will be used interchangeably, at times, with Brannack.

Rounding out the squad are Rachael Klein, Rita Hinde, Christina Kraljevic, Carrie Belantee and player/manager Jenny Bernstein.

North Farmington has its first matches at the Farmington Hills Harrison Invitational during the weekend.

Plymouth Salem runs by Monroe in opener

The season got off to a fast — and satisfying — start for Plymouth Salem's basketball team. The Rocks led from start to finish against visiting Monroe Tuesday, posting a 73-62 triumph.

"We led the entire way," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "We

shot free throws well at times, especially in the fourth quarter, and we maintained our poise at the end."

The Rocks opened up an 11-4 lead after one quarter and had a 30-25 advantage at the half. With five players doing the bulk of the scoring — including strong

performances from 6-foot-8 sophomore Tony Jancovski and junior Matt Mair off the bench with nine points apiece — Salem pushed its lead to 54-42 through three quarters.

Andres Lopez led the Rocks with 20 points. Nate Gray and Andy Power added 12 each.

Hawks, Falcons feature youth

Youth is the watchword this year for Farmington Hills Harrison's wrestling team.

"We're young," Hawks' wrestling coach Darrell Tharnish said. "We've lost some of our best kids the last few years. It seems like we're starting over every year."

"But at least I can fill all my lineup this year."

"We're pretty much loaded with sophomores. We've got a half-dozen or so freshmen and a good sophomore class who have been wrestling for at least one year."

Harrison expects to have at least 25 youngsters on its wrestling team today when the season opens against Livonia Churchill.

Only three of them are seniors — Joe Parrelly, who will wrestle at 171 pounds; Pat Pattah, who will go at either 119 or 125; and Scott Hines, also scheduled to wrestle at 171.

"Some of our weight classes are too deep," said Tharnish, in his sixth season at Harrison. "For instance, we've got four kids at 119. But our numbers are promising."

Junior Joe Taylor is one of Tharnish's better 119-pounders. His brother Jake, a sophomore, will wrestle at 130.

Other members of Harrison's strong sophomore class include Blake Boesky (125), Jory Hannan (145) and Travis Moore (140). Jeff Lazor will wrestle somewhere in the low middle weights while Chris Gadjev fills the heavyweight slot.

"We've got a good freshman at 152, Brad Person," Tharnish said. "And we've got a pair of identical freshman twins, Jayson and Justin Shafer, who will fill

the two lower weights."

That's not all. Tharnish is working on getting a couple members of Harrison's state finalist football team over to the wrestling squad.

Working with him on the recruiting and training is new Harrison assistant coach Dave Gloetzer, who was a state placer when he wrestled for the Hawks.

Football, curiously enough, has hurt wrestling through the years because of the strength of the program.

"It's a given they're going to play into Thanksgiving weekend," Tharnish said. "It's a reflection on the good football tradition. I think they've played to Thanksgiving nine of the last 10 years."

"I'm working on recruiting Chris Channam, a junior tailback, and I hope to get him. He'd wrestle at 162."

Another possible wrestler coming over from the football team is Francis Gojan — "if I can get him away from the grill."

Gojan's parents run a restaurant in Greentown and he works in the kitchen.

"I'd love to have him — if his parents let him get away from the grill long enough. He'd be a heavyweight. A big heavyweight."

NORTH FARMINGTON PREVIEW

North Farmington's wrestling team is very young also. Which means it has some learning to do before it grows up.

"As a team we're young," Raiders' coach Zaim Cummulaj said. "Our numbers are getting a little bit better than they were in the past."

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KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk


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THE WEEK AHEAD		
BOYS BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 13	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Saturday, Dec. 14	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 12
Liggett at Clarensville, 7 p.m.	Harrison Invitational, 8 a.m.	Madonia at Concordia, 7:30 p.m.
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.	Allen Park Invitational, 8 a.m.	
Franklin at Dearborn, 7 p.m.	Madonia Univ. Tournament, TBA.	Friday, Dec. 13
Fordson at Stevenson, 7 p.m.	S. Lynn Invitational, TBA.	(Owens Express Holiday Tourney)
Garden City at Crestwood, 7 p.m.	PREP HOCKEY	Clark St. vs. Flint Mott, 6 p.m.
RU at Farmington, 7 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 12	Owens Tech vs. Schoolcraft, 8 p.m.
Thurston at Taylor Kennedy, 7 p.m.	Churchill vs. D.H. Lahrer	Saturday, Dec. 14
Churchill at Midford, 7:30 p.m.	at Det. Skating Club, 8 p.m.	Owens Tech Tourney, 5 & 7 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 7:30 p.m.	Franklin vs. Birmingham	
Canton at Monroe, 7:30 p.m.	at Cranbrook Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.	WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
AA. Huron at Salem, 7:30 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 13	Thursday, Dec. 12
Flint Powers at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m.	Stevenson vs. W.L. Central	Madonia at Findlay (Ohio), 7 p.m.
Borgess at River Rouge, 7:30 p.m.	at Edgar Arena, 8 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 13
St. Agatha at Mt. Carmel, 7:30 p.m.	Franklin at Royal Oak, 8 p.m.	(Owens Express Holiday Tourney)
Franklin Road at Agaw, 7:30 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 14	Madonia at Findlay (Ohio), 7 p.m.
W. Highland at Pky. Christian, 7:30 p.m.	RU vs. B.H. Andover	Friday, Dec. 13
(Titan Tip-Off Tourney at St. Joseph)	at Redford Ice Arena, 1 p.m.	St.craft at Sullivan Classic, TBA.
Grace vs. Ill. Lutheran, 6 p.m.	Stevenson vs. Milford	Saturday, Dec. 14
Huron Valley vs. Mich. Lutheran, 6 p.m.	at Lakeland Ice Arena, 6:30 p.m.	Bluffton (Ohio) at Madonia, 3 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 14	Redford CC vs. Riv. Gaa. Richard	TBA at Sullivan Classic, TBA.
Titan Tip-Off Tourney, 5:30 & 7 p.m.	at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.	TBA - times to be announced.

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