

Sports

Brad Emons, Chris McCosky editors/591-2312



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Power ball

Spikers energized by punishing hitters

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

LEE CAGLE broke from the huddle with his chin up. His Livonia Stevenson volleyball team, for the second straight season, had its bid for a state championship derailed by Flint Kearsley. It was a depressing moment for the Spartan players. The tears were unstoppable. Cagle didn't cry. He consoled his players, one by one, then walked over to a reporter.

all-area volleyball

1985 ALL-AREA VOLLEYBALL SQUAD FIRST TEAM

Lisa Bokovoy	Livonia Stevenson
Joan Frysinger	Livonia Stevenson
Pam Griffin	Livonia Stevenson
Carolyn Smith	Livonia Franklin
Patti Kozicki	North Farmington
Debbie McDonald	Bishop Borgess
Marie Cervantes	Bishop Borgess
Sue Cyrus	Garden City
Marie Becker	Redford Union
Lee Cagle (coach)	Livonia Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Laura Grazzini	John Glenn
Kerri Wallace	Garden City
Kerri Wallace	Livonia Franklin
Sherry Wolfe	Livonia Stevenson
Kim Ralston	Livonia Stevenson
Donna Kozicki	North Farmington

THIRD TEAM

Anne Teraki	Bishop Borgess
Kelly Warr	John Glenn
Sherry Wolfe	Livonia Stevenson
Jade Pottle	North Farmington
Jenny Wachsmeyer	Farmington
Lisa Madala	Plymouth Salem

HONORABLE MENTION: Redford Union; Patti Crowley; Kelly Karsen; Redford Thorston; Rose Scott; Bishop Borgess; Donna Bassett; Anne Englek; Farmington; Lori Cassell; Laura Moore; Jerry Lindberg; Farmington; Jennifer Hughes; Diane Radzicki; Kim George; North Farmington; Sue Grawe; Bonnie Lendrick; Farmington; Hilda Mency; Judy Jantz; Michele Fyatt; Plymouth; Lauren Leanne Becker; Sue Carlson; Plymouth; Cathryn Schwan; Darlene Dolezal; Clareville; Dawn Goersien; Jenny Quarr; Livonia Church; Jacki Worsley; Westland; Livonia Stevenson; Sherie Sudik; Cheryl Sullivan; Kristine Gorn; Kristine Bailey; Livonia Bentley; Kelly Kowalski; Livonia Franklin; Westland; Amy Lotters; Kim Sandberg; Westland; John Glenn; Carol Hall; Kristy Rose; Stacy Graham; Kristi Crockett; Julie Hyman; Garden City; Nikki Szabo; Warren Felt; Miley Ward.

"We had a great season." There was a fierceness in his voice and he looked the reporter square in the eyes when he said it. Livonia Stevenson was a class team, a quality team, and Cagle was not about to allow a state semifinal loss to detract from a season of achievement.

The accomplishments of Cagle's volleyball team go beyond a single season. In the last two seasons, Stevenson has compiled an 82-8 record and was among the state's final four both years. In his seven years at Stevenson, Cagle has compiled a 169-36 record, won seven league titles and three district titles.

Is it any wonder, then, that Lee Cagle has been named the Observerland coach of the year for the second straight season?

He's at the head of a powerful All-Area Volleyball Team that includes three of his Stevenson players.

