

Keesling stars in final home meet

By DAN O'MEARA
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Tri-Farmington's Chelsea Keesling had her best performance in the final home meet of her four-year high school gymnastics career Thursday.

The Farmington Harrison senior finished second in the Division I all-around with an all-time best score of 37.35, leading Tri-Farmington to a second-place finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association meet.

"The day started out tough," she said. "It was my last home meet; I was crying early. It was the hardest national anthem I've had to stand through."

Keesling added she won't continue to compete in gymnastics beyond this season, though she plans to attend college. Thus, she will conclude 9 1/2 years in the sport at the state meet should Tri-Farmington qualify.

"We've had a great season," she said, adding the team has set numerous records. "My teammates have helped me get the scores I've had by cheering and motivating. It's not all an individual thing."

"Jeff Dwyer has been a big part of my success the last four years, too. We're going to miss each other."

Keesling's best event was floor exercise in which she was second with a personal best of 9.65.

"On floor, I just smiled and tried not to be nervous," she said. "The hardest part is smiling the whole time."

"The judges don't want to see

GYMNASTICS

you frowning; they want to see you happy. If you mess up, you just keep smiling; otherwise, they'll realize you made a mistake."

Keesling was third on beam — five hundredths of a point behind teammate Sara Houchins — tied for fifth on bars and eighth on vault.

"We're in a pretty tough conference, and placing on anything is pretty good," Keesling said. "My other events weren't bad. I've been nailing my back-tuck on bars lately, so that helps."

Keesling has also included the Taukaha trick in her vault routine this year to raise the level of difficulty and earn higher scores.

"Just doing the Tauk is a big step for me," she said. "I could have done it a couple years ago, but I played it safe. Now, you could say I'm taking a bigger risk, trying to go out doing the best I can."

Houchins tied for fifth place in Division I all-around, and Tri-Farmington's Clara Seymour was 10th. Lindsey Smith, Kristin Ulewicz and Natalie Olecko were in the top three in at least one Division II event.

"Houchins and Seymour had their typical meets," Dwyer said. "Lindsay had a good meet and got a couple medals. Kristin came through with three third places, and Natalie took third on bars. Aside from the top three people, a lot of others were recognized, too."

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

HOLOWICKI HOOP CAMP

Bernie Holowicki's All-Star Basketball Camp, for boys and girls ages 8-16, will begin June 9 at Madonna University.

There will be three sessions of boys camps, the first at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 9-13; the second at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 14-18; and the third at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. June 19-23. The cost for each is \$150.

The girls basketball camp will be July 10-14 at Madonna. Cost is \$140.

The camps will feature contests and prizes, a quality shirt for each participant, drills, camp awards, guest speakers, motivational and instructional videos, special games with the camp staff, a personal written evaluation, a camp championship tournament, and much more.

To register, call Bill Dorderian at (313) 937-0966 or Madonna University coach Bernie Holowicki at (734) 261-3346 (home) or (734) 432-5591 (Madonna).

WESTERN LAKES GYMNASTICS

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSN.
GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Feb. 23 at Farmington Training Center
Team standings: 1. Northville-Holt, 148.80; 2. Tri-Farmington, 145.40; 3. Brighton, 144.05; 4. Plymouth Salem, 141.05; 5. Hartland, 139.40; 6. Livonia Unified, 138.30; 7. Plymouth Garden, 135.25; 8. Walled Lake, 133.15; 9. Wayne-Westland, 123.30.

DIVISION I RESULTS
Vault: 1. Jennifer Sturgis (NN), 9.5; 2. Jenn Dion (B), 9.2; 3. Kent Monstrolle (B), 9.2; 4. Kara Weroniec (B), 9.15; 5. (tie) Lindsey Carlson (NN), Bethany Bartlett (PS) and Clara Seymour (TF), 9.10; 6. Chelsea Keesling (TF), 9.05; 9. (tie) Sara Houchins (TF) and Sara Wichowski (NN), 9.0.

Bars: 1. Sturgis (NN), 9.65; 2. Carlson (NN), 9.30; 3. Bartlett (PS), 9.25; 4. Wichowski (NN), 9.20; 5. (tie) Keesling (TF) and Weroniec (B), 9.15; 7. (tie) Seymour (TF) and Andie Wilson (B), 9.10; 9. Monstrolle (B), 9.05; 10. Kristen Pietila (B), 8.85.

Beam: 1. Wichowski (NN), 9.90; 2. Houchins (TF), 9.55; 3. Keesling (TF), 9.50; 4. Bartlett (PS), 9.45; 5. Carlson (NN), 9.25; 6. Sturgis (NN), 9.20; 7. Monstrolle (B), 9.00; 8. (tie) Weroniec (B) and Dion (B), 8.95; 10. Seymour (TF), 8.75.

Floor: 1. Abbey Korchak (H), 9.70; 2. Keesling (TF), 9.65; 3. Sturgis (NN), 9.50; 4. Houchins (TF), 9.50; 5. Dion (B), 9.30; 6. Weroniec (B), 9.25; 7. Carlson (NN), 9.20; 8. (tie) Bartlett (PS) and Monstrolle (B), 9.15; 10. (tie) Wichowski (NN) and Seymour (TF), 9.05.

