



Farmington's Lori Casaroli and her teammates managed to win one game during pool play Saturday at the 14th annual Schoolcraft

Invitational. It was the first game the Falcons won at Schoolcraft in three seasons.

RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Stevenson keeps its S'craft crown

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

"We're going to get them. One of these days, we are going to get them."

Mike Lindstrom, the personable volleyball coach at Walled Lake Central, didn't know it at the time but he was speaking the thoughts of all but one coach at the 14th annual Schoolcraft Invitational High School Volleyball Tournament Saturday.

The "them" he referred to was Livonia Stevenson. And perhaps one of these days his Vikings, or any of the other 29 teams in the tournament, will knock Stevenson off. But that day wasn't Saturday.

The Spartans, for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year, captured the Schoolcraft title. Stevenson survived a tough three-game semifinal match with Walled Lake Central (13-15, 15-9, 15-10) and slammed Livonia Ladywood in the finals (15-10, 15-9). Ladywood, coached by tournament director Tom Teetstra, beat Walled Lake Western in another grueling three-game match, 15-10, 14-16, 15-10, to earn a crack at the Spartans.

THIS CHAMPIONSHIP might have been the Spartans' most impressive. Out of 15 games played, they lost once. The team just didn't show any weaknesses. They dominated at the net, their serving and back row play was flawless. On top of that, the team played with tremendous poise. After losing game one to Central in the semis, the Spartans came back with a 15-0 whitewash in game two. The team was unflappable all day long.

"They did seem relaxed and poised," Stevenson coach Lee Cagle said. "I don't know. I felt a lot of pressure. I can tell you that. But the girls seemed really relaxed." Perhaps the term "relaxed" could be replaced by "confident." The Spartans seemed to feel a strong sense of immortality — at least for Saturday.

AFTER LOSING the first game to Central, the Spartans didn't appear overly concerned. They just

volleyball

14th ANNUAL SCHOOLCRAFT INVITATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT (Sponsored by Schoolcraft College)

Championship match: Livonia Stevenson def. Walled Lake Central, 15-10, 15-9, 15-10; Ladywood def. Walled Lake Western, 15-10, 14-16, 15-10.

Quarterfinal matches: Livonia Stevenson def. Dearborn, 15-4, 15-4; Walled Lake Central def. Detroit Henry Ford, 15-6, 15-4; Walled Lake Western def. Garden City, 15-8, 6-15, 15-12; Ladywood def. Livonia Churchill, 15-12, 15-10.

Consolation matches: Livonia Churchill def. Temperance-Bedford, 15-10, 15-3; Walled Lake Western def. Fenton, 15-6, 10-16; Detroit Henry Ford def. Grand Blanc, 15-13, 15-4; Dearborn def. Livonia Franklin, 10-16, 15-10, 15-1.

POOL PLAY

Pool E: 1. Garden City, 8-2; 2. Livonia Franklin, 6-2; 3. North Farmington, 5-5; 4. Cantonville, 2-8; 5. Redford Thurston, 1-7.

Pool F: 1. Detroit Henry Ford, 7-1; 2. Livonia Churchill, 5-3; 3. (tie) Wayne Memorial and Farmington Harrison, 4-4; 5. Detroit Benedictine, 0-8.

Pool G: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 8-0; 2. Grand Blanc, 6-2; 3. Rochester Adams, 4-4; 4. (tie) Redford Union and Dearborn Edison, 1-7.

Pool H: 1. (tie) Walled Lake Western and Temperance-Bedford, 6-2; 3. Redford Bishop Borgess, 5-3; 4. Lutheran East, 3-8; 5. West 0-0.

Pool I: 1. Walled Lake Central, 8-0; 2. Fenton, 6-2; 3. South Lyon, 4-4; 4. Northville, 2-8; 5. Dearborn Helms, Crestwood, 0-8 (did not show).

Pool J: 1. (tie) Ladywood and Dearborn, 7-1; 2. Flint Afton, 4-4; 4. (tie) Farmington and Plymouth Canton, 1-7.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM: Kristine Bailey, Stevenson (MVP); Sue Zatorski, Stevenson; Jerry Becker, Ladywood; Corinne McLennan, Ladywood; Dawn Andrews, Walled Lake Western; Robin Spaw, Fenton; Nikki Shubbe, Garden City; Kelly Ellis, Walled Lake Central.

rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Kristine Bailey accounted for 11 of the team's 15 points in game two: seven service points and four kills at the net.

That was typical of her performance all day. Whenever the game got tight, Bailey took charge.

Against Ladywood in the finals, Bailey had seven kills for points, 12 kills for sideouts and five service points with three aces. In game two, with Ladywood ahead 9-6, Bailey scored three straight points with spikes to tie the game. Then she spiked home the last three points to give the Spartans the victory.

Kristine Bailey, what can you say? She is just awesome," said Lindstrom.

For her efforts, Bailey was the top vote getter on the all-tournament team.

