

FARMINGTON FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

OCC sweeps S'craft

The Oakland Community College women's volleyball team ended the MCAA Eastern Conference season Thursday with a win over Schoolcraft College.

OCC defeated the Ocolots by scores of 15-13, 15-9, 13-15, 15-6 to improve its record to 18-19-5 overall and 6-7 in the conference.

The win means OCC finishes fourth in the conference and marks the first time in school history the Lady Raiders have swept Schoolcraft in the season series.

Jessica Regentin had 22 kills, six digs, one solo block and five block assists. Sheri Dumbrell had seven kills and 11 digs. Sarah Partlow had 23 set assists and 14 digs; Jennifer O'Connor had 21 set assists, six kills and 12 digs; Brynn Allyn had six kills and 12 digs.

OCC is idle until Thursday when it competes in the NJCAA regional tournament in Grand Rapids.

The Lady Raiders won't know their opponent or the time of the match until Monday night.

College cross country

The Oakland Community College women's cross country team finished second in the MCAA meet and fourth in the NJCAA regional Friday at Grand Woods Park in Lansing.

Jessica Smith (Auburn Hills) was 16th in the MCAA (22:47), Devon Kennedy (Farmington Hills/Harrison) 16th (23:43), Tanaha Baker (West Bloomfield) 19th (24:21), Kristen Heiob (Walled Lake Western) 20th (24:30) and Debbie Sherman (Lake Orion) 21st (28:58). Smith was 26th in the region, Kennedy 28th, Baker 31st, Heiob 32nd and Sherman 34th.

The men's team was third in the MCAA and fourth in the region. Lansing CC won both meets by claiming the first five places.

Mike Camerilli (Highland/Lakeland) was 11th in the MCAA with a time of 28:09 for five miles. Mike Richardson (Lake Orion) 13th (28:28), Fred Herschelman (Ortonville) 18th (28:50), Kevin O'Reilly (Birmingham) 19th (28:54) and Dan McKinney (Southfield/Lathrup) 22nd (29:45).

In the regional, Camerilli was 13th, Richardson 19th, Herschelman 26th, O'Reilly 27th and McKinney 33rd.

The OCC men advance to the NJCAA Division II nationals Saturday, Nov. 14, in Overland Park, Kan.

Red Wings benefit

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni team will go up against Nick's Dream Team in a benefit hockey game on Sunday, Nov. 15, at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth. Tickets are \$5 per person.

The game will benefit the Plymouth Figure Skating Club, the Kormanos Cancer Institute and the Konstantinov/Mnatsakanov Fund. Those attending are also asked to bring one item of useable hockey equipment for the NHL/USA Hockey Diversity Task Force.

Pre-game festivities begin at 3:30 p.m., with the game from 4-6 p.m. For more information, call Sharon Stanzak at (248) 349-6030.

Whalers whip Windsor

The Plymouth Whalers continued their winning ways by taking a 6-2 victory over Windsor Thursday on the road.

Harold Druken and David Legwand scored on the Whalers first two shots of the game. Druken, the Ontario Hockey League's leading scorer, finished with two goals.

Legwand, meanwhile, scored a pair himself and set up another by Tomek Valtonen for another. Julian Smith had the Whalers' other goal.

Plymouth now stands 12-2 and leads the OHL's West Division by 11 points over Sault Ste. Marie.

The Whalers play Kitchener on the road tonight, then host a pair, starting Friday, against Owen Sound and Sarnia. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

Football fund-raiser

The Farmington High School Football Backers is seeking artists and crafters for its Ninth Annual Art & Craft Show on Saturday, Nov. 14.

The show will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Farmington High School. Artists and crafters who want to participate should call Denise Bush at (248) 478-2397.

It's official; Hawks co-champs!



Farmington Harrison is co-champion of the Western Lakes Activities Association in girls basketball after beating Walled Lake Western Thursday, 60-40. The Hawks share the crown with Plymouth Salem. Both finished 10-1.

It's been a decade since a Farmington school has been able to put a Western Lakes Activities Association girls basketball championship banner on its gymnasium wall.

In high school terms, that's nearly three generations of athletes come and gone.

