

Cranes stun Pioneers, Maples win title

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook long has been synonymous with excellence in the clutch when it comes to varsity tennis.

Coach Don Brown's high-flying Cranes underlined why Monday. That's when they traveled to Ann Arbor Pioneer and pulled out a stirring nonleague triumph, 4-3.

In the process, Cranbrook broke Pioneer's nearly four-year winning string at 54.

On Saturday, the hosting Cranes had an easier going. They handled Shady Side Academy from Pittsburgh, Pa., in Interstate Preparatory League (IPL) play, 4-1.

The double delight shot Cranbrook's records this spring to 12-1 overall and to 3-1 in the IPL derby.

The Cranes next will compete Saturday when they host Kiski Academy from Pittsburgh, Pa., in more IPL play. Match time is 10 a.m.

Cranbrook 4, Pioneer 3

SINGLES

1. Jeff Esterberg (C) defeated Mike Sperling 6-1, 6-3, 2. Jack Kaspera (C) defeated Ollie Oreska 6-4, 6-1, 3. Jim Parsons (C) defeated Slip Victor 6-4, 6-3.

DOUBLES

1. Scott Merwin, John Steck (P) defeated Josh Lermer, Mark Koryla 6-3, 6-2, 2. Tim Reyer, Walter Kao (P) defeated Howdy Perkins, Steve Holmes 6-2, 6-4, 3. Jon Victor, Chip Lindquist (C) defeated Steve DeMar, Marc Levy 10-8, 6-4.

Cranbrook 4, Shady Side 1

SINGLES

1. Jeff Esterberg (C) defeated Tom Beel 6-2, 6-2, 2. Jack Kaspera (C) defeated Karl Stark 6-2, 6-3, 3. Mark Jackson (SS) defeated Jim Parsons 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

DOUBLES

1. Skip Victor, John Lermer (C) defeated Mark Kennedy, Peter Gruelick 3-6, 7-6, 1-6, 2. Steve Holmes, Howdy Perkins (C) defeated Jim Parsons 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

For the third year in a row, Birmingham Seaholm has clinched the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA) dual-match varsity tennis championship.

Coach Alex McJannet's Maples reached that milestone Tuesday when they visited Royal Oak Kimball and emerged victorious, 5-2.

That kept Seaholm's unbeaten streak this spring in the SMA race alive at eight.

On Monday, the visiting Maples handuffed Hazel Park in another SMA encounter, 7-0. Seaholm now fashions an overall record this spring of 13-2.

On Wednesday, the Maples stayed on the SMA trail when they hosted Ferndale.

Seaholm 5, Kimball 2

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1. Bruce Braverman (S) defeated Mark Kennedy, Peter Gruelick 3-6, 7-6, 1-6, 2. Steve Holmes, Howdy Perkins (C) defeated Jim Parsons 4-6, 6-4, 7-6.

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1. Peter Hinkle, Sandy Dickerson (S) defeated Ron Hatala, John O'Keefe 6-2, 6-2, 2. John Potter, Pat Ploch (S) defeated Chris Eschler, John Heston 7-6, 6-1, 3. Jeff Munn, Dave Wood, Jeff Parigian (S) defeated Gary Bodel, Ken Thompson 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Seaholm 7, Hazel Park 0

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Bill Decker (CD) defeated Joan Drygalski 6-0.

1. Bill Meek, Barry Poo (CD) defeated Ronald Lettewicz, Mike Solcher 6-1, 6-0, 2. Lev Wood, Woods Robinson (CD) defeated Andrew Steg, Donna Bursi 6-2, 6-0, 3. Mark McGowan, Rob Snyder (CD) defeated Steve Penkala, John Hondinski 6-3, 6-1.

Moving back onto the victory express, West Bloomfield sparked this week in a couple of Wayne-Oakland League (WOL) varsity tennis matches.

On Tuesday, Coach Greg Kopek's visiting Lakers clipped Clarkson, 3-2. On Monday, they washed away Waterford Kettering, 4-1.

The good times realigned West Bloomfield's record this spring to 9-2 and to 6-1 in the WOL loop.

1. Mike Stocker (WB) defeated Steve Mausl 7-6, 6-2, 2. Nat Brewster (WB) defeated Tom Titaworth 6-0, 6-0, 3. Rob Vose (WB) defeated Allen Church 6-2, 6-4.

DOUBLES

1. Steve Rivkin, Cliff Deremo (WB) defeated John Gorrie, Ron Stottemeyer 6-0, 6-0, 2. Steve Jordan, Jamie Weinberg (WB) defeated Dan Safenstein 6-2, 6-1.

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Hard times suddenly have stung Birmingham Brother Rice's varsity netters.

On Monday, Coach Don McKercher's visiting Warriors bowed to Detroit Austin in a Catholic League contest played inside at Grospe Point Racquet Club, 5-12.

On Saturday, Rice hosted Mumford in a rain-shortened nonleague match.

1. Brian Hainline (R) defeated Ken Thomas 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 2. Jeff Schatzberg (A) defeated Paul Heinen 6-0, 6-1, 3. Kevin Nobility (A) defeated Steve Mayer 6-0, 6-0.

DOUBLES

1. Chris Conti, Ken Rychalski (A) defeated Mark Keating, Mike Farah 3-6, 6-2, 2. Charles Kaminski, Ed Staff (A) defeated Sky Hamill, Brian Keating 6-3, 6-1, 3. Joe Ficarra, Tom Lizza (A) defeated Jim Lawson, John Bursi 6-0, 6-2.

