

Oakland County hotbed for prep tennis

By Marty Budner
staff writer

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) girls tennis tournament begins Friday