

Sports

sports, amusements, classified inside

Chris McCosky, Brad Emmons editors/591-2312



(F1C)

Thursday, October 24, 1985 O&E

C.J.
Risak

A wife and mother—and basketball star

NE MORE HOUR...
It's not much, just 60 minutes. One episode of "Dallas" or "Dynasty."
What I could do with one more hour per day. I'd catch up on my reading or household chores (honest), or I'd just talk to my wife — while she watched another hour of "Dallas" or "Dynasty."

Or someone could find a way to add an hour to each day. I know I could do it.

Mary Kay Whalen could, too. In fact, after witnessing what Whalen is attempting to stuff into a conventional 24-hour day, I'd consider donating my extra hour to her.

Not that 26 hours in a day would be enough, either.

"IT'S A LITTLE hectic" was how a smiling Whalen described her life Tuesday. She appeared happy, though, fielding questions while standing on the Calhan Hall basketball court.

Time is precious to this former Livonia Franklin standout. She's as busy as any co-ed trying to combine sports with studies and searching for time to accommodate both.

Only Whalen is no ordinary co-ed. She's a junior, a transfer from Michigan State University. She's married, and less than a year ago she gave birth to son Erik.

Attention, all advertising types looking for ways to hype health foods or vitamins. Here's your perfect subject. Mary Kay Whalen: wife, mother, student — and basketball star.

Where does she get the energy? The time? The stamina?

"I HAVE A relative who watches (Erik) during the day," she said, still smiling. "And Chris is home at night. It is hectic because he's coaching football right now."

However, Whalen coaches the Franklin football team. Her brother is a high school coach. "He's been there whenever I need him."

Whalen was a major reason for optimism regarding MSU basketball following the 1983-84 season. Why not? She averaged 13.6 points and 7.5 rebounds for the Spartans as a sophomore and was the team's MVP.

But she was still Mary Kay McNall then. During the summer of 1984 that changed. She decided to marry.

When the couple became pregnant, she knew her college basketball career would be altered. But that didn't mean they would end.

"Right from the beginning, (Chris) knew I wanted to finish school and that I wanted to play basketball," Whalen said. "Inside, I knew I wanted to play again if I could. That helped me keep off excess weight while I was pregnant."

STILL, PRACTICALITY made it seem doubtful. They wanted to live in Livonia, and commuting to MSU daily for classes and basketball was impossible.

That's when U of D women's coach DeWayne Jones stepped in, with the help of an intermediary — Titan softball star Kim Redwood, another Franklin graduate and a friend of Whalen's.

"We knew she wasn't going back to MSU," Jones said Tuesday. "Kim Redwood was working in our office, so we asked her if she thought Mary Kay would be interested. She said she didn't, but she'd ask her."

"After that, I talked to (Whalen). It took awhile to get her to say yes, but we finally did."

That made Jones happy. It was a risk of sorts, giving a woman with a family an athletic scholarship, not knowing how she'd bounce back — mentally and physically — from a year off after having a child. If Jones or anyone else ever had doubts, though, Whalen quickly dismissed them.

"She came back in super condition after having her son," Jones said. "She ran the second fastest miles on the team during drills. I don't know how much that year off is going to hurt her. Only time will tell, but her having a son won't be a factor."

JONES IS CONVINCED, more than ever, that Whalen was worth the risk. At 6-foot-3, she's big enough to play center, but her excellent outside shot makes her a natural forward. She'll play both for the Titans while they break in 6-4 freshman, center Cammie Mak.

On Tuesday, Whalen kept smiling with anticipation of a season ahead playing forward for the Titans. In fact, the position she filled at MSU. Whalen took a beating trying to rebound against Big Ten opponents, always hoping to switch to forward.

If she has a concern, it's finding time. But even that looks like less a problem than Whalen first anticipated.

"Actually, I thought it would be much harder," she said. "Of course there are some little problems, but Coach Jones is really understanding."

