

S'craft spikers stun OU

By C.J. Riasak
staff writer

Here's what was supposed to happen at last weekend's Great Lakes Intercollegiate volleyball tournament:

• The host Pioneers would put on a show against some of their Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) rivals — Saginaw Valley State and Hillsdale — while waiting to victory, gaining valuable experience for the freshmen team members.

• Schoolcraft College would concentrate on just getting some playing time in the team's first action of the season, hoping that competition against three four-year schools would prove beneficial to a two-year school that starts five freshmen and a sophomore.

WELL, YOU know what happens to such plans. Things go awry, twisting whatever expectations a coach had prior to a competition into something quite different.

"We consider it an upset," said OU coach Bob Hurdle after his Pioneers lost the championship match in three games to — of all teams — Schoolcraft. "We lost because we did not sus-

tain a consistent level of play."

More precisely, OU lost, according to Hurdle, because "we just didn't play well in the finals."

On the other hand, Schoolcraft won because it was able to gain momentum throughout the tournament and continue on an upward trend.

"We started out (the tournament) missing some serves we shouldn't have," first-year coach Tom Teeters said. "Our passing was strong throughout the tournament, but our spiking was off and on."

"But everyone improved by Saturday's finals."

THE OCELOTS needed all the momentum they could muster to subdue OU. The two combatants split the first two games of the final match, OU winning the opener 15-13 and Schoolcraft taking the second game 15-8.

In the deciding contest, the Pioneers crept to within two points of victory, forging a 13-10 lead. But that's when Patti Kozicki from North Farmington rallied Schoolcraft with adept serving. Combined with a strong defensive game, the Ocelots overtook OU to claim the victory 16-14.

"Strategically, we were able to eliminate their middle game with strong serving," Teeters said. "We focused our serves toward their weaker passers, and our girls were able to pinpoint their serves (OU) had to go to their outside hitters, and that gave us more time to set up defensively."

TEETERS USED freshmen Kozicki, Kim Helyes (Livonia Stevenson), Kahl McIntosh (Wayne Memorial), Sue Cyrus (Garden City), Anne Bennett (Walled Lake Western) and Amy Lotero (Livonia Franklin), together with sophomore Linda Loeffler (Stevenson), with great efficiency. Schoolcraft isn't tall — the best hitters are Cyrus (5-foot-6) and McIntosh (5-4).

But they were effective. Schoolcraft stopped Macomb CC in straight games, 15-6, 15-7, in Friday's opener, and followed that with a 11-15, 15-2, 15-13 victory over SVSC. The Ocelots reached the finals with a 15-6, 15-7 win over Hillsdale.

Meanwhile, Hurdle was forced to juggle his lineup somewhat when Neelle Graham suffered a severely sprained thumb Friday. The combination of Graham's injury and Hurdle

trying to insert some of his promising freshmen into the lineup led to his experienced team members "trying to be too good, too perfect."

THE RESULT was overly aggressive play that led to unnecessary errors.

"I'm a little disappointed, but if it was going to happen I'm glad it happened now (at the beginning of the season)," Hurdle said. "I think it will benefit us down the road. The young kids learned first hand what can happen if you don't do what's necessary to win."

OU reached the finals by beating Macomb 15-3, 15-4; Hillsdale 15-9, 17-15; and SVSC 15-4, 12-15, 15-3. Mary Pike finished with 27 kills and a .321 hitting percentage.

"Schoolcraft played very well," Hurdle conceded. "They served tough to our left back, and that's the toughest pass to make from there. We just didn't execute the pass."

The road won't get any easier for Schoolcraft. The Ocelots travel to the Eastern Kentucky University Tournament this weekend, where they will be the only two-year school competing.

OU plays in the Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne Tournament this weekend.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Patti Kozicki captained the North Farmington volleyball team last year. She performs the same role for Schoolcraft College this year.

CC runners no pushover

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FOUR CC SENIORS crossed the finish line together in 17:09: last year's fifth and sixth men, Tony Mizzi and Jim Federa, along with Highland John Glenn transfer Jim Koldziel and John Regan.

