

ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Farmington, Mercy girls make team; Hughes named top coach

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER
bemons@home.com.net

Consistency has been Mike Hughes' trademark during his 26 years as Livonia Churchill girls volleyball coach.

Hughes has endured only one losing season and has one state Class A championship (1990) and one runner-up finish (1979) to his credit.

This season, Hughes did one of his best coaching jobs as the Chargers, with only one senior on its roster, finished 32-11-6 overall.

Churchill captured the W & A Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, took the Wayne Memorial Invitational title and was a district and WLAA runner-up.

"This group had a lot of potential, but not a lot of experience," said Hughes, who was named Observer Coach of the Year. "We did very well considering two of our big kids were hurt. We didn't get to where we wanted, but we did a lot of growing and improving."

Hughes played in a men's volleyball league, but had little coaching experience when he took over the Chargers' program in 1975 from Roberta Kempki, who was laid off from her teaching job and later joined the Peace Corps.

That summer he attended a clinic put on by the U.S. Olympic coach and went around the area and tapped into the ideas of other high school coaches.

"They were very gracious and I got a lot of advice about girls in competitive sports," Hughes recalls. "I learned you had to

treat them the same, but with more complete explanations than the boys. And it worked."

Hughes, a Detroit Cooley High graduate, attended the University of Detroit for 2 1/2 years with aspirations of becoming an electrical engineer, but transferred to Wayne State where he earned teaching certificate and later a Masters in Education.

He is currently teaching social studies at Churchill.

Hughes plans to return next year for his 27th year as girls coach.

"With 11 seniors, one junior and a pretty good JV team coming up, I'm not looking forward to making cuts next year," he said. "That's the one thing I don't like about the job."

As for this year's All-Area squad, there are two repeat selections on the 12-member squad — Livonia Ladywood's Erin Bartee and Plymouth Salem's Jill Dombrowski.

Four different conferences are represented.

Introducing the 2000-01 All-Observable girls volleyball team.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Erin Bartee, Ladywood: The 5-foot-9 senior outside hitter had a total of 5.4 kills per game, a .342 attack percentage. She also recorded a total of 82 aces and 38 blocks (38 solo) and averaged 1.53 assists per game.

Bartee, headed to Hillsdale College, was the team's top server and is a two-time All-Observable first-team performer.

She is a three-year varsity player who also made All-Region and honorable mention All-State this year.

"Erin has the ability to do just everything, she can hit anywhere on the floor," Ladywood coach Larry Wyatt said. "She was our top serve receiver and our offense can't live without her."

Jill Dombrowski, Salem: One of only two repeat members from the 2000 All-Observable team, Dombrowski, a 5-10 senior, earned her place as the top setter in a WLAA conference stacked with good ones. She led Salem, the conference champion, in a half-dozen cate-

gories, including kill percentage (.268), service aces (61 in 63 games), blocks (32) and set assists (10.8 per game). She was the Rockets' MVP.

"She was by far the best setter in the league," said Salem coach Tom Teeters. "What she does best is she deals with aces that aren't on target and she can still make a play out of it."

"What was unique about Jill was she set from the middle-blocker position, and that's not an easy thing to do. She's a very capable hitter, a good server — she does many things well."

Dombrowski has committed to attend the University of Albany and play volleyball this fall.

Katie Drews, Stevenson: The 6-1 senior middle blocker made All-Western Lakes and All-Region honors. She also was the Spartans' MVP and was their best offensive player with total of 252 kills.

Drews, a scholar-athlete who will be attending Schoolcraft College, also came up with 79 aces and 66 solo blocks. She also had a 70 percent attack reception.

"Katie played a crucial part in how we played this season," Stevenson coach Billy Graham said of the UM Dearborn All-Tournament pick. "Her ability to read the opposing team both offensively as well as defensively contributed to her success."

"She knew and knows the game very well. Katie pulled us back into games, pulled us ahead in games and showed great confidence in tight situations and made the point, side-out or game-winning kill or serve. She will be greatly missed next year."

Shella Gillies, Churchill: The 6-foot middle blocker was a first-team All-WLAA pick this year while playing on an injured leg most of the year.

Gillies led the Chargers in total kills (240) and blocks (102). She also served at 90.2 percent efficiency and led the team in ace serves (52). Gillies also averaged 2.1 digs per game while passing at an 87.5 clip.

