

Power volleyball popular with girl athletes

By SUSAN TAUBER KLEIN

This season of girls' volleyball marks a first in Farmington. All three public high schools and the private high school, Our Lady of Mercy, have girls' volleyball teams competing in leagues.

Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington High, members of the Northwest Suburban League, are participating in the season which started in early January and ends with the state finals on March 19.

Mercy, a member of the Catholic League-West Division, has games scheduled from Jan. 25 until the Catholic League playoffs on Feb. 28, March 3 and March 6.

Volleyball as a girls' sport has proved popular at all the high schools in Farmington. Each coach reportedly had 50 or more girls turn out for team try-outs.

But they aren't playing the type of volleyball played at picnics or social functions. The name of the game is power volleyball.

"It's a different brand of volleyball," said Ron Short, first-year

coach of the first girls' volleyball team at Farmington High.

"IT'S REALLY a hard game. The power is quite exciting. But the limitations on how to hit a ball make or break some of the girls," Short said. They may only hit the ball with their forearms," he explained.

Short is working with a nine-member varsity team of one senior and eight sophomores. They are a young team but Short thinks once they start improving they will start winning.

"If we win half of our games, it will be a good season," said the optimistic coach. "They are all new at it."

He is trying to teach them to be quick and aggressive. "They can't be afraid to have the ball come right at them. For power volleyball, the girls need to jump and have quick hands."

"But if someone can throw a ball, the person can play volleyball," Short added.

In this season's learning experiences, sophomore Kim Patton, the team captain, is Farmington's best spiker and server. Senior Laurel Kleppinger, whom Short described as

quite an athlete, is strong in passing, setting, and spiking.

A PHYSICAL EDUCATION teacher at two of Farmington's elementary schools, Short learned power volleyball in the Air Force. First he was a linesman, then an umpire. "I have taught power volleyball but have never played it," he confessed.

Farmington practices two evenings and three afternoons a week at the former Farmington Junior High. The junior varsity team of eight players practices with the varsity. As they improve, Short will advance the players to the varsity.

"We are trying to build for next year. I want them to get the experience this year and try to win," said the new coach.

Also building for next year's power volleyball season is Harrison's team, coached since Harrison opened six years ago by Jill Turley, a former physical education teacher at Kalama.

The coach, now in counseling at Harrison, described her team as "young—which gives us a lot of time to build into a strong, cohesive group.

This year we'll go as far as we can."

With two 6-2 twins on the team, composed of 23 sophomores, two juniors and one almost 6-foot senior, Turley talked of the advantage of height in volleyball.

"THE NET IS 7 feet 4 1/2 inches high so height and the ability to jump is important. Players have to be able to get to the top of the net to block and spike."

Turley, who said she has no star on her team, doesn't have separate varsity and junior varsity teams. "It depends on the practice sessions attended, held every week day or night, and the skills the members exhibit when I choose the starting team."

Harrison's team is composed not only of the 26 players but also of a statistician, two managers and an official score keeper, all students.

Power volleyball, a sport Turley described as including vertical jumping, lateral, forward and back movements, is becoming more popular, she said, because of the exposure of the last Olympics.

"U.S. Volleyball Association is



Thursday, January 20, 1977

trying to get U.S. volleyball into the Olympics. After all, when 30 girls try out for a team, the sport must be gaining in popularity," said Turley.

The third public school team, North Farmington, has been in competition for two years, coached by former physical education teacher Pat Riley.

THE COMPETITION is tough, Riley said. "We're competing against teams who have been playing seven or eight years."

Riley said she can't tell yet how her team will do this season because "things are just now shaking down." But she added her team has improved amazingly since last season when it finished last in its league.

The 23 girls on North's varsity and junior varsity teams have been practicing since the middle of November. During the season they practice every day or night, depending on availability of the gym.

"The varsity of four sophomores and six seniors is well-balanced," said Riley. "But Jane Bush, a senior, is our strongest all-around player."

Riley has watched the sport of power volleyball grow. "We are now getting good officials for the games, and middle schools in Farmington are teaching power volleyball in gym classes."

She said the middle school coaches are doing a good job. "We high school coaches can tell the difference. The girls entering high school know the fundamentals and we can work on perfecting their skills," she added.

"But," Riley continued, "many still don't understand the time and effort it really takes to build the skills. Many who tried out for the team dropped out before they were cut because they weren't ready to give the amount of time needed."

LINDA BARBER, the girls' volleyball coach at Mercy, is working with a winning team this season.

In her first year as coach last year, Mercy won the Catholic League Division and placed second in the regionals.