ONE QUESTION lingers: What will Whalen do when the inevitable occurs, when she finds herself in the U of D library trying to study for an afternoon exam, knowing she has a big game that night, and all she can think about is her family?

Before the year's out, she's bound to ask herself, "What am I doing?"

My bet is she'll survive those moments of truth. She'll try to squeeze 25 hours in a day before giving up.

Whalen has her family's help and support, which eases the burden, and when needed she has incentive, too.

"I'm happy," she said. "I get a smile out of my kid."

Sometimes that's enough.

Back to 'B' for Harrison

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

Farmington Harrison High School will become a Class B school again in 1986.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association divides its member high schools according to enrollment sizes: those with enrollment of 1,150 or more are classified Class A; 537-1,149 Class B; 311-558 Class C, and less than 311 Class D.

Harrison's enrollment figures for 1985 show a population of 1,100 students.

"It seems to me that the previous figures for Class A were 1,158. Now they have gone

up. We're kind of shocked," Harrison principal Clayton Graham said.

"Really, though, it won't affect the sports program or our position in the Western Lakes Activities Association at all. Football may be the only problem," he said.

FOOTBALL TEAMS qualify for state playoffs based on a computer-point system which takes into account wins and losses for both the team and its opponents. Victories against Class A schools, generally, count for more than victories against Class B schools.

But Harrison football coach John Herrington isn't concerned about the new classification.

"We're still in the Western Lakes and our schedule won't change that much," he said. "What it does is give us a better chance at getting into the state tournament. In terms of prestige and status, playing in Class B doesn't bother me."

Harrison was a Class B school until 1981. It came into Class A classification in 1982.

Graham doesn't foresee much increase in enrollment at Harrison, he said.

"Our projections show high school enrollment to continue to drop through 1990, hitting bottom around 1991," he said.

North Farmington High School belied those assessments by showing an enrollment increase last year from 1,431 to 1,450. Farming-

ton High School, the third high school within the Farmington school district, has held enrollment steady at 1,400.

"I THINK what will happen is that the district will be realigned, and we'll be back in Class A in a few years," Herrington said. "It's only common sense. You have overcroding at one school (North), and another (Harrison) that continues to decline. They'll have to realign the district. We're on the east side here, and we just don't have any kids."

Harrison's athletic teams will compete in Class B beginning with the winter sports season in January.

Mercy awakens in time to overcome Mustangs

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

It's natural for basketball teams in the Catholic League Central Division to get especially fired up to play against Farmington Hills Mercy. After all, the Marlins have dominated the division for the past decade.

But Birmingham Marian takes on Mercy with just a bit more venom than most.

"I don't really know why that is," third-year Marian coach Mary Lille said. "I kind of came into it in the middle. The feeling here, I think, is that Mercy considers themselves better than we are. It's a little bit of a chip on their shoulder."

The feelings weren't soothed Tuesday night as Mercy survived a ragger first half to defeat the Mustangs 48-40.

"They have always beaten us in basketball, but that doesn't mean their school is better than ours," Lille said. "And we're finally starting to get some kids in here that want to play. Mercy has always gotten the kids that want to play."

MERCY COACH Larry Baker, judging from the pained expression on his face before, during and after the game, may not agree with Lille's assessment.

"Any frustration that I'm showing is only the re-

fraction from the last game we lost (to Ladywood Oct. 17). We lacked up the intensity level only when the game reached a hopeless point."

"Tonight, the kids waited for me to rip them into half time to perform at a level of intensity needed to win this game," Baker said.

Marian dominated play in the first half and led by as many as eight points. But Mercy rallied late in the second quarter to escape the half with only a two-point deficit, 21-19.

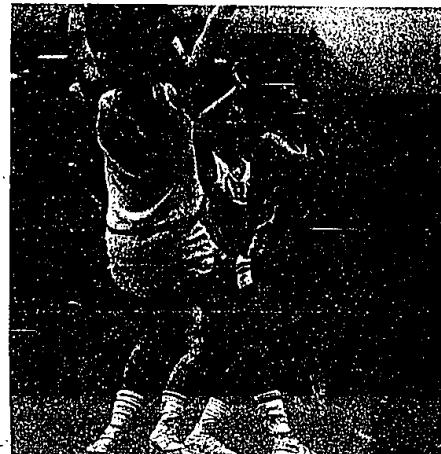
"We just missed so many easy shots," Lille said. "We worked the offense well and got high percentage shots, but they just wouldn't go down."