"Shella loves to run the slide and has the ability to put the ball on the floor and change the momentum of the game at any time," Churchill coach Mike Hughes said. "Churchill is looking forward to her presence in a veteran lineup next season."

Sarah Pack, John Glenn: The 5-7 senior setter orchestrated the Rockets' attack with a total of 298 assists and 46 aces.

Pack, who made All-Western Lakes, is a top scholar-athlete with a 4.3 grade-point average.

"Sarah was a huge part of our team," first-year Glenn coach Jennifer Smith said. "She had incredible hands and quick feet, what every setter needs."

"She could set any ball that was given to her."

Pack will play soccer this fall for Madonna University.

Melissa Buckshaw, Ladywood: The 5-6 senior led the Blazers with 1,231 total assists (9.7 per game) to go along with 253 total kills (.363 hitting percentage), 119 aces and 216 digs (1.7 per game).

Buckshaw, headed to DePaul (Ill.) University, is a three-year varsity player who made All-Catholic and All-Region honors.

"Melissa was our leader on the court, she ran the show," Wyatt said. "The benefits of being a three-year starter were apparent. She could lead the team in hitting percentage, but by far she was best in a setting role."

Amy Walker, Redford Union: Walker — 5-10 senior middle blocker — was a big part of RU's runner-up finish in the Mega White and a 32-0-0 overall record.

Walker, a three-year starter and the Panthers' captain, was first-team, All-Mega White had 468 kills on the season (4.5 kills per game), 143 blocks, 84 service aces and a .315 kill percentage.

"Amy was our best player and the glue that held our team together," said RU coach Rob Reese. "She was our go-to hitter, a great middle blocker and our best server returner and passer."

Katie Good, Salem: A solid athlete, Good's greatest attribute may have been her ability to contribute in so many different ways. A Junior, Good led the Rocks in kills (4.55 per game), was a decent blocker (second on the team in block assists, third in solos) and was one of their best defenders.

What was perhaps most surprising was that Good stands just 5-6.

"She was very flexible," said Salem coach Tom Teeters. "She could hit from the middle, left or right and from the back row. In many rotations, her ability to hit from the back row saved us."

"She's one of our primary serve receivers and one of our best diggers (second on the team with 205 digs in 63 games). But I think her hitting and blocking are her best skills — her consistency as a hitter filled a niche for us. Those skills and her jumping ability allowed us to match up with other teams."

Lynday Howard, Farmington: Howard — Please see ALL-OBSERVER, B6



Erin Bartee
Livonia Ladywood



Jill Dombrowski
Plymouth Salem



Katie Drews
Livonia Stevenson



Shella Gillies
Livonia Churchill



Sarah Pack
Westland John Glenn



Melissa Buckshaw
Livonia Ladywood



Amy Walker
Redford Union



Katie Good
Plymouth Salem



Lynday Howard
Farmington



Kristin Loidas
Farmington Hills Mercy



Faye Croteau
Livonia Clarencville



Ashley Williams
Plymouth Canton

FREE SEMINAR

How to Buy/Sell a Home

How much home can you afford?
What are your financing options?
Do you know the basic steps to the home buying/selling process?
You will need the answers to the common questions if you are considering one of the most important purchases of your life — buying a home.

This FREE seminar is provided to you as a public service of the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of REALTORS®. No real individual REALTORS® or real estate companies will be promoted; this is a strictly informational program. You will receive an excellent packet of information and your questions will be fielded by a panel of speakers. **Make your reservation today!**

You're Invited to a FREE Seminar on Home Buying

Wednesday, April 18, 2001 7 - 9 p.m.
Holiday Inn - Livonia West 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive
Call 248-1700 ext. 136 for reservations

SPONSORED BY

Western Wayne Oakland County Association of REALTORS®

Observer & Eccentric

It's all about you!

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

31555 ELEVEN MILE ROAD
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48335-1165
(248) 474-6115

ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Farmington Hills Purchasing Division will solicit sealed bids during the next thirty (30) days for the following products and/or services:

- Memorial Bricks
- Paper Yard Waste Cages
- Culverts

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

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 April 1, 2001

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDING CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 26, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bates at 7:30 p.m.

Council Present: Barnett, Bates, Brickner, Ellis, Grant, McLaie and Oliverio.

