



"PERFECT execution" of a bump shot -- that's how volleyball coaches describe this crisp tip over the net, performed here by Sue Devlin of North Farmington, No. 4 on the receiving end is Jan Bishop of Thurston. Scene is the North Suburban League volleyball tournament recently at John Glenn, Westland.



OVERHEAD PASS is pulled off neatly by Heather Domke, captain of Glenn's team, which has won 20 straight in two seasons. Volleyball is a real team sport.

## Girls' Volleyball: 'Up-And-Coming'

Quietly, the list of girls' competitive sports is growing in Observerland.

The latest addition is volleyball, the fast game where you hit a white ball back and forth across a net. Winning requires a mastery of timing, skill at various shots and a lot of teamwork.

"The reason they won the championship," says John Glenn High School Coach Irma Kionka, "was that we had a wonderful team effort. I don't think there was any one star."

Crowds are small for the 4 p.m. dual meets during the December-January volleyball season--mostly students, a few parents, school staff members.

AT JOHN GLENN in Westland late in January, the Northwest Suburban League staged a double-elimination tournament, which combined with a round-robin series of dual meets, yielded a first place for Glenn with 11 points.

Thurston High, in the South Redford district, and Livonia Franklin tied for second with eight points apiece. North Farmington was third with five. Oak Park and Birmingham Groves completed the list.

"Girls sports are the up-and-coming thing. Many parents are asking about them," says an enthusiastic Jill Turley, North Farmington's new volleyball coach and director of GAA, Thurston's Mrs. Jane Young and Franklin's Miss Kathy Good and Miss Deane Corbett would agree.

Miss Kionka points out there are already four organized inter-school sports for girls: tennis (last fall); speed swimming (again, last fall was the second season); track (first season last year); and synchronized swimming (coming up).

And NF's Miss Turley talks hopefully of basketball next year.

The Northwest Suburban League is the first to go heavily into girls varsity sports. Others are interested--mainly the Inter-Lakes and Suburban Six Leagues. The pressure is growing on school boards and athletic departments to give "equal rights" to coeds in athletics.

Inter-school sports for girls may not draw big crowds yet, but Miss Kionka believes they provide a good outlet for the more skilled girls that intramural sports lack. "And it's good socially--they get out and meet other girls from other schools," she adds.

Nevertheless, she feels there's a place for both inter-school and intramural sports in the girls athletic program. She speaks disapprovingly of a school which dropped intramural to devote its energies to inter-school.

A VOLLEYBALL roster has eight players and six appear on the court with two subs. As in basketball, the junior varsity plays match first, then the varsity. A match is two games out of three.

Winner of a game is the first team to reach 15 points. On the court, the team members must rotate positions so that no one plays any position the entire game.

Miss Kionka's Glenn girls boast 20 straight victories in dual matches and the recent tournament. They never had to play the third game in a match.

The accompanying pictures were made by photographer Fran Evert for this picture-story. But besides being new photos, it turns out they have an educational value, too. Miss Kionka plans to use them as teaching aids to illustrate different kinds of shots and how to perform them.



AN OVERHAND SERVE is demonstrated by Debbie Junk of Livonia Franklin. Other options are overhand and sidearm.

PHOTOS: Fran Evert



BOUNCE PASS to put the ball up near the net is hit by Nancy Patton of North Farmington. Purpose is to put the ball in position for a hard shot over the net.



KAREN BLACK (no. 18) of Livonia Franklin makes an overhead set shot to set up a spike shot against a teammate against Thurston. These teams tied for second in the league.

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