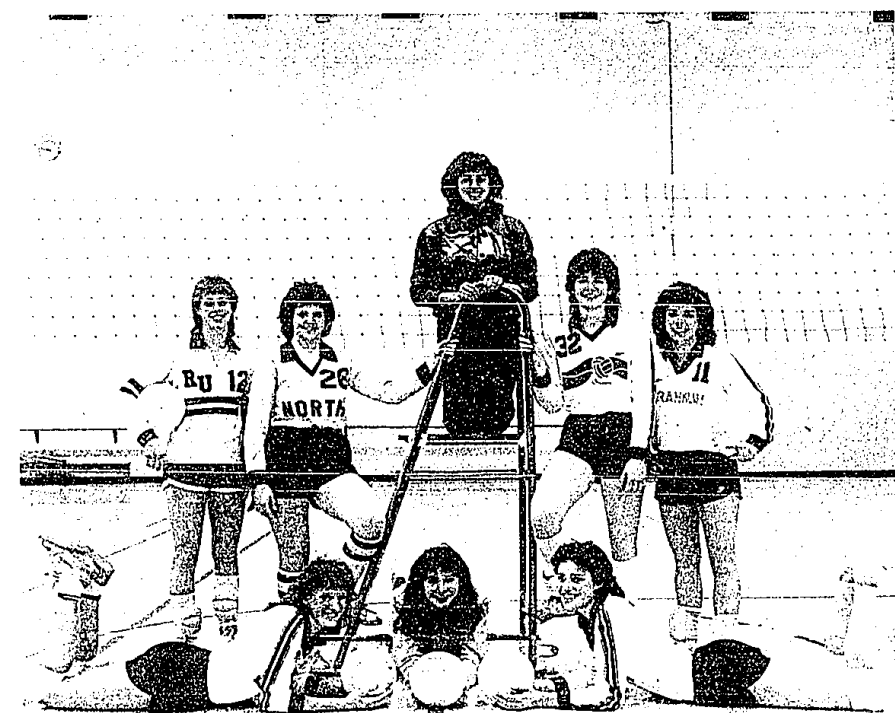
Powerful? Listen to this: Lisa Bokovoy, 605 good hits with 334 kills; Joan Frysinger (a setter), 300 good hits with 97 kills; Pam Griffin, 355 spikes with 152 kills; Debbie McDonald, 90 percent effective on all spikes; Carolyn Smith, 389 kills alone; Marie Becker, 90 percent effective on all spikes with 59 kills — the list goes on.

The 1985 Observerland All-Area Volleyball Team is indeed packed with power. It also possesses two of the finest setters in the tri-county area, if not in the state, and some solid back row talent. Let's meet the players:

LISA BOKOVY, LIVONIA STEVENSON: "She is the most talented all-around athlete I've ever coached." That's high praise coming from Cagle and the 6-0 senior is certainly deserving. The state's volleyball coaches association put Bokovoy on their Dream Team for 1985. Aside from her much-publicized hitting prowess, she made 228 blocks with 119 of them kills and served with 55 aces. She is also a solid back row performer. Her talents, in both volleyball and softball, made her one of the most sought-after athletes in the 3.85 student will attend the University of Kentucky on a full-ride volleyball scholarship.

JOAN FRYNSINGER, LIVONIA STEVENSON: Last year, this 6-footer was used exclusively as a front-row hitter. Frysinger worked hard over the summer and became a dominating all-around player. As a Stevenson senior, she made 666 perfect sets (72 percent efficient). She was also an effective server and front row player. She will attend Northwood Institute next year on basketball and volleyball scholarships.

PAM GRIFFIN, LIVONIA STEVENSON: Bokovoy and Frysinger got most



Power volleyball is back in Observerland. The 1985 All-Area team is (bottom from left to right) Pam Griffin (Stevenson), Debbie McDonald (Borgess) and Lisa Bokovoy (Stevenson). (Top, left to

right) Marie Becker (RU), Patti Kozicki (North Farmington), Marie Cervantes (Borgess), Joan Frysinger (Stevenson) and Carolyn Smith (Franklin).

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

of the attention for the Spartans this season, but according to Cagle, Griffin might have been the most skilled volleyball player on his team. She nailed 92 percent of her hits with 152 kills, she made 202 blocks with 80 kills, she served at a 96 percent efficiency with 31 aces and her service reception percentage was 82 percent. She carries an equally impressive 3.85 grade point average and will attend the University of Michigan next year.

CAROLYN SMITH, LIVONIA FRANKLIN: She stands 5-6, small for volleyball. But, there were few players who were more dominating at the net than Carolyn Smith. She is also one of the area's best defensive players. She notched 389 kills this season. In addition to 85 serve aces and 248 digs, she is a three-year all-Northwest Suburban League and All-Area pick. A tribute to her talent is that opposing coaches often made special adjustments to their

defenses to try and slow Smith down.

