

Spikers from page D1

has recovered from an ankle injury that kept her on the sidelines until recently, had four kills and three solo blocks.

"Meghan Young has been rising up and playing out of her mind match after match," Perrin said.

"(Atkins) is finally healthy and is a whole other player. She's hitting the ball with authority and is taking over the net when she's up there.

"In our lineup, she's our second middle. Deanna (Gauer) holds off their first middle, and

Jocelyn comes in and just dominates their second middle.

"Tonight she started playing like the Jocelyn we know."

Lisa Hellobueck had 10 service points, including three aces, and six digs; Randin Brown had four kills, 12 assists and nine digs.

Julie Kimmel was outstanding in the area of serve receive. "She's a player who does all the little things that don't show up in a box score," Perrin said.

Marian overcomes Mercy
Farmington Hills Mercy gave

visiting Birmingham Marian all kinds of problems early on in a Catholic League volleyball match Tuesday.

In fact, the Marlins took the first game, 16-14, and were intent on handing the Mustangs their first league loss.

However, Marian, ranked 10th in the latest Class A state rankings, bounced back for a pair of easy victories, 16-4, 16-6. White Mercy scored 16 points in the opening game, the Marlins could only deliver 10 in the final two games.

The win lifted Marian to 24-2 overall, including a perfect 7-0 mark in the league. Mercy fell to 6-2 in league play, with both of its losses coming to the Mustangs.

Marian was led by Junior Sarah Krueher, who had 13 kills and 20 digs, and senior Katie Henry, who chipped in 12 kills and four aces. Junior setter Erin Poglits had 32 assists.

Senior Danielle Melono (seven kills, 16 digs), sophomore Janine Peusch (three kills, four blocks) and senior Amanda Troy (five

kills, two blocks) also played key roles in the Marian comeback.

Marian plays this evening at Harper Woods Regina in its final league dual meet. The teams met Monday in Birmingham with the Mustangs logging a straight-game triumph, 16-5, 16-6. They were led by Henry's seven kills, 18 assists from Poglits and six kills from Krueher.

Gillies sparks Churchill
All-Observer middle hitter Sheila Gillies returned to the lineup Monday for the first time

this season as Western Lakes Activities Association co-leader Livonia Churchill rolled to a 16-1, 16-4 triumph at Farmington Harrison.

Churchill is now 20-3 overall and 5-0 in the WLA.

Gillies, who is recovered from a fractured ankle, served 11 straight points in the opening game.

Jenna Kirby recorded seven blocks in the win, while Michelle Phillips kept Ashley Burbridge had five kills each.

Clarenceville triumphs
Senior Faye Croteau had 10 kills and eight ace serves Monday, leading host Livonia Clarenceville to a 15-5, 15-3 victory over non-conference foe Taylor Baptist Park.

The host Trojans, now 16-9 overall, also got six blocks and five ace serves from senior Laura Nell.

Sophomore setter Whitney Kubera had 20 assists.

Gaines

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Gaines, who came into his own as a high school senior, was overlooked by many college programs in Michigan and the Midwest, but he's quite happy with his choice of school.

He made the AMC All-Rookie Team as a freshman and has played all four years at Vermont. He ranks fourth in career rebounding (772) and 17th in scoring with 1,114 points.

"It's been beautiful; I feel blessed that I've had the opportunity to play Division I basketball and against some of the best players in the country," Gaines said. "I just feel blessed.

"One thing I never want to do is look back. This is the place I'm supposed to be."

As one of only two seniors on the team and the only one who starts, Gaines is more than just an important player for the Catamounts. He's their leader.

"It's his team, no question about it, and he has handled the role admirably," Brennan said.


Gaines, who is studying for a degree in community development and applied economics with a concentration in small business and a minor in advertising, has made an impact beyond the basketball arena, too.

"He has a dignity about him that is beyond compare," Brennan said. "He's a wonderful student; he's a wonderful player and - simply stated - Burlington, Vermont, and the university are a much better place because he's there.


"He's an absolute joy to coach. He brings his lunch bucket every day; he never takes a day off. I have great personal regard for him. I just love the kid."


Gaines has more pressing items on his agenda at present, but he has thought about playing at the next level when his college career is done.


"First of all, I want to finish this year," he said. "I'll see what my options are as far as my basketball future. I'll see how it goes, but I definitely want to continue playing."



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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 31
Redford CC at St. Anne, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 1
N. Farmington at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Farmington at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Harrison, 7 p.m.
Hamtramck at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Rd., 7:30 p.m.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Jan. 31
Oak Park at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.
Livonia at Mercy, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 2
Schoolcraft at Western, 9 a.m.

PREP HOCKEY
Thursday, Jan. 31
Farmington United vs. W.L. Central at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 2
Farmington United vs. Northville at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 7:30 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Jan. 31
Farmington at Ply. Salem, 6:30 p.m.
Harrison at W.L. Western, 6:30 p.m.
John Glenn at N. Farmington, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 1
Redford CC, Roch. Adams at Bay City Western, 5 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Jan. 31
N. Farmington at Farm. United, 7 p.m.
Redford CC at A.A. Huron, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 2
Oakland County meet, 9 a.m.
Redford CC vs. Edsel Ford at Farm. Hills Mercy, 1 p.m.