All-around: 1. Sturgis (NN), 38.05; 2. Keesling (TF), 37.35; 3. (tie) Bartlett (PS) and Carlson (NN), 36.95; 5. (tie) Wichowski (NN) and Houchins (TF), 36.85; 7. Weroniec (B), 36.50; 8. Monstrolle (B), 36.40; 9. Dion (B), 36.30; 10. Seymour (TF), 36.00.

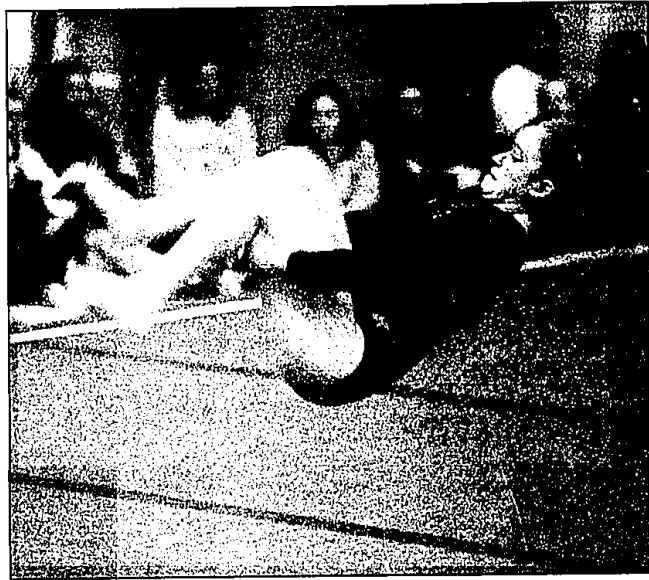
DIVISION II RESULTS
Vault: 1. Mary Moreau (LU), 9.20; 2. Lindsey Smith (TF), 8.95; 3. Kristin Ulewicz (TF), 8.80; 4. Kate Maxwell (H), 8.75; 5. (tie) Melissa Drake (PS) and Erin Sturm (H), 8.70; 7. Katie Edwards (LU), 8.60; 8. (tie) Ashley Aquino (PS), Colleen Johnson (H), Christina Niesonger (H), Lisa Thompson (LU), Sarah Chrzanowski (WL) and Kristi Osakowicz (LU), 8.55.

Bars: 1. Drake (PS), 9.00; 2. Moreau (LU), 8.75; 3. (tie) Aquino (PS) and Natalie Olecko (TF), 8.70; 5. Maggie Mills (NN), 8.65; 6. (tie) April Aquino (PS) and Megan Turner (H), 8.60; 8. (tie) Kelly Miller (H) and Amy Gursky (WL), 8.55; 10. Jill Rakovitis (PC), 8.45.

Beam: 1. Ashley Aquino (PS), 9.20; 2. Jennifer Mehl (NN), 8.10; 3. Edwards (LU), 8.05; 4. (tie) Moreau (LU) and Audra Ahern (PC), 8.00; 6. (tie) Miller (H), Turner (H) and Niesonger (H), 8.75; 9. (tie) Drake (PS), Johnson (H) and Sarah Snow (LU), 8.60.

Floor: 1. Sturm (H), 9.25; 2. Smith (TF), 9.20; 3. Ulewicz (TF), 9.00; 4. April Aquino (PS), 8.90; 5. (tie) Johnson (H) and Ahern (PC), 8.85; 7. (tie) Moreau (LU) and Edwards (LU), 8.80; 9. Drake (PS), 8.75; 10. Amanda Crawford (NN), 8.70.

All-around: 1. Moreau (LU), 35.55; 2. Ashley Aquino (PS), 35.10; 3. Drake (PS), 35.05; 4. April Aquino (PS), 34.55; 5. Edwards (LU), 34.40; 6. Miller (H), 34.20; 7. (tie) Johnson (H) and Turner (H), 34.05; 9. Niesonger (H), 33.95; 10. (tie) Sturm (H) and Gursky (WL), 33.75.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREZLER

Top gymnast: Tri-Farmington senior Chelsea Keesling had an outstanding meet Thursday, finishing second in the Division II all-around competition.

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held high. That's what we did.

"We beat three good teams — Hartland, Salem and Brighton. Those teams are scoring in the low 140s, too. We took second place and a trophy and, hopefully, we'll keep the momentum going in the regional."

Tri-Farmington will attempt to qualify for the state meet by finishing among the top three teams March 2 in the regional at Hartland. The state finals will be March 8-9 at Rockford High School.

"Going into the regional and state, I just like the odds," Dwyer said. "I think we can compete with any team in the state. We have a chance to win

states! I don't think we're that far behind any team that we can't pull it off."

Livonia's Moreau had a 35.55 total to finish ahead of three Salem girls — Ashley Aquino (35.10), Melissa Drake (35.05) and April Aquino (34.55) — and win the Division II all-around competition.

"I never really expected it, so I was pretty excited when they called my name," Moreau said, adding it was definitely a career highlight.

"It's the first time I've taken first in anything. I placed ninth in the state last year, but this is a little better, taking first in the all-around."

Moreau's score wasn't her all-time best, however. That remains a 36.25.

In the process of winning the all-around, she was first on vault (9.2) and second on bars (8.75); she tied for fourth place on beam and seventh on floor with a pair of 8.8 scores.

"Vault is always my best; that's what I specialize in," Moreau said. "Bars was one of my best scores, and I had one of my better floor routines. I hope to do my best at the regional."

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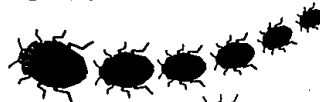
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