PATTI KOZICKI, NORTH FARMINGTON: If Lee Cagle wanted to select a captain for this All-Area team he would have to look no further than this senior. Patti Kozicki plays volleyball with intelligence and court savvy far beyond her age. She owns many North Farmington records, including 113 career ace serves, 4,025 effective sets, a 98.1 percent setting efficiency and 397 successful tips. She is a crafty setter, often keeping the defense off-balance with her varied passes. In the three years she has been North's No. 1 setter, the Raiders have compiled a 72-24 record. She will play volleyball at Schoolcraft Community College next year.

DEBBIE McDONALD, BISHOP BORGESS: One of only two juniors on this squad, the 6-footer is a punishing

hitter. She also plays a smooth back row game, a rarity for one her size. She was 90 percent effective at the net, 80 percent effective serving and 82 percent effective blocking. Like every one of these All-Area players, McDonald has the ability to assume control of a match regardless of where she happens to be in the rotation.

MARIE CERVANTES, BISHOP BORGESS: Opponents of Bishop Borgess had a difficult time on defense largely because of this talented senior. The desire would be to double-team McDonald at the net, but that would free up Cervantes — an equally potent spiker. Cervantes, a three-year stand-out for the Spartans, was 81 percent effective hitting and 86 percent effective serving. She also plays well in the back row, passing 88 percent effective.

MARIE BECKER, REDFORD UN-

ION: When they talk of playing with intensity, they should use this junior as a model. A naturally-gifted athlete, Becker was 90 percent effective or better in every phase of the game, hitting, serving, passing and receiving. Many area coaches feel that RU could be on the verge of most successful volleyball season next year with Becker as the catalyst.

SUE CYRUS, GARDEN CITY: Garden City was the No. 2-ranked team in Observerland this year and won the Northwest Suburban League title. The secret of the Cougars' success was twofold: They had a special blend of talent and hustle instilled by coach Tom Teeters, and they had this multi-talented senior. Cyrus provided the leadership, the bonding element, for the Cougars. She is a tenacious hitter in the front court and a quick, deft-handed digger in the back row.

Prep sports in controversy

MSHAA to decide fate of grid playoffs, club gymnasts

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Two critical and controversial issues regarding high school athletics will be on the table May 5-9 when the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Representative Council gathers for its annual meeting in Cadillac.

The council, the MSHAA's rule-making body, will decide whether to expand the current 8-game per class (32 teams in all) football playoff system.

Also, the council will decide on whether to impose a rule forbidding high school gymnasts to compete outside their high school schedule during the three-month season. This ruling would have a profound effect on United States Gymnastic Federation (USGF) club gymnasts.

The football playoff issue has been a source of controversy since the inception of the state playoffs in 1975. Last year, the Representative Council voted down a proposal to expand the playoffs to 32 teams per enrollment class, or 128 teams total.

THIS YEAR'S proposal will most likely be for a 16-team per class format or 64 teams in all.

The MSHAA surveyed its 715 member high schools on this issue between

Feb. 15 and March 15 — 580 returned the survey with 570 of those schools offering football.

Nearly 69 percent (68.8) of the 570 schools indicated they were in favor of expanding the playoffs to 16 teams per class. Another 27.7 percent wanted to keep the present system and 5.5 percent were in favor of eliminating all post-season playoff games.

The schools were also asked how they would go about scheduling the playoff games if the format was expanded. Nearly 25 percent (24.8) thought it best to use the ninth date on the schedule as the first playoff date, leaving those teams not making the playoffs to schedule the final date on their own.

Another 23.6 percent thought it best to begin the season one week earlier.

"The Representative Council has been asked to make a choice as to expanding the football playoff system," said MSHAA assistant director Warren McKenzie. "They weren't about to make that decision without knowing how the high schools felt. That was the reason for the survey."

BUT, MCKENZIE added, the survey results are a bit cloudy.