"We should be able to take the Catholic division this year. We can manage the playoffs and should win the league again," she prophesied.

To help her varsity team of 12—five seniors, four juniors and three sophomores—Barber has scheduled

scrimmages with tougher teams "so we'll do better in the state," she explained.

Mercy's teams also experienced more interest in the sport. "We get the kid who isn't the star tennis or basketball player. It's easier to develop volleyball skills and the sport doesn't have such a jock image," Barber said.

Still, the girls have to be in good physical shape for jumping and for quick movements.

The most important skill, according to Barber, is the serve. A team can only get points when serving. She recalled one game, in which Mercy didn't have to play well to win because the other team lost so many points on its serves.

However, Barber said the girls have to work together as a team. "They must be willing to set up the ball for others," she thinks her team is getting good at cooperating.

"And senior Julie Mikula, Mercy's captain, keeps the team together, said the coach. "She always has a pat on the back for whomever needs it."

Other key players are senior Mary Vincent, strong in blocking and spiking as the tallest (about six feet) team member, and top spiker Diane Dietz, a junior.

FARMINGTON VOLLEYBALL

Remaining Schedule—Jan. 27, at Harrison 7 p.m.; Feb. 3, at Walled Lake Central 7 p.m.; Feb. 10, at Lakeview 7 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Waterford 4:30 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Pontiac 7 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Farmington 7 p.m.; March 3, at Walled Lake Central 4 p.m.; March 10, at Harrison 7 p.m.; March 17, at Farmington 7 p.m.; March 19, State Finals.

HARRISON VOLLEYBALL

Remaining Schedule—Jan. 25, Thornton High 4 p.m.; Jan. 27, Farmington High 7 p.m.; Jan. 28, at Walled Lake Western 7 p.m.; Feb. 2, at Northville 7 p.m.; Feb. 7, at Canton 7 p.m.; Feb. 10, at North High 7 p.m.; Feb. 14, at Churchville 7 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Walled Lake Western 7 p.m.; Feb. 22, at Northville 7 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Canton High 7 p.m.; March 3, Farmington High and North Farmington 7 p.m.; March 12, at West Branch 7 p.m.; March 19, State Finals.

NORTH FARMINGTON VOLLEYBALL

Remaining Schedule—Feb. 3, Thornton High 7 p.m.; Feb. 10, at Garden City East 4 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Franklin High 7 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Walled Lake Central 7 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Garden City East 7 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Thornton 7 p.m.; March 3, at Harrison 7 p.m.; March 12, at West Branch 7 p.m.; March 19, State Finals.

MERCY VOLLEYBALL

Remaining Schedule—Jan. 28, Mary of Redford 4 p.m.; Jan. 28, Southgate Aquatics 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 3, at Bedford Township Bishop Burgess 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 10, at Livonia Ladywood 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 17, at Detroit Immaculate 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Marquette 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Farmington 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 24, at Farmington 4:45 p.m.; Catholic League Playoffs on Feb. 28, March 3, 6.



Harrison twins Gina (left) and Tina Bukunas work at volleyball practice. Volleyball has become a popular addition to the girls' sports programs in many high schools. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Southfield cagers down N. Farmington, 82-58

Southfield High got off to a big lead in the first quarter and coasted to an 82-58 victory over North Farmington last Tuesday night in a non-league game on the Raiders' court. The result left both teams with a 6-4 overall record.

Coach Don Kaup's Blue Jays scored 15 points in the first quarter while North only put five on the scoreboard. Southfield led all the way with 37 baskets and eight free-throws. The Raiders made 19 baskets and added 20 from the line.

Southfield's Marvin Miles led all

scorers with 18 points on eight field goals and two-for-two from the free-throw line. Teammate Scott Kopack chipped in with 17 points, while Jeff McCall and Jon Vigi added 14 and 10, respectively.

The next game for Southfield is Friday, Jan. 21, in a Southeastern Michigan Association game against Ferndale High. North will host Redford Township Thursday Friday in a Northwest Suburban League match.

SOUTHFIELD-NORTH FARMINGTON

SOUTHFIELD (82): Mark Burt 2, 6-8; Marvin Miles 8, 22, 11; Jeff McCall 5, 8-10; Paul Willis 1, 1-2; Scott Kopack 1, 6-1; Dave Smith 0, 0-0; Howard Sher 0, 0-1; Mark DeBussche 0, 0-0; Totals 27, 6-18.

