

## Sports

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Thursday, February 26, 1987 O&amp;E

## Spartans spike tournament foes for WLAA title

By Chris McCosky  
staff writer

The Livonia Stevenson volleyball team is about as popular in Walled Lake as a migraine headache.

In fact, a headache is exactly what the Spartans gave both Walled Lake teams (to say nothing of the rest of the 12-team field) Saturday at the Western Lakes Activities Association Volleyball Tournament at Walled Lake Central.

Stevenson, after outlasting a feisty Walled Lake Central team in the semifinals (8-15, 15-4, 15-12), dusted Walled Lake Western in the championship match 15-7, 10-15, 15-6.

LET'S CONSIDER what these nasty Vikings have done to the Walled Lake teams this season.

Central, after Saturday, has a 29-7 record. Five of the losses were administered by Stevenson. The Vikings have competed in three tournaments this season and the Spartans have eliminated them from each.

"It has really hurt our state recognition," Central coach Mike Lindstrom said. "We can't get ranked with seven losses. I tell them that five of the losses were to the No. 4 team in the state, but..."

Western, after Saturday, has an impressive 31-4 record. Stevenson (38-4) has beaten the Warriors twice.

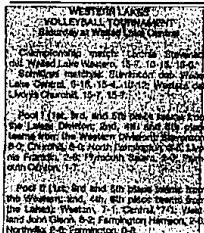
"I did not want to play Walled Lake Western," said Stevenson coach Leo Cagle, whose Spartans have won eight league titles in his nine-year coaching reign. Western, ironically, took the title away from Stevenson last year.

"They really scare me," he added. "They hit well, and they dig better than anybody. You cannot afford to take a breather against them."

SATURDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP match afforded few breathers for either side.

Stevenson, behind the power of senior Kristine Bailey, rolled convincingly past Western in game one. Bailey scored seven of the 15 points with spikes and well-placed off-speed hits.

Western used its premier attacker to get even in game two. Senior



Down Andrews accounted for the team's last seven points at the net.

Western jumped ahead 4-1 in the decisive third game. But, with Bailey serving seven straight points, Stevenson ran off 12 unanswered points and eventually buried the Warriors.

"The same things have haunted us all year, bad passing and service reception," said Western coach Fritz Tallion. "We won game two because we passed the ball well, and we were able to get the ball to our big hitter. But you can't take anything away from Stevenson. They play great defensively and Bailey is just outstanding. We wanted to get her in the back row, but when she got there she killed us with her serve."

BAILEY'S BRILLIANCE is the most visible characteristic of the Spartans. But she would be the first to point out the undeniable value of the five other Stevenson players.

Sue Zatorski was superb at the net throughout the day. Her left-handed spike gives blockers fits.

Rocky Cibo, a first-year setter, spread the ball around nicely. Then, whenever the opposition dored off, she'd tap one over the net for a point. She scored two big points on dink shots against Western.

Both Lindstrom and Tallion spoke of Stevenson's uncanny ability to dig



Steph Knapp lines up a spike for North Farmington. The Raiders went 3-5 in pool play at the WLAA volleyball tournament.

up spikes and get quickly into its offensive attack. The reason is the hustle of back row standouts Amy Anderson, Laura Brown and Jenny Sindewski. Brown also played well in the front row, particularly against Western.

"We have two very dominant players in Bailey and Zatorski. They put an awful lot of pressure on a team,"

Cagle said. "And we have a lot of kids with exceptional athletic ability. And, for the most part, there's no resentment among the players. They play as a team."

TWO OTHER teams made nice runs in the tournament. Livonia

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C.J. Risak

## Destinies decided without competition

A GUY WHO SHOULD know better told me something Tuesday, saying it as if he were surprised but not really shocked. "You know, before I always thought sports were decided on the field of play," he said.

Speaker was Richard Thompson, Wayne State's sports information director. What he said might have been true in the earliest days of athletic competition.

Not now. These days, athletic destinies are determined by officials without the benefit of competition. Developments of the past week prove it.

EXAMPLE NO. 1: Plymouth Salem vs. Westland John Glenn, two excellent basketball teams whose fates were determined by the flip of a coin.

The scenario: Salem lost to John Glenn in the team's first meeting at Salem. Friday, the two teams — by far the best in the Western Lakes Activities Association (WLAA) — met again. This time Salem won on a buzzer shot by Jeff Justice.

