

Blazers overcome Mustangs in finals

By NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Winning the Catholic League A-B Division volleyball title has become predictable at Livonia Ladywood.

Evon Sal Malek, the school's athletic director, took a chance the seventh-straight title was imminent and had T-shirts printed proclaiming the feat prior to the championship match Feb. 19 at Madonna University.

Malek's gamble wasn't in vain. The Blazers struggled but eventually were able to put away a feisty Birmingham Marine team, 15-13, 16-18, 15-3.

"It is challenging to keep the tradition alive here," said senior Jenny Lachapelle, who came up big for Ladywood with 10 kills and three aces. "I'm happy because in my three years on the varsity I've helped to keep the tradition alive."

Ladywood (42-7-1), whose only loss in a regular-season match during its seven-year reign has been to Marian, was taken to the limit by the Mustangs. Making the Marian effort even more impressive was the fact it played without its setter, Erin Mathews, who had mononucleosis.

"We played with a brand new

VOLLEYBALL

rotation; and I thought we played miraculously," Marian coach Patty Kopmeyer said.

"We went into a room before the game and talked about how everyone felt. We were a little nervous, and this was the largest crowd we played in front of all year. But we discussed the fact we had no pressure on us and all the pressure was on Ladywood."

The Mustangs (27-10-2) didn't appear to be nervous as they jumped to a 4-0 lead. The Blazers responded by scoring eight unanswered points. After a pair of kills by Lachapelle, Ladywood led 12-8.

The Blazers seemed to have the game won after a kill by Mary Lu Homme made it 14-11, but Marian closed the gap to a point.

Ladywood won it with a kill by Sarah Poglits that appeared to be past the end line, according to Kopmeyer.

"I thought we got ripped off on that call," Kopmeyer said. "They had a better look at the shot from where they were sitting, but one call never should make a game," Ladywood coach

Tom Teeters said.

Behind the powerful hitting of senior Kristy Kreher, the Mustangs jumped to a 7-1 lead in the second game.

The Blazers gradually came back and eventually took an 11-10 lead after a Poglits tip. Marian countered with four straight points - two on Kreher kills - and led 14-11.

Jenny Young got Ladywood back in the game with a pair of kills as the lead saw-sawed until a Kreher block tied it at 16-16. Two Ladywood shots sailed out as Marian stunned Ladywood with an 18-16 defeat.

"This is a great Marian team with great players and they change something on us every time we play them," Teeters said. "Tonight, they were doing match-up blocking, where they put their big hitters and blockers of our big hitters and blockers. I didn't adjust to that strategy fast enough."

Before the decisive third game, the Blazers were calm, according to Homme.

"We wanted to work harder and keep our confidence and spirits up after that game," said Homme, who had six kills. "No one panicked. Everyone got

together and played well, and it was truly a team effort."

After falling behind 2-1 on a pair of spikes by Liz Bellwood, Ladywood took control. Poglits and Lachapelle supplied much of the offense as the Blazers broke out to an 11-3 lead. After a pair of kills by Young made it 13-9, Ladywood won its title on Lachapelle's kill and a net violation by Marian.

"I wasn't sure if we had a mental letdown or what in the third game," Kopmeyer said. "We fell behind and just never played. I thought we played very well in the first two games and were aggressive. You just have to make sure you're always at the top of your game and never flat against Ladywood. They always play with cool heads."

"They came out strong, but we eventually took control like we always do," Homme said.

Poglits paced the Ladywood attack with 13 kills in 27 attempts. Young added 12 kills and four aces; Katie Brogan recorded 15 digs.

Kreher was dominant for Marian, collecting 14 kills in 30 spikes. Senior Katrina Lehman added eight kills, and Teresa Carlesimo had 12 assists.



Setting up the attack: North Farmington senior setter Diana Gustkey puts the ball up where a teammate can spike it Monday in the match with Farmington.

Volleyball from page C1

combined to serve the final four points, two coming on kills by Rita Hinde and Melinda DiVito. Ironically, the final point was by default. The ball was going to fall on the North side for a side-out, but a Farmington player committed a net violation, giving

the Raiders a point instead. "The (winter) break hurt us," said Farmington JV coach Anne Badynee, who was filling in for coach Lisa Waless, who was ill. "When we get back in the swing of things, we're going to see a big improvement with these kids."

"We struggled with serving and transition, going from offense to defense. That hurt us, but once again that's a part of practice."

The Raiders scored no more than two points at a time in the second game, and many of their big plays were made on defense for sideouts. But North also finished at key times with the serve.

"We were worrying about being safe (in earlier matches), sometimes too safe," Diebold said. "Today we were swinging and going for it."

"A good example was Lynn Livernois. I asked her to do something specific; she did it and it was a point. She sees the court real well."

The first game was tied at 8-8, but North took the lead on Callahan's serve. An ace gave the Raiders a 10-8 lead, and Minna Hinde served the final five points, which included a pair of aces. Rita Hinde and DiVito had

kills for points in that decisive stretch, too.

