

Farmington 2nd in MCC tourney

VOLLEYBALL

Farmington High made it to the championship match of the Macomb Community College volleyball tournament, but it lost to the Grosse Pointe North in the final Saturday, 14-16, 10-16.

The loss was doubly disappointing for the Falcons, who had beaten the Norsemen in the first match of the day in pool play, 15-6, 15-4.

Farmington played volleyball for 10 straight hours with no rest between its semifinal match and the final, according to coach Alex Perrin.

Because of the way the schedule was arranged, North did have a rest prior to the championship contest, however.

The Falcons had a 14-9 lead in the first game of the final. "By the second game, we were just worn out," Perrin said.

In other pool play matches, Farmington defeated Dearborn Heights Annapolis, 15-8, 15-12, and Hamtramck, 15-5, 15-5.

The best match of the day, according to Perrin, was the quarterfinal with Marine City in which Farmington won both games by 16-14 scores.

The Falcons were down 4-0 in the first game and 9-0 in the second before Farmington rallied for nine straight points behind the serving of Julie Kimmel.

"We were losing 10-2 when she started the run," Perrin said. "We were leading 11-10 after her serve."

"It frustrated the other team. They think they have the game in hand and all of a sudden we have the lead."

Farmington advanced to the final round with a 15-7, 12-15, 15-9 victory over Harper Woods Regina.

Lynday Howard had 32 kills and 12 aces on the day to lead the Falcons, and Kimmel had 14 kills, 16 digs and 10 aces.

Jessi Halliday, who had 11 kills and nine digs, was the team's top serve receiver again, averaging 2.2 per opportunity.

"That's as straight forward a stat as there is in volleyball," Perrin said, adding three is the highest based on the number of options in the ensuing attack.

A perfect pass results in the setter having all three options open to her as to where and for whom she will set the ball.

"Anything above two is very good," Perrin said. "If you average anything above two, the team will be winning a lot of matches."

Randin Brown had 64 assists; Jocelyn Atkins had 20 kills and seven blocks (six solos) and Kelsey Guisbert 19 digs. Kimmel also served 48 points and Howard 40.

Farmington lost to Livonia Stevenson in a Western Lakes Activities Association match Monday, 15-13, 6-15, 8-15.

Howard recorded nine kills, Kimmel seven kills and 10 digs, Brown 20 assists and six service points and Jessica Janowicz four kills.

The Falcons are 0-1 in the WLAA and 9-8-3 overall.

"(The Spartans) defended the right side very well, which hurt us because we rely on that to get a lot of sideouts," Perrin said.

"That's like money for us, and they defended very well."

"When that's not working for us, there aren't a lot of options left. They're probably the strongest defensive team we've played against."

Clarenceville wins match

Junior Faye Croteau had 15 digs and 10 kills, propelling host Livonia Clarenceville (8-6) to a 15-3, 15-11 victory over Riverview Gabriel Richard.

Other standouts for the Trojans included senior Sarah McNeilly, who served 11 points, including eight aces, and six blocks; senior Ashley Pearson, 21 digs; and freshman setter Whitney Kubera, 10 assists.

On Saturday, Clarenceville finished 2-2 in the Macomb Community College Tournament, defeating Lutheran Westland (15-11, 15-10 and Ferndale (16-14, 15-10), while losing to Harper Woods Regina (4-15, 11-15) and Northville (11-15, 11-15).



Net result: Mercy's Tiffany Zair (23) and Anne Roosevelt try to block a return by Marian's Erin Poglits.

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"That's only because we were back on our heels," Storen said of the tip kills. "Usually, we do very well against it, because we have such a great defense, but tonight we were just back on our heels."

Marian's Sarah Cashen served two aces and Erin Poglits had two kills during a four-point stretch that gave the Mustangs an 8-4 lead.

Mercy rallied to tie, however, with a four-point run of its own with Anne Roosevelt (one ace) on the service line.

A fourth tip kill by Kuykendall gave the Marlins a 10-9 lead, but the Mustangs scored the last six points on their next five rotations.

Marian finished the game with a Cashen block, a Poglits kill and a Cashen ace for the final three points.

"The problem (early) was that we weren't getting a lot of balls up," Storen said. "We weren't playing our game — tenacious defense and digging everything up."

"We were waiting, not being proactive and, therefore, we weren't able to run our offense."

Ruhl was frustrated by his team's inability to do the same. Kuykendall, who averaged seven kills per game, had just four in the match.

"We just didn't put together an offense, and we gave Marian free balls and off-speed balls after they did," he said.

"We didn't cash in on any of their mistakes. (Mercy settled for) tips and off-speed shots — things the coach instructed them not to do. Hit to win!"

Marian looked sharper in the first game, offensively. Its hitters pounded the ball at the Marlins, preventing them from setting up an effective return and attack while producing points for the Mustangs.

"When we can dominate at the net, we can do very well," Storen said. "We have very strong hitters across the net."

Marian scored five straight points on Sarah Kreher's serves to erase a 1-0 deficit. The Mustangs had leads of 7-3, 11-4 and 14-5 before Danielle Melone served an ace for the final point.

Poglits finished with eight kills and Cashen six. Cashen also had nine assists and Katie Henry six blocks.

"We didn't run our offense well," Ruhl said. "A lot of credit goes to Marian and the way they played. Still, we have to do more with the athletic talent we have."

Ruhl hopes for a better showing by the Marlins when the teams meet again on Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Marian.

"We haven't played that poorly," Ruhl said. "The upside is I'd like to play them when we're running an offense. Hopefully, we'll get that chance later in the year."

TOURNAMENT RESULTS: The Marlins were 4-4 in eight games (four matches) and failed to make the playoffs Saturday during a tournament at Fraser High School.

Henry split with Lenawee Christian, defeated Grosse Pointe South, split with Fraser and lost to Utica Henry Ford II.

Chargers capture Wayne Invitational title

VOLLEYBALL

Six straight victories Saturday catapulted Livonia Churchill to the Wayne Invitational girls volleyball title.

The Chargers, 15-3 overall, defeated Dearborn Edsel Ford in the final, 15-7, 15-5.

Junior Sheila Gillies was Churchill's top attacker on the day with 35 kills. Beth Bushy added 24 kills. The Chargers also received outstanding

defense from senior Ashley Farkas.

Churchill downed Livonia Stevenson in the semifinals, 15-11, 15-8, as Heather Munn had

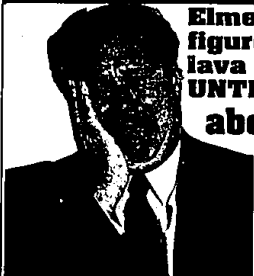
seven digs and Stephanie Dean seven service points.

Michelle Phillips served four aces and came up with some effective blocks as Churchill opened tournament play with a 15-6, 15-11 triumph over Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Duncan served eight points as Churchill bested host Wayne, 15-7, 15-8. Bushy racked up five kills and Dan added four as the Chargers best Edsel Ford in pool play, 15-9, 15-11. Sallie Kuraker served seven points in a 15-5, 15-1 win over Belleville.

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