MERCY ASSUMED quick control in the second half. In the first few minutes of the third quarter, Mercy outscored Marian 10-4. In that span, Mercy's full-court press forced 10 turnovers — two steals by Missy Dociynski and four consecutive thefts by Michelle Fryatt.

"We really let down in the third quarter," said Lille. "And their press bothered us. We couldn't get the ball up the floor."

Also hurting the Mustangs was the fact that 6-2 sophomore center, Kathy Phillips, picked up her fourth foul just five minutes into the second half. She finished with just four points.

Please turn to Page 4



RANDY BORST/star photographer
Mercy's Terri Nalodka (No. 50) positions for a shot against Marian's Kathy Phillips (No. 40) in the Marlins' 48-40 win Tuesday night.

Lady Ocelot kickers knock off Kazoo, 8-2

What started out to be a tough year for Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team has become more bearable — after four straight wins.

The Lady Ocelots made it four in a row Saturday at Kalamazoo College, winning by an 8-2 margin. And yet, even these seemingly one-sided contests aren't that easy.

"We were ahead 2-0 in the first 10 minutes, and it looked like it was going to be a rout," said Schoolcraft coach Ed Dudek. "But then something happened, and we regrouped at half."

The Lady Ocelots needed to, after Kalamazoo bounced back to tie it at 2 at the intermission. Schoolcraft was unrelenting in the second half, scoring six unanswered goals — two by Denise Piwko, increasing her season's total to 10 — to win going away.

Wendy Propst gave the Lady Ocelots a 1-0 lead just 16 seconds into the game, with assists going to Jane Moylan (from Livonia Ladywood) and Tina Baxur. The lead went to 2-0 10 minutes later on goal by Kerry Lanagan, with Moylan assisting.

THE LADY OCELOTS let up after that, and it cost them two goals. With referee determination, the second half was a different story. Piwko regained control. Piwko scored 10 minutes into the half, from Propst and Lanagan, to make it 5-2.

Following in succession were Julie Kuzza (Livonia Stevenson), from Lori Nicely (Troy Athens); Piwko, from Nicely and Kuzza; Nicely, from Piwko and Baxur; Moylan, from Sue Bartram; and Angie Butterfield, again from Bartram.

The last two Schoolcraft goals resulted directly from Bartram corner kicks. According to Dudek, the Farmington grad has "been absolutely beautiful" from the corner, with the Lady Ocelots scoring goals on four of her last 10.

With a pretty good record (6-3-4), Schoolcraft is pretty good into this weekend's Ohio State University tournament. The Lady Ocelots will play host to OSU, Marietta (St. Louis) and Maryville in pool play Saturday. Should they win, they would advance to Sunday's semifinal and final rounds.

The top team in the opposing pool is Miami (Ohio) University, which tied

Schoolcraft 1-1 earlier this year at Schoolcraft.

The Schoolcraft College women's volleyball team, featuring North Farmington graduates Patti Kozicki and Donna Konjarevich, won another tournament over the weekend. Details are on Page 2C.

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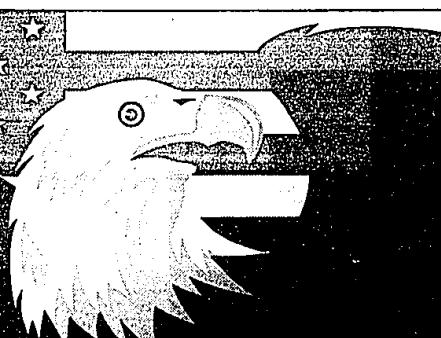
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SCHOOLCRAFT hosts Cuyahoga at 1 p.m. Saturday.



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