Farmington Harrison broke that drought Thursday night by defeating host Walled Lake Western, 60-40, to claim a share of the Western Lakes Activities Association championship with Plymouth Salem.

"This is the first time a Farmington team has been a division or league champion since 1988," said Harrison

coach Pete Mantyla, noting it was a Greg Kapling's North Farmington team that won a WLAA Lakes Division title a decade ago. In those days, teams played everyone in their division twice.

"This is a great group of kids who've really worked hard," Mantyla said. "They've been in a lot of big games over the last three years. It's really neat to see the seniors leave as league champions."

Harrison removed most of the doubt in the first period with a 15-6 margin and put the game away in the second half by adding another eight points to the margin with a 20-12 third quarter.

The Hawks improved to 13-4 overall

and finished the WLAA regular season with a 10-1 mark.

Harrison will be the top seed in the tournament based on its win over co-champion Plymouth Salem, but the WLAA playoff format has the Hawks playing at No. 8 Livonia Stevenson in the first round Thursday.

Ali Ault led Harrison with 15 points. Kelly Taylor scored 14; junior Emily Jackson added 11 and Becky Zak eight. Taylor had six assists and Jackson five.

Jennifer Fischer scored 19 points and Heather Gibson added seven for the Warriors, 2-15 and 2-9.

"I'd like to give credit to a lot of people," Mantyla said. "This is the first group that has played all the way through for (assistant) Tom Negoshian, and I can't tell you how important it is to have two varsity coaches in practice every day. He's loved over here."

Mantyla has built a sound program with the Hawks, who were not present-

son favorites to claim a co-championship.

"Internally," he said, "the expectations really didn't change. Externally, I don't think as much was expected out of us, since we had lost four three-year starters."

"Then, when Ari Ault went down with her knee injury four games ago, we really had to depend on being a team and playing a system."

"I want to give credit to my three senior captains, Ari, Ali and Charlotte Blashfield. They've just been relentless competitors all year long and great leaders in that regard."

"It's been a very low-maintenance team. They show up every day, play hard and compete. Big problems become little problems."

"It's been special the way the kids can fight and argue — and then just leave it in the gym afterward."

No quarrel about one thing, though. The championship was well earned.

Raiders edge Spartans in 38-36 win

McComb makes winning basket in final seconds

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER
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When Livonia Stevenson's Lindsay Gusek scored the tying basket with 15 seconds remaining Thursday, there was little doubt which North Farmington player was going to have the ball.

The Raiders wanted the ball in the hands of Samantha McComb, who made the winning shot with just over three seconds left to give host North a 38-36 victory in girls basketball.

BASKETBALL

"We knew who was going to take the last shot for them," Stevenson coach Wayne Henry said, adding McComb dribbled out of two double-teams. "That's why the girl has the reputation she has; she can make plays."

McComb tried to penetrate from the wing, dribbled down low, worked her way along the baseline and banked a close shot off the glass.

The Spartans used a timeout to stop the clock with two seconds on it, but they only had time to inbound the ball and have a desperation attempt. The Raiders had called a set play, but McComb, who scored a game-high 19 points, was forced to improvise.

"It was a little bit of both," she said. "We started off with double screens, and I kinda made my way into the paint."