But Bailey was far from Stevenson's lone star. Sue Zatorski, also an all-tournament selection, controlled the net when Bailey was in the back row. Hockey Ciber, the team's setter, distributed the ball extremely well. Janny Shidowski, Laura Brown and Amy Anderson passed well and made several exceptional digs in the back row.

EVERY YEAR, it seems, the Schoolcraft Invitational produces one Cinderella team. Last year it was Birmingham Marlan who, with just six players, snuck into the semifinals. This year it was Livonia Ladywood.

The Blazers, a young and aggressive team, edged Livonia Churchill in the quarterfinals. Churchill had been red-hot, having just upset Temperance-Bedford in two quick games.

Then, with an assortment of off-speed hits and dump shots, the Blazers frustrated powerful Walled Lake Western in the semis. Western had just survived a three-game match with Garden City in the quarterfinals.

"My girls just weren't prepared to defend that kind of attack," said Western coach Fritz Tallon, who complained throughout the match that the Blazers' dinks were illegal. "I thought the officials used an international interpretation of the rules. To me, a lot of those (dinks) were carries. But give Ladywood credit. They played extremely well defensively. And their off-speed game forced us to make a lot of net violations."

Please turn to Page 2

Rocks top slumping Raiders

Looks like the Plymouth Salem volleyball team picked a good time to hit its stride.

The Rocks placed fourth in the 10-team Trenton Invitational Saturday, then jolted Western Lakes foe North Farmington Monday, 16-14, 15-8.

"Every time we get on the floor we get better and better," Salem coach Betty Smith said. "We played real good defensively and made some nice digs against North. Then they started to make some mental errors." Said North coach Sandy Lubieniecki: "We were so flat. And then the harder we tried, the worse we played. Salem is a scrappy team, and tonight they were at their scrappiest."

JANE KLAES, Denise Tackett, Jessica Handley and Almee Hayden were the standouts for the Rocks. Hayden had six back row digs plus an 8-for-10 serving night with two aces. Tackett and Klaes, set up nicely by Kara Cummings, had five kill spikes apiece. Handley, aside from a near-flawless passing performance, was 7-for-7 serving.

Tammy Spengler, Kris McMillan and Sandy Spahn made several outstanding individual plays for North. But, as Lubieniecki said, "We just didn't play together and that's the name of the game in volleyball."

Salem is 7-13 on the season, North falls to 19-13. The Western Lakes conference tournament is Saturday at Walled Lake Central.

Shunned by MAC schools, Murray signs with Wayne

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

You might say Mark Murray is a man on a mission.

The strong-armed All-Area quarterback from Farmington Harrison accepted a full scholarship from Wayne State University Saturday, and there was fire in his eyes when he inked the pact.

"I definitely feel like I have something to prove," Murray said. "I just wish I would get a chance to play against some of these bigger schools to show them what I am made of."

You see, Mark Murray was virtually ignored by college recruiters. Never mind about his 1,631 yards passing this season. Never mind his cannon-like arm, which connected on 108 of 205 passes.

Forget it. Mark Murray, said scouts throughout the Mid-American Conference, is too short to be a Division I quarterback.

Several schools — Ball State, Toledo, Miami of Ohio — contacted Murray but never showed up to see him play. Bowling Green sent a scout to a Harrison practice. Once. That scout took one look at Murray and started to laugh.

MURRAY WAS stung by that. It

was the most ferocious hit he ever sustained in football. That laugh. He may never forget that laugh.

"Coach (John) Herrington and I had talked about it and we both thought I could be a MAC-level player," Murray said. "Most schools, though, said they were looking for someone around 6-2 or 6-3. I think I can throw the ball as good as anyone in that league. I really thought someone would take a chance."

Said Herrington: "He's 5-11½ and that's too short! No way. As good as he is, I just don't understand it."

Murray is doing his best to put the snub behind him and concentrate on his future as a Tartar.

"I am very happy to be playing someplace where I'm wanted," he said. "I have a good chance to start. It's going to work out."

WSU WILL graduate its all-time leading passer this spring. Rich Popp, a Livonia Franklin product, has started at Wayne the last 3½ seasons. Coming back is a sophomore and four lo-come freshmen.

Murray's self-esteem got an additional boost recently when the Michigan High School Football Coaches



Mark Murray on to WSU

Association named him one of the East Squad's quarterbacks in the annual High School All-Star Classic in August.

But deep down, a fire still burns within Murray. He won't soon forget the snub. Perhaps he'll have the last laugh.

2 FOR 1 SALE

ON ALL
DOWNHILL SKIS
INCLUDES:

- ELAN
- BLIZZARD

BUY 1, GET 1 FREE!

Specials

FORAN SKI JACKETS-67% OFF
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT-25% OFF
SKI ACCESSORIES-10-50% OFF
ALL SKI EQUIPMENT 15-25% OFF

STORE LOCATION

147 PIERCE ST. (S. OF MAPLE)
BIRMINGHAM
647-7666



STORE HOURS

M-T-W 10-6
T-F 10-9
SAT. 10-6