It was the Rockets' first loss this season (Salem has two), and it tied them with Salem for first in the WLAA's Lakes Division. The tiebreaker formula consisted of WLAA wins, division wins and head-to-head competition. Since neither had an advantage, the only thing left to do was toss a coin.

At stake was a berth in the WLAA championship game against Western Division-winner Plymouth Canton.

Salem won the toss. So 17-1 Glenn must settle for second place.

Hardly seems fair, does it? In previous years the league decided its champion by playing a three-game tournament, which seems fairer than the present method. WLAA officials agree, and they will return to a tournament format

next year.

Of course, that doesn't help John Glenn much, does it?

EXAMPLE NO. 2: Oakland University vs. Wayne State. These two basketball teams have been battling, together with Ferris State, for berths in the NCAA Division II tournament and the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) title.

Ferris is in the driver's seat for both. The Bulldogs are first in the GLIAC, a game ahead of WSU. The Pioneers are third at 9-5. But there are 32 spots in the NCAA II tournament, enough for all three. Or so officials from WSU and OU believe.

Now, it's possible just Ferris will be chosen. If one other team is picked, who will it be, the Tartars or OU? They have the same overall record (18-3) and have split in head-to-head competition.

So it comes down to another undetermined tiebreaker. WSU has the better GLIAC record, but OU coach Greg Kampe noted, "The NCAA (selection committee) doesn't give a hoot about our league."

Of more concern to Kampe is WSU's tradition. The Tartars were in the tournament last year; their reputation is better than OU's, which has never enjoyed such success.

BUT KAMPE is confident that if his team wins its final two games, they will get a berth — it isn't in their North Central Region, then somewhere else.

"We've got to win our last two games first before we start worrying about the politics of it," said Kampe. "But 20 wins usually assures it."

OU needs to beat Michigan Tech tonight and Lake Superior State.

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## CC reigns in mat district

By Brad Emmons  
staff writer

Redford Catholic Central wrestling coach Mike Rodriguez claims he's not a greedy man.

But when the Class A regional tournament gets under way at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at CC, the host coach would like to see all 11 of his district qualifiers make it on through to the state finals, Saturday, March 14, at Lansing Eastern High School.

The Shamrocks, the odds-on favorite to win this year's Class A title, recorded seven first-place finishes, a pair of seconds and a pair of fourths en route to 231½ points and the Plymouth Salem district title last weekend. (See results on statistics page.)

"The most we've ever sent to the state meet was eight, but I'd like to see all of them make it and I'm not being greedy," said the CC coach. "I'd feel more comfortable if they all go, but it's going to be hectic (at the regional). We won't run into a lot of teams with depth, but there will be a lot of teams with good individuals. That's what we ran into at the districts."

WINNING INDIVIDUAL titles for CC were Toby Heaton (heavyweight), Jay Helm (112 pounds), Matt Helm (126), Mitch Quint (145), Chris Lemanski (155), Leo Krueger (167) and Bob Yeager (183).

Heaton, a 6-foot-8, 240-pound junior, ran his record to 51-5 by sweeping through the heavyweight class, although he had a few anxious moments.

He narrowly escaped David Fink of Ann Arbor Huron in the semifinal, avoiding a pin in the final minute to score a 9-8 win. In the final, Heaton handed Oak Park standout Gary Brown his first loss of the year, a 2-0 decision in overtime.

"Toby had two tough matches back-to-back, but that says something about our competition," Rodriguez said. "We've had to do the most of the year."

"He (Toby) is low key, but he had a

lot of confidence. He's also an intelligent wrestler."

Although CC's Matt Helm and Salem's Dennis Dameron split during the regular season, it was all Helm this time, scoring a 5-2 win.

"That had to be a high for us and a high for Matt," Rodriguez said.

THE CC SOPHOMORE ran his record to 39-4, while his freshman brother Jay, who scored a convincing 10-4 victory over Salem's Sean May in the 112-pound final, is 42-13.

As expected, Quint won the 138-pound crown, raising his record to 51-4. He scored three points before posting a 6-2 win over Ann Arbor Plymouth.

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BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Farmington's Todd Jacobs found himself in a difficult position in his match with Salem's Dennis Dameron during Saturday's state district tournament. Dameron won the match,

eventually finishing second in the district to Catholic Central's Matt Helm. Jacobs recovered to qualify for the regional tournament.

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