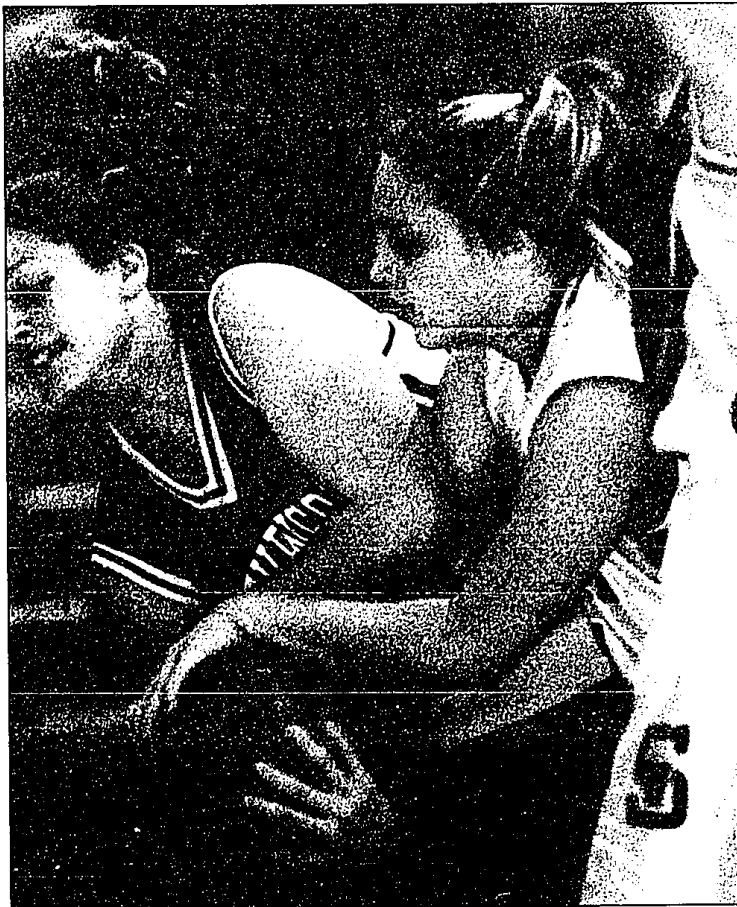
"I had to either draw a foul or get a shot up there, because I was in so close to the basket. I ended up being open. It took me about 13 seconds to find an opening, so it wasn't an easy shot."

Katie Vihetelc added nine points for the Raiders, who tied Walled Lake Central for fifth place (6-5) in the final Western Lakes Activities Association standings but will be the No. 6 seed in the tournament. The Spartans (5-6) tied Livonia Churchill for seventh place and will be seeded eighth.

In the first round of the playoffs Thursday, Stevenson will be host to No. 1-seeded Farmington Harrison, and Plymouth Canton goes to North.

"We wanted to win this game really

Please see RAIDERS, D2



Court battle: North Farmington's Brittany Vihetelc (right) struggles with Stevenson's Kate LeBlanc for possession of the basketball Thursday. The Raiders will be the No. 6 seed in the tournament.

Warriors finish 8-1 but will miss playoffs

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake Western's football team had more weapons at its disposal Friday night than the U.S. infantry, and it used that balanced attack to throttle rival Walled Lake Central in the final game of the season for both teams.

Three different players broke big scoring plays in the first quarter alone, launching the Warriors to a 55-6 victory at Walled Lake Central's Tom Evans Stadium.

The Warriors finish 8-1 on the season with their only loss being a 35-13 setback to the top-ranked team in Class A, Farmington Harrison.

At the conclusion of the game, the Warriors had hopes of qualifying for the Class AA state playoffs but just missed a post-season berth by finishing fifth in their region. The top four teams in each region

FOOTBALL

qualify for the playoffs.

"They lit it up. The inferno was burning," said Western coach Chuck Apay, who is retiring as head coach after posting a 104-94-1 record in 21 years at the helm of the Western program.

"We knew what we had to do, and we took care of our business. We didn't make it (into the playoffs), but we had a great season. We won't cry; we're not whiners. We're Warriors and we don't cry."

Senior Eric Sage started the rout Friday when he broke Western's second play from scrimmage for a 63-yard touchdown. Luciano Gonzalez nailed the first of his seven extra point kicks on the night for a quick 7-0 lead.

Junior quarterback Chris Payton broke free on an 81-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter, and senior running back Dave Johnson (12 carries for 160 yards) scored on a 60-yard run with 51 seconds left in the first quarter as the Warriors rolled to a 21-0 lead.

"They had us out-manned," said Central coach Darrell Harper, whose team finishes the season at 3-6. "I thought we played pretty good defense, but they broke too many big plays."

"I give Western a lot of credit. Mike Zlobski runs their strength and conditioning program, and the results are very evident in their kids."

"They're really come a long way, and you can see it on the field. We need to do something like that here at Central. We're making progress. We're on the right track."

Please see WARRIORS, D6