Council Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Whinnery, Directors Biaseili, Countegnan, Laseley, Fire Chief Marinucci and Attorney Donohue.

CITY COUNCIL TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Received verbal presentations on:
 - National League of Cities and Michigan Municipal League Conferences attended by the city council and the city's youth members.
 - Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County annual report for 2000.
 - Established Budget Study Session Meeting dates for May 7, 8, and 10, 2001.

APPROVED:

- 2001-02 Community Development Block Grant program plan and fund expenditures.
- Telecommunications Permit Agreement with Adelphia Business Solutions.
- Oakland County Solid Waste Plan.
- Ambulance Service Agreement with Community Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (CEMSI) on month-to-month basis.
- AT&T's request for exception to standards regulating cellular antennae at Michigan National Bank Headquarters, 2777 Inkster Road.
- Amendment to Consent Judgment for property located at Northwest corner of Northwestern Highway and Stonewood Court.
- Purchase orders to Santeac Consulting, Inc. for purchase of a Pavement Management Program in the amount of \$58,700.00.
- Special Assessment Agreements with residents on Inkster Road for sanitary sewer services.
- Agreement for Shared Storm Sewer Project on north side of 13 Mile with Franklin Hills Country Club.
- Collective bargaining agreement for Teamsters Local 214.
- Special event permit for Farmington Hills Hunt Club Subdivision Bike Parade on April 7, 2001.
- City Council Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2001.

NANCY BATES, Mayor
KATHRYN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Published April 1, 2001

ALL-AREA

ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAM

Erin Bartee, senior, Liv, Ladywood
Jill Dombrowski, senior, Salem
Katie Drews, senior, Liv, Stevenson
Shella Gillies, junior, Livonia Churchill
Sarah Pack, senior, West, John Glenn
Melissa Buckshaw, senior, Ladywood
Amy Walker, senior, Redford Union
Katie Good, junior, Plymouth Salem
Lynday Howard, senior, Farmington
Kristin Loidas, junior, F.H. Mercy
Faye Croteau, junior, Clarencville
Ashley Williams, Plymouth Canton

SECOND TEAM

Debbie Hill, senior, Redford Union
Karin Marshall, senior, Liv, Franklin
Kelley Hutchins, senior, Stevenson
Susan Duncan, junior, Liv, Churchill
Amy Pelling, senior, Wayne Memorial
Krissey Rose, senior, Lutheran Wald
Megan Kelly, senior, Redford Union
Maykulu Liebau, junior, Plymouth Canton
Kathy Jackson, junior, Plymouth Canton
Sallie Kurstke, junior, Liv, Churchill
Julie Kimmel, senior, Farmington
Gayle Tarnes, senior, Farm, Hanison

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Hughes, Livonia Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

Salem: Jordan Felician, Roline Llanas, Amber Williams; Canton: Courtney Jaimen, Mary Kryaks, Meghan Malar; N. Farmington: Meghan Cawman, Elina Pinta, Amy Barker; Westland: Kelly Taylor, Maggie Condren; Amber Bahr; Farmington: Jessi Hattley, Randin Brown, Christine Baker, Jessica Janowicz; Mercy: Tessa Kuykendall, Anne Roosevelt; Stevenson: Abbey Schrader, Dana White, Kristine Matheson, Abbey Larson, Ashley Detton; Clarencville: Kelly Wright, Beth Blushy, Heather Kuhn, Leslie Leggett; Plymouth: Cassie Gertley, Sarah Baxter, Kelli Zawacki; Ladywood: Desirae Betts, Megan Lentio, Laura Birgeadas, Kristen Bachor, Karen Caray; Greenwell: Ashley Pearson, Laura Maffi; Livonia: Stephanie Erickson, Kelly Prochnow, Erik Jung; Hamlet Valley: Rachel Zahn, Lauren Merlan; John Glenn: Jenny Lack, Kathleen Krutson, Lindsay Beard, Anne McChesney; Westland: Lucy Catalano; Wayne: Kristin Zima, Heather Sperry; Farmington: Jessi Walker, Pernice McNamee, Julie Gerschick; Dearborn: Debra Lusk, Leslie White; St. Agatha: Gina Seefeld, Jennifer Rinkoff; Garden Way: Tarryn McDaniel, Erin Frankiewicz.