

# Marlins best in district again

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## SOFTBALL

Farmington Hills Mercy took the first step toward making another run in the state softball playoffs Monday by winning its own district tournament.

The Marlins (31-7) will battle Livonia Churchill in the first game of the Division I regional Saturday at Farmington High School.

The 10 a.m. game will match the Catholic League champion against the Western Lakes Activities Association runner-up (23-9).

"From everything I hear, (Churchill junior Megan Mielak) is a quality pitcher, and our batters are going to have to be very prepared for her," Mercy coach Jack Falvo said. "She might be one of the best pitchers we've seen all season."

The Marlins, who can equal their win total from last year when they were state semifinalists by winning two regional games, defeated Livonia Stevenson in the district final, 6-1.

Winning pitcher Megan Fediuk limited the Spartans (12-16) to six hits in seven innings. She struck out seven and walked one.

Mercy scored five times in the second inning on three Stevenson errors, double by Anna Schneider and Lindsey Fediuk, and a walk.

"When you do that, it allows your defense to play and Megan to pitch her game and come at the batters," Falvo said. "It just worked out real well for us."

Schneider, Holly Van Cleave and Lindsey Fediuk collected

two hits apiece for the winners. Fediuk had two RBI on her double.

Carly Tracey and Sarah Roman chipped in RBI singles. Schneider had one RBI, too.

Losing pitcher Amanda Jankowski lasted 1½ innings before giving way to Julia Vecchioni, who allowed eight of the 13 Mercy hits over the final 5½ innings.

"Megan pitched a solid game and our defense played a fairly strong game," Falvo said. "Quite a few people contributed offensively, and we were able to get some runs on the board, which made life a whole lot easier."

"The big thing is our girls knew what they had to do and they did it."

In the first district game, Mercy defeated Farmington in six innings, 13-3.

Molly O'Malley, who allowed three runs on five hits, pitched two innings and was relieved by Fediuk, who worked the final four and got the win. Fediuk held the Falcons to two hits, fanned five and didn't walk anybody.

The Marlins had nine hits off Farmington pitcher Kelsey Guisbert, who walked six and struck out two.

Schneider went 2-for-4, scored two runs and had one RBI; Tracey hit a two-run single and scored twice, and Rachel Del Corvo and Erin Agony had RBI doubles.

Pinch-hitter Brooke Knox hit a two-run double for the Falcons,

and Sarah Goetzko had a pair of doubles with one RBI.

Meghan Young also had two hits, including a double, for Farmington; The remaining hits were singles by Danielle Lewis and Amy Paquette.

"Farmington made great improvement over the course of the season, and today they just played a whole different game," Falvo said.

"After the third inning, when we brought Megan in and quieted things down, our girls got their game together and took care of business."

"That gave us an opportunity to get the offense going. A few mistakes by Farmington and a few walks opened the door for us, and we took advantage of it."

**LAKELAND 4, N. FARMINGTON 1:** The Eagles scored four unearned runs Monday to defeat the host Raiders and win the Division I district tournament at North Farmington.

The Raiders took a 3-0 lead in the third inning on Jasmine King's two-out, RBI single. Emily Jaffe, Alissa Melvin and Alyssa Stanbridge had the rest of North's four hits. Lakeland scored two runs in the fourth when North "gave them five outs," Raiders coach Dave Brubaker said. The Eagles got two more in the fifth with the help of a throwing error.

North pitcher Beth Deniewicz allowed nine hits and one walk while striking out three.

The Raiders finished with a 23-13 record. "We didn't have (All-Oakener shortstop) Samantha McComb, so I thought we had a pretty successful season," Brubaker said. "I'm proud of the girls for doing as well as they did without her."

**N. FARMINGTON 1, W.L. WESTERN 0:** The Raiders won their district semifinal game Monday when Christina Colombo knocked in the only run with a sixth-inning single.

Deniewicz scattered five hits and struck out five. North also had five hits and made no errors. King was 2-for-3 and scored the run.

## State champs from page D1

That's what she has worked for all year, and we were thrilled she was able to take the title.

Borowiec found herself in a surprising situation Friday by trailing Easton, but she managed to rebound nicely on Saturday.

"I don't think she expected to shoot 81, either," Kowalski said. "Friday was the only time she's been beaten all year in an 18-hole tournament."

"I think she was determined; she was going to go out and play

the best golf she could. She started with a double bogey Saturday, but she birdied the second hole. She didn't let one bad hole ruin the whole day."

Cibrario was second for the Marlins and tied for ninth (90-85-175); Dinsmore had Mercy's third-best total (90-91-187) followed by McFawn (101-93-194) and Shimney (85-101-189).

"The girls knew they were ahead, but right to the end they were 'one shot at a time, play the golf course, do the best you can,'

and that was the attitude you have to have," Kowalski said.

"What was nice to see was this team continued to improve during the season and peak at the right time."

"It was gratifying to see the girls push each other, yet root for each other, to have the light bulb come on and have them realize 'Hey, we might be good enough to win the state title!'"

"That was really nice. They really put a lot of hard work into it."

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