

# Murtaugh scores 4 firsts, North wins

There's a relatively unfamiliar atmosphere surrounding the Observer-Land gymnastics scene this season — one of suspense.

In most years, it's a foregone conclusion that North Farmington will win the Western Lakes crown. That's not entirely the case this year. Plymouth Salem, for one, is showing it has the potential to dethrone the Raiders.

Case in point, in its first meet, Salem scored 122.55 points in a victory against Westland John Glenn. North, in its first two meets, has averaged just over 123.

"We're definitely eye-balling North this year," said Salem coach Kathi Kinsella, the area's Coach of the Year last year.

Is North feeling the pressure? You

wouldn't be able to tell by the performance. On Monday night, the Raiders improved their record to 3-0 with a 124-95.55 win against Northville.

"YOU FEEL it (the pressure) because everyone keeps talking about it," North coach Mary Glitz said. "Everybody is saying they are out to get North Farmington. And the teams do have a chance. It all depends on the night we meet and which team hits."

"Nobody has a lot of depth this year. There may be three or four top scorers, but if someone is sick or hurt, then that team will be in trouble."

Presently, North is getting consistent scoring from four people and looking as unbeatable as ever. Eileen Murtaugh has been leading

## gymnastics

the team. Against Northville, the junior won all four events. She scored 8.1 in the vault, 8.25 in the uneven parallel bars, 8.2 on balance beam and 8.5 on her floor exercise.

Kara Karhu placed fourth on vault (7.55), third on bars (7.8), second on beam (7.35) and third on floor (8.0).

Lucine Toroyan, warding off the effects of a sore back, placed fifth on vault (7.45), second on bars (8.2), fifth on beam (6.95) and second on floor (8.55).

Lisa Brundie clipped in with a sec-

ond on vault (7.85), fourth on bars (7.25) and a fifth on floor (7.45).

Clindy Tyan scored a third on the beam for North (7.35).

"The girls are working very hard," Glitz said. "I just hope they peak at the right time."

Yes, there is suspense involved in the WLA title chase this season. But, for now, North reigns supreme.

The Raiders will host Clarenceville tonight.

FARMINGTON HARRISON, mean-

while, won its second straight meet of the season, a 116.35-92.05 decision over

Walled Lake Central Monday.

Tracy Solomon, as she did in the Hawks first meet, won all four events. She scored 7.8 in the vault, 7.4 on the bars, 7.7 on the beam and 7.9 on floor.

Lauri Runk placed second on vault (7.85), fourth on bars (6.7), third on beam (7.1) and fourth on floor (7.05).

Jill Birsa also scored in all four events. She placed fourth on vault (7.45), second on bars (7.25), fourth on beam (6.85) and second on floor (7.75).

Jody Solomon earned a third on bars (6.85) and Julie Runk gained a third on floor (7.60).

The Hawks have yet to crack the 118 mark needed to qualify for the state regional meet in March, but first-year coach Linda Perkins feels it's only a matter of time.

"The judging is tough at the beginning," she said. "Everyone is trying to get back into the swing of things. We did a lot better than we did in our first meet, by far. No, a 118 team score isn't out of the question. We'll be fine. The girls need to think more positively and get more aggressive."

The Hawks travel to Grosse Pointe North tonight.

## Salem scores 122.55 in opener

Who is this Jackie Huff person performing on the Plymouth Salem gymnastics team?

Certainly she can't be the same Jackie Huff that scored just 7.8 on vault and 8.45 on uneven parallel bars at last year's Western Lakes conference meet?

This new Jackie Huff, the one that led Salem to a 122.55-110.15 win over Westland John Glenn Monday night, scored 8.7 on vault (first place) and 8.15 on bars (first place). This new Jackie Huff also gained a 7.3 on balance beam (with a fall, still good for third place) and an 8.1 on floor exercise (second place).

So, what gives? Is this a different person, or what?

Sort of, said Salem coach Kathi Kinsella. "The key to Jackie this season is that she has spent as much time in the gym as I have," said Kinsella. "She's not afraid of taking risks on her routines. She likes to do the scary things, the kinds of things that make the crowd go, 'Ooooh.'"

