# Falcons earn silver in district tourney

By BILL PARKER STAFF WHITEH bparker@oc.homecomm.net

Give some credit to the Fal-

cons.

The Farmington volleyball team entered Tuesday's Class A district volleyball tournament at Wallad Lake Central with just one victory to brag about.

The Falcons returned home with another win and a little more confidence in their stride after finishing as runners-up in the tournament to the host and No. 5-ranked Wikings.

Farmington ruffled some feathers on the other side of town when it knocked off rival North Farmington, 15-1, 15-10, in the semifinals. The Falcons pushed the Vikings to the brink in game two of the finals before falling, 15-17. Central had won the first game, 15-3.

Conch Ann Badynee was elated with her team's overall performance on the day.

"To end on a note like this is really great," she said, "I can't nik for anything else. We've pleyed as a team all year, but we struggled. The last couple of weeks we seemed to be coming together."

After dropping the first game of the championship match, the Falcons could have errumbled. Instead, they put a little fear in the Vikings.

A kill by senior Emilie Villemente and back-to-back aces by junior Tricia Krause helped the Falcons could have errumbled. Instead, they put a little fear in the Vikings.

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A kill by senior Emilie Villemente and bamie Jakacki, but the rest of the team will tone four seniors in Kristen Brown, Brym Makt and starters Villemonte and damie Jakacki, but the rest of the team will texture.

Will calked Western defeated the desired the texture of the texture of

Farmington Harrison in the opening round of the tourns-

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#### **VOLLEYBALL**

ment, 17-15, 15-6. Central beat Western in the other semifinal match, 15-3, 15-5.

#### 8th title in row for Vikes

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Walled Lake Contral might
have been a little stale following
a two-day snow delay in the
Class A district volleyall tournament it hosted Monday. But
not stale onough to miss the
opportunity to win its eighth
straight district title.
Central rollod past rival
Walled Lake Western in the
semifinals, 15-1, 15-10, then disposed of pesky Farmington in
the finals.
"Considering the schedule get
switched around like it did, I
thought we played pretty well,"
Central cacch Mike Lindstrom
said. "We were really ready to
play Saturday, but the snow
came."
The district championship

said. "We were really ready to play Saturday, but the snow came."

The district championship gives the No. 6-ranked Vikings a berth in Saturday's Class A regional tournament at Walled Lake Western.

After taking care of Western in the somis, the Vikings (46-8-1) thumped Farmington in the opening game of the finals. Farmington took a quick 3-0 lead before senior Becca Saldana answered for Central by serving 16 straight points.

Seniors Amanda Mendenhall and Leah Douglas sparked the run with three kills each, and the Vikings benefitted from six Farmington errors.

As the Vikings strolled confidently into the second game, the Falcons regrouped. Farmington again took an early lead, but this time the Falcons didn't crumble. "In the second game, we kind of lost our focus," Saldana said. "We had to change the momentum."

Saldana finished with 33 assists, five kills and three nece for the day. Douglas had 16 kills, six blocks and five digs. She also served 13 times with no errors Mendenhall added 18 kills and three blocks.

three blocks.



On the attack: Farmington's Emilie Villemonte delivers a spike at the Central defense in the district final.

The Vikings hope to get past team has going for it is that we he regional tournament, somehing they haven't done since of other teams' weaknesses. The Vikings hope to get past the regional tournament, something they haven't done since advancing to the state quarterfinals in 1996. The Viking lost to Birmingham Marian in the regional final last year and were upset by Lapeer East in 1997. \*\*Because of the high expectations, sometimes it makes it tough on you, \*\*Suldana said.\*\* I think this team is just as telented as past teams. The thing this.

of other teams' weeknesses."
Central meets Farmington
Hills Mercy (34-10) at noon Sattrady in one semifinal match.
"We have been playing pretty
woll," Lindstrom said. "We
played really well last week at
the league tournament, but we
wore a little slow today, We'll
laby better Saturday, or we'll be
in trouble.".

ons, advance to Saturday's Class
Cregional to play host Almonte
The first emiliand match pits
Grosse Pointe Liggett at 5 p.m.
tuteran Westland plays the
best team at 6:30 p.m.

Clarenceville ousted
Livenia Clarenceville made it
to the finals of the Class C dis-

### Volleyball from page C1

Marian have helped the Marlins to believe in themselven, accord-ing to Moeller.

The difference is last year I

think we were satisfied winning the district, and I'm not sure we

think we vert was a common to sure we believed in our hearts we could go out and beat the big teams, he said.

"Whether or not we will remains to be seen, but they've done it enough now I think the belief is there they can do it. They know they'll have to have a great day to beat (Central), but they've had great days."

Junior Carrie Branklewicz led the Marlins with 16 kills in the district, and seniors Carry Czech and Knitlyn Jarzembowski cantributed seven each. Jarzembowski also had nine blocks and junior Nikie Downing five aces.

bowski also had nine blocks and junior Nikie Downing five aces.
"That's significant," said Moeller of the kill totals by Czech and Jarzembowski, "because we felt we were getting too much out of our power positions and weren't mixing the ball enough."

Mooller of the kill totals by Czech and Jarzembowski. Decause we felt we were getting too much out of our power positions and weren't mixing the ball enough. The more pressure we put on them in practice the less likely item are to cave in a game situation. The good area they understead against Lathrup, which defeated Southfield in a sentificant match, 15-0, 15-4, but recled off seven straight points on ite fourth rotation with junior Meghan Octonor on the service line for a 9-2 lead. Downing served the next two and junior Amy Miller the final four.

In the second game, the Chargers secred four consecutive were since. The second game, the Chargers secred four consecutive would be served the chargers secred four consecutive with junior Michelle Coe to take a 4-3

lend. Lathrup was ahead 6-4 and 7-5 before Mercy made a come-

rend. Learn.

To before Mercy made a comeback.

We were giving it a good
fight, trying to stay in the
game. Lathrup coach Lies
Moore said. We were looking
forward to a third game, but we
couldn't pass the ball; we could

n't get the ball to the setter."

Downing served seven straight
points, including a pair of aces,
as the Marlins roared from
behind to take the lead. It took
Mercy two more rotations to finish the game and match.

"It hought we let down a shade
for three or four points; we
backed of just a touch," Moeller
said.

"Before we would have been

"Before, we would have been too complacent. I didn't think it would happen (this time). We had 10 great practices in a row. That tells me semething; they've

#### Warriors best in district?

Luthern Westland captured its first district title in school history Tuesday with wins over host Detroit Communication Media Arts (16-6, 15-4) and Detroit Benedictine (16-8, 15-1). The Lady Warriors, Metro-Conference tournament champions, advance to Saturday's Class Cregional to play host Almont. The first semificial match pits Southfield Christian against Grosse Pointe Liggett at 5 pm. Lutheran Westland plays the host team at 6:30 p.m.

trict Saturday at Southfield Christian before losing to the host Eagles, 15-10, 15-4. Clarenceville blasted Bishop Borgess, 15-1, 15-0, in the semis as Danielle Sledz served all 15

as Daniello Sledz served all 16-points of the second game, notch, ing 10 aces.

The Trojans (33-14-3) were hurt against the host Eagles-when middle hitter Kristina Skrela reaggravated a hyperex-tended knee and had limited

tended knee and had limited mobility. Rachael Koernke had 15 digs against the host team while Sledz put down eight kills. Set-ter Nicole Kasparian had 19 assists.

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