"There are real mixed feelings about this," McKenzie said. "The survey was

supposed to be filled out by the principals. We're hearing that many of the principals handed the survey over to the football coaches and let them fill it out. Many superintendents, we understand, are upset with their principals for voting to expand the playoffs."

The gymnastics issue is no less complex.

The MSHAA's gymnastics committee, comprised of state gymnastics coaches, has asked the Representative Council to consider a ruling that would prohibit gymnasts from competing outside the high school schedule during the three-month prep season (which runs from January through March).

Rita Kinnell, gymnastics coach at Adrian High School and the president of the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches Association, will speak before the council during the May meeting.

"This all started about 10 years ago with ski teams," Kinnell said. "The administrators asked the state's permission to ski outside of the regular season because of a lack of snow and other things. The state granted permission and thought it fair to grant the same option to all individual sports, like tennis, swimming and gymnastics. It's been with us since."

"IF THIS rule is put in, the level of high school gymnastics will go down," said Kevin Watson, the head coach at the Farmington Gymnastics Center,

BUT KINNELL, and other coaches feel it's time that rule be changed. At least in gymnastics. The contention of the gymnastics committee is that the influx of "club gymnasts," gymnasts who compete USGF and high school simultaneously, has eroded the team concept of high school gymnastics.

"Right now, high school coaches are having a tough time getting the talented club gymnasts to practice. There is extreme pressure to allow the more talented gymnasts to practice at the club, and that's not fair to anyone," Kinnell said.

"The concept of team is what high school sports is all about," she added. "The talented gymnasts still need to practice with the team to feel part of it. Otherwise, it's just a farce."

What will happen, if the rule is invoked, is that many club gymnasts will have to decide between high school and USGF competition. Most of the state's top high school gymnasts, like Walled Lake Western's Barrie Muzbeck, the state's all-around champion, compete at the club level.

"The level of high school gymnastics will go down," said Kevin Watson, the head coach at the Farmington Gymnastics Center,

one of the area's better USGF teams. "All they will be doing with this rule is cutting their own throats. Fifty percent of the really good high school gymnasts are in clubs."

As far as not attending high school practice, Watson said only the very best gymnasts (like Muzbeck) are asked to practice exclusively at the club.

"With Barrie, we need to work on more specific things like compulsories and things like that — we need to work on higher level skills. Most club gymnasts aren't at Barrie's level and I let them attend their high school practice. It's not a big problem," Watson said.

Watson also said that the proposed rule would primarily affect the lower level club gymnasts, the Class I and Class II gymnasts whose club seasons coincide with the high school. The top-level or Elite Class club gymnasts, like Muzbeck, would not be greatly affected.

"I see what the rule is trying to get at and their point is well-taken," Watson said. "But, it's like they are trying to start a car without gasoline."

The Representative Council, which will ultimately decide on these two issues, is a 10-member board comprised primarily of school district superintendents, board members and principals.

OU student is missing

The fate of two Oakland University students, one a member of the Pioneer wrestling squad, still is uncertain following what police believe to be a drowning accident on the shores of Lake Michigan near Michigan City, Ind.

Gary Nanan, from Jackson, and Daniel Meloy, from Michigan City, both 19-year-old sophomores, have been missing since Feb. 26.

According to Michigan City police, the pair drove Meloy's car to a navigational pier sometime between 6:30 a.m. Feb. 26 and 7 a.m. Feb. 27. Lake Michigan is a tremendously treacherous ice pack at that time of year, police said.

It's not uncommon to see chunks of ice out there weighing 40 to 100 tons. It's like the Arctic Ocean, police said.

MELLOY'S CAR was discovered parked near the pier the morning of Feb. 27. There was no evidence of a struggle or foul play, police said.

Several searches by teams of divers, and air searches by helicopters, have been conducted. Police believe the pair were either washed off the pier or were on some ice that broke loose from the pier.

Nanan wrestled the last two dual meets for OU in the 134-pound weight class. Meloy was a wrestler in high school and was considering joining the team next season.

Both were graduates of Jackson Northwest High School.