NORTH FARMINGTON (58): Harold Heiderman 2, 12, 4; Brian Kaplan 0, 0-0; Mike Garcia 4, 6-12; Mark Thompson 1, 4-9; Mike Zambra 0, 1-1; Tim Mether 2, 2-4; Jeff Thomas 1, 0-0; Mark Bentley 2, 1-4; Harold Beardsley 2, 2-8; Mike Tomczak 1, 0-1; Mark Smith 2, 2-8; Totals 19, 24-44.

Fouled Out: Chasell (Southfield), Rice (Southfield)

SOUTHFIELD 15 12 11 11 11 11
NORTH FARMINGTON 11 11 11 11 11 11

Thurston nips Hawks in OT

Thurston beat Harrison 61-57 in overtime Tuesday night in a non-league game on the Hawk's court.

With 46 seconds remaining, Harrison was leading 51-50 until Thurston's Dave Beebe scored two. Teammate Jerry Bradford increased his team's lead by completing a three-point play.

With 16 seconds left, the game looked like a victory for Thurston. But then Harrison's Paul Bukunas scored a 10-footer and Lou Vujak tied the score 55-55 with an 18-foot turnaround.

Coach Bill Croteau's team added six

points in overtime while coach Bob Sutter's Hawks only added two. Harrison almost gained another three points but Larry Pump missed a free-throw and Bukunas tapped a rebound which hit the back of the rim and bounced out of the basket.

The winning points were scored by Thurston's Bradford. He scored two from the line after Vujak fouled him.

Beebe was the top scorer with 21 points. Harrison's Bukunas followed with 18.

Harrison plays at Livonia Churchill Friday night (Jan. 21) in a Western

Sixth League match. Thurston will host North Farmington also Friday night.

THURSTON-HARRISON

THURSTON (61): Dave Beebe 8, 24, 11; Jerry Bradford 2, 4-10; Jeff McCall 5, 8-10; Ryan McCall 4, 8-10; Mike Zambra 0, 1-1; Tom Tomczak 1, 1-1; Totals 27, 6-18.

HARRISON (57): Lou Vujak 4, 11-19; Bryant Gilbert 2, 2-4; Paul Bukunas 8, 21, 18; Rust Borch 2, 2-4; Larry Pump 4, 8-10; Al Day 4, 8-10; Totals 25, 7-13.

Total Fouls: Thurston 20, Harrison 17. Fouled Out: Gilbert (Harrison), Beebe (Thurston).

THURSTON 18 14 11 11 11 11
HARRISON 11 11 11 11 11 11

Franklin stops Farmington

In a game filled with technical fouls and ending with team scuffles, Franklin defeated Farmington, 48-47, Tuesday night in a non-league game.

The referees gave six technicals during the game, two at one time to Franklin's coach Bob Waser. Farmington's Mark Springfield was thrown out in the fourth quarter.

Farmington had large leads after the half and after the third quarter when the scores were 25-18 and 38-26 respectively. The Patriots' victory came in the fourth quarter when the

team scored 22 points to Farmington's eight. Fourteen of the 22 points were added from the free-throw line.

John Zannis and Dennis Smith scored 14 points for the Franklin team, which hasn't scored over 50 points in the last five games. Teammate Jeff Phillips trailed with 12. The win raised the Patriots' overall record to 4-6.

Farmington is 6-5 overall. Team member Dick Radatz was top scorer with 17. Rick Muhler added 10. Farmington plays Pontiac Northern

Friday night (Jan. 21) in an Inter Lakes League game. The Patriots will meet Garden City East on the same evening.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN-FARMINGTON

LIVONIA FRANKLIN (48): Dave Waser 1, 2-4; Jeff Phillips 4, 8-10; Dennis Smith 4, 8-10; John Zannis 4, 8-10; Jeff Phillips 4, 8-10; Totals 27, 6-18.

FARMINGTON (47): Mark Springfield 1, 1-1; Dick Radatz 2, 2-4; Jeff Phillips 2, 2-4; Jeff Phillips 2, 2-4; Jeff Phillips 2, 2-4; Totals 25, 7-13.

Total Fouls: Franklin 25, Farmington 17. Fouled Out: Springfield (Farmington).

LIVONIA FRANKLIN 18 14 11 11 11 11
FARMINGTON 11 11 11 11 11 11



North Farmington's Mike Thomas

BELONG
to Centaur & Square Lake Racquet Clubs
NOW
only \$5000



For more information call:
Centaur Racquet Club 5700 Drake Rd. West Bloomfield, 48033 851-6010
Square Lake Racquet Club 799 Denison Ct. Bloomfield Hills, 48013 332-9221