**HER PERFORMANCE** Monday, coupled with that of All-Area performer Beth Rafaili, made John Glenn and the rest of the Observer-Land gymnastics community go "oooh." Salem's 122.55 team score is extremely high for

a first meet and is one of two scores needed to qualify the Rocks for the state regional meet in March.

"I told you, this is going to be the year people remember Salem," Kinsella said.

Rafaili, a junior, scored 8.25 on the vault (third), 7.45 on the bars (second), 9.05 on the beam (first) and 8.35 on floor (first). Rafaili's 9.05 on beam tied the school record she set last year.

The Rocks also got all-around scoring from Sara Michalk. She gained a fifth on vault (7.85), a fourth on bars (8.75), a second on beam (7.95) and a fifth on floor (7.1).

Diedre Flynn took a fourth on beam (7.1) and sophomore Sue Lally scored a fifth on bars (6.45).

"We did what I had hoped we'd do and a lot more for a first meet," Kinsella said. "I was hoping for maybe a 118 score."

**PLYMOUTH CANTON**, meanwhile, squeaked past John Glenn in the other half of Monday's double dual meet, 110.3-110.15.

"Actually, I feel real good about this meet," said Canton coach John Cunningham of his team's uncharacteristi-

cally low team score. "We fell away from the score I had anticipated, but there were some first-meet jitters."

He wasn't kidding. Three of his gymnasts were competing for the very first time on vault. Two were first-timers on bars, three on beam and four on floor.

"We would have liked to have scored in the 113-114 range. That's where I thought we would be," he said. "But we fell a lot in area's we don't usually fall."

Sophomores Megan McGow and Ann Healey led the way for the Chiefs. McGow won the bars with a 6.85. Healey won the floor with a 7.75. She also scored in the floor (fourth with a 7.75) and beam (fourth with a 6.2).

Mary Jo Charron, a freshman, took second in the beam (6.9) and fifth on floor (6.85).

Junior Kristi Killeen placed third on bars (6.65) and Shelly Ludwig placed fourth (6.25).

Cheryl Battaglia took second on the floor (7.25).

"We've got a whole bunch of new kids and we're doing a whole bunch of new routines," Cunningham said. "Sometimes it takes as long as two years before a routine is really clean."

## CC defeated in OT

John McIntyre's 40 points went in vain Tuesday night as Redford Catholic Central fell in overtime to host Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher in a Central Division basketball battle, 69-62.

Starting a 37-29 halftime deficit in the face, CC rallied to knot the count at 51-all entering the final period behind 14 McIntyre points.

But the 6-foot-4 senior guard, bound for the University of Detroit, fouled out with 2:18 left in regulation play. CC was leading at the time, 60-58.

Despite McIntyre's absence, CC had two chances to win it in regulation play, but failed to convert.

Gallagher then took charge in overtime, outscoring the Shamrocks 9-2.

Dan Vargo tallied 22 points to lead Gallagher. Mike Erickson added 10.

Other than McIntyre, who hit 18 of 32 shots from the field, no CC player was in double figures. Paul Tavara,

who fouled out with four minutes left in the third quarter, grabbed 10 rebounds in a losing cause.

CC, 5-2 overall and 1-1 in Central Division play, returns to action Friday at Schoolcraft College to face Birmingham Brother Rice.

**WAYNE 76, TRENTON 58:** Coach Chuck Henry of Wayne Memorial prevailed Tuesday over his brother Dan, the head coach at Trenton, as the host Zebras (7-0) kept their slate perfect with the non-league win.

**BISHOP BORGESS 62, NOTRE DAME 51:** After a slow first quarter, Redford Bishop Borgess went on to outscore visiting Harper Woods Notre Dame in each of the final three quarters to post the Central Division win.

**GARDEN CITY 66, TAYLOR CENTER 55:** The visiting Cougars pulled a mild upset Tuesday behind the play of guards Steve Preter and Kevin Sheridan, who tallied 25 and 18 points, respectively.

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