"That's her job, to go in and serve, and she did her job," said Diebold. "Marian Hinde is Farmington's Melissa Mytty served two aces in the second game, Villemonte, Callahan and DiVito one each. Livernois had three kills, Callahan two and Lori Schehr, Burcar and Sarah Kay one apiece each. Villemonte recorded two kills for the Falcons, Maus and Mytty one each.

Despite the loss, Badynee is optimistic about Farmington's future since the Falcons have only two seniors on their team.

"One thing about this team is we have excellent athletes on this team," she said. "Once we get a chance to pull it all together, I think we're going to see some excellent volleyball."

Emilie Villemonte had a great game and so did our setter, Meghan O'Rear. (O'Rear) did a good job of getting to a lot of balls that were hard to get to."

FARMINGTON HILLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PUBLIC NOTICE

OPEN REGISTRATION & OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW HOCKEY PLAYERS FOR THE FALL/WINTER 1998/99 SEASON IS SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1998 AT 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON ONLY AT THE FARMINGTON HILLS ICE ARENA 3500 S MILE RD. FARMINGTON HILLS, MI.

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ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next forty-five (45) days for the following products and/or services:

- Police Car Conversions
- Car Wash Service
- VHS Tapes
- Confined Space Equipment

Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Central Services Department. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specification.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, either in part or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

Published: February 26, 1998

CITY OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FARMINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission of the City of Farmington, Oakland County Michigan, will meet at 8:00 a.m. Monday, March 9, 1998, in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, to hear all interested persons on a request for a Special Exception Use Permit for the Farmington American Legion Groves-Walker Post 346 parking lot. The use would be for motor vehicle driver basic skill testing on the back one-third of the property, primarily the western part. The hours of use would be between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The testing would be done by a party independent of the American Legion.

Drawings of the proposed area of use are available for review in the City Manager's office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, prior to the public hearing date.

All interested persons will be given the opportunity to provide written or oral comments at the above time and place.

PATSY K. CANTRELL
City Clerk

Published: February 26, 1998

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT TYPE OF BID

a. Notice is hereby given that Clarenceville School District will receive sealed bids for the purchase of furniture, including: student desks, student chairs, cafeteria tables, art tables, and file cabinets.

RECEIPT OF BIDS

a. Bids will be received at: Clarenceville Schools Board of Education Office 20210 Middlebelt Road Livonia, MI 48152 on Tuesday March 10, 1998, until 2:00 p.m., local time.

b. Bids will be opened publicly in the Clarenceville Schools Board of Education Office, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI 48152 at 2:00 p.m., local time on March 10, 1998 and read aloud.

BIDDING DOCUMENTS AND SPECIFICATIONS

a. The bidding documents and specifications can be obtained at the Clarenceville Schools Board of Education Office, 20210 Middlebelt Road, Livonia, MI 48152.

Published: February 26 and March 1, 1998

WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 26
Wayne at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Southgate, 7 p.m.
Catholic League Semifinals
R.O. Shrine vs. East Catholic
Bishop Borgessa vs. Notre Dame at Schoolcraft CC, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
(Western Lakes Playoffs-1st Round)
John Glenn at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 27
Clarencville at Luth. Wld, 7 p.m.
Andover at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Crestwood at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Trenton at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Canton, 7:30 p.m.
(Western Lakes Playoffs-2nd Round)
W.L. Central at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Farmington at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Salom at Churchill, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2
(CHSL Meets at U-D's Calihan Hall)
C-D Division championship, noon
East-West championship, 2 p.m.
AA-Central championship, 4 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 26
(WHAQ Playoffs-1st Round)
(A) Aquinas at (B) Algonquin, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28
A-B winner at Spring Arbor, TBA.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, Feb. 27
Whalers at Cobles, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28
Whalers at Erie Otters, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 2
Whalers at Erie Otters, 7:30 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AT LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA (Host)
Friday, Feb. 27: Livonia Churchill vs. University of Detroit-DeWitt, 3:30 p.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. Livonia Franklin, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, March 7 vs. Trenton district champion at Trenton's Kennedy Arena.)

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP'S COMPUWARE ARENA (Host)
Friday, Feb. 27: (A) Birmingham Bluffs at Rice vs. (B) Redford Catholic Central, 6 p.m.
Monday, March 2: Southfield United vs. Redford Union, 8:30 p.m.; Royal Oak United vs. A-D winner, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 4: Championship final, 9 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final Saturday, March 7 at Compuware Arena vs. Grosse Pointe South district champion.)

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Feb. 28
USA Deacon Tournament, 9:30 p.m.
Metro Tourney at Luth. North, 9 a.m.
Western Lakes Tournament at Harrison, Farmington, 9 a.m.

BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Feb. 28
Western Lakes meet, prelims at Plymouth Salem, 1 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 27
Western Lakes diving prelims at Plymouth Salem, 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 28
WLAA Finals at Salom, noon.