Mumford 4, Rice 0

1. Walter Robinson (M) defeated Mike Farah 6-1, 6-2, 2. Oswald Jones (M) defeated Paul Heinen 6-4, 6-3, 3. Dennis Royal (M) defeated Mark Keating 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

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Groves netters barred from regional play

By ROBERT A. SKLAR
Even burning the midnight oil no longer can help. So, it's now official.

Birmingham Groves will not be permitted to compete this weekend in the 48th Michigan High School Tennis Tournament Regionals.

That's the summary ruling by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Coach Ted Stanley's Falcons were assigned by MHSAA to regional competition at the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook courts.

MHSAA's RULING stemmed from Stanley's failure to meet the regional team-entry filing deadline, set for 6 p.m. last Friday at Cranbrook.

Handling the collection of the team-entry forms was Regional Director Don Brown, tennis coach at Cranbrook.

Stanley says steadfastly he never received written notification from MHSAA designating the exact date of the filing deadline.

"During past years," he said,

"They're (Groves) tennis players) the only ones really hurt"—Carl Lemle, Birmingham School District athletic director

"MHSAA has sent me a letter which specified the filing deadline."

"BUT THIS YEAR, I didn't get such a letter, even though MHSAA reports it did send one to me."

"I simply don't know what could've happened to it," Stanley continued, "if it was sent, I suppose it could've gotten lost in the shuffle of the mail."

The postman did bring to Stanley a letter sent by Brown telling of a regional seed meeting, scheduled last Saturday morning at Cranbrook.

"I assumed," Stanley explained, "I'd take care of filing our entry

form and paying our entry fee at that meeting."

"IT WASN'T until I arrived at the meeting that Don Brown informed me the filing deadline already had passed."

According to MHSAA stipulations, it wasn't Brown's responsibility to keep coaches of teams assigned to the Cranbrook Regional abreast of an impending filing deadline.

Rather, according to MHSAA stipulations, it's each coach's responsibility to look for the registered letter sent by MHSAA designating the filing deadline.

If a coach does not receive that registered letter by the week preceding the regionals, it's expected he will notify MHSAA immediately.

IN AN 11th-hour gesture to compensate for Stanley's oversight, Groves Principal Ron Rolph appealed to MHSAA Executive Director Allen Bush.

Rolph indicates a spokesman for Bush, Warren McKenzie, stated flatly MHSAA could not break precedent and make exceptions for teams missing the filing deadline.

Nobody feels worse about this quirk of fate than Stanley... except maybe his players.

Those Falcons who commanded the greatest chances of surviving beyond the regionals were seniors Brian Belt, Ron Agnello and Steve Wilen.

"I'm very sad for them," said Stanley, dejectedly. "It's just too bad for them."

"LET'S FACE IT," added Carl Lemle, Birmingham School District athletic director, "they're the only ones really hurt."

"It's hard to speculate how well they'd do during the regionals."

"But now, since they won't even have an opportunity to compete, we'll never know how far they could've gone in the tournament."

Stanley is in the midst of his seventh season at the helm of the Falcons.

League play for Oakland

Oakland University's tennis team will battle Northwest Institute for the Great Lakes Conference championship in the league tournament Friday and Saturday at Northwest.

The Pioneers are 3-0 in conference meets, but failed to play league favorite Northwest when rain postponed Friday's scheduled dual.

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Eaglets shut out

By GEORGE PAWLUS

The Eaglets of Orchard Lake St. Mary (OLSM) failed in their bid to play the annular Hamtramck St. Florian clobbered St. Mary's 7-0 Tuesday at Hamtramck Memorial Park.

The Laners, who lead the Catholic League and Division West, scored all their runs in the fourth inning on three hits, three Eaglet errors and a spell of wildness by Orchard Lake pitcher Dan Zimolzak as he walked in three runs.

Friday, OLSM capitalized on their opponents' mistakes as Wyandotte Mt. Carmel committed seven errors and was drubbed by the Eaglets 9-2.

ST. MARY collected seven hits from seven different players, the biggest hit a two run double by junior shortstop Pat Kozlowski in the third inning.

Junior Bob McQuissey got the win with relief from sophomore Bob Dembrowski in the seventh.

The Eaglets, who now have a 5-5 overall record and a 4-5 league mark, hosted Farmington High Wednesday. Friday they travel down to Dearborn to play St. Alphonse in a league game.

MT. CARMEL 000 000 2-2
OLSM 053 100 9-0
OLSM 000 000 0-9
St. Florian 000 100 3-7

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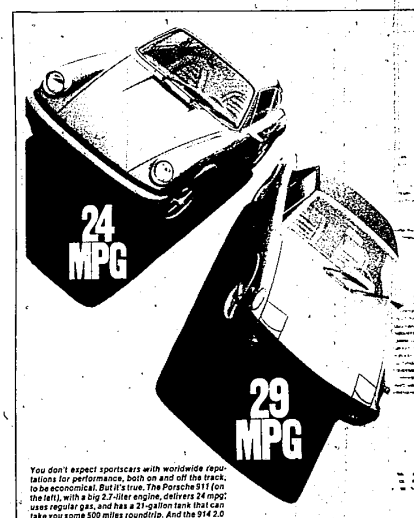
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West Bloomfield's Dan Safenstein (Photograph by Kim Hill)



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