Also for CC, sophomore Greg Boller took fifth place (17:14), senior Jim Ransweiler was sixth (17:30) and sophomore Dominic Siwik grabbed seventh (17:34).

And where does Magni rate the Shamrocks in the Central Division?

"I think we'll be right in there," he said. "Harper Woods Notre Dame, Warren DeLaSalle and Birmingham Brother Rice are all solid. But we have as good of a shot as anybody."

"They'll have to beat us. We've been there before and enjoy winning, so we hope it carries over."

CC will get its first real test Saturday in the Holy Invitational, which has attracted some of the state's top teams including Swartz Creek, Grand Blanc and Farmington.

cross country

N. FARMINGTON (GIRLS) 19
ROYAL OAK DUNDERO 44
(Tuesday at Dundero)

Individual results: 1. Donna Chuba (NF), 21:16; 2. Janik (ROD), 21:45; 3. Barb Zeno (NF), 21:49; 4. Maria Pedron (NF), 22:03; 5. Wendy Novak (NF), 23:29; 6. Tammy Spengler (NF), 23:59; 7. Carolyn McBeth (NF), 24:46; 8. Dixon (ROD), 25:05; 9. Melissa Stewart (NF), 26:34; 10. Florida Richards (NF), 29:58.
North's record: 1-0.

ROYAL OAK DUNDERO (BOYS) 25
N. FARMINGTON 25
(Tuesday at Dundero)

Individual results: 1. Kirk Armstrong (NF), 16:22; 2. Tom Harrison (NF), 17:54; 3. Lukas (ROD), 18:02; 4. Sid (ROD), 18:10; 5. Wiesak (ROD), 18:25; 6. O'Neil (ROD), 18:47; 7. Seppanen (ROD), 18:55; 8. Jason Panich (NF), 19:03; 9. Jeff Simpson (NF), 19:10; 10. Paul Cook (NF), 19:51.
North's record: 0-1.

LIVONIA STEVENSON (BOYS) 15
FARMINGTON HARRISON 47
(Tuesday at Casa Benton)

Individual results: 1. Scott Leslie (LS), 17:53; 2. Todd Walker (LS), 18:03; 3. Ed Haukula (LS), 18:04; 4. Mike Duffy (LS), 18:12; 5. Chris Hart (FH), 18:21; 6. Greg Durbin (LS), 18:43; 7. John Barclay (LS), 18:46; 8. Matt Geweke (LS), 18:52; 9. Tom Benson (FH), 18:55; 10. Pat Runk (FH), 19:37.
Stevenson's record: 1-0. Harrison's record: 1-0.

Falcons win swim opener

Carolyn Smith won the 200-yard freestyle (2:14.8) and anchored the 400 freestyle relay to help the Farmington swim team post a 90-78 win over Southfield-Lathrup in the season opener Tuesday night.

Smith teamed with Hollie Chivers, Stacy Tellerico and Mari Griffone on a 4:24.0 clocking in the free relay.

Linda Deering won the 100 free (1:03.3) and Lori Kiel took the 100 breaststroke (1:19.2) for the Falcons.

W.BLOOMFIELD 119, HARRISON 53: Freshman Roxanne Bennett won the 100 breaststroke (1:18.39) and senior Catherine Tucker took second in both the 50 free (26.4) and the 100 free (58.18) for the Hawks Tuesday.

North linksters trip Harrison

Jerry Dalton fired a four-over-par 40 Monday to help the North Farmington golf team coast rival Farmington Harrison, 214-234, Monday at Godwin Glen.

North is 3-0 on the season. Eric Winebrenner (41), Andy Frets (43), Chris Beyer (45) and Erica Zander (46) also scored for Dick Wilson's team.

Jason Tratchand was the low man for Harrison with a 43.

Last week, North beat Southfield 219-231 and Southfield-Lathrup 188-209. Beyer was the medalist in both matches with a 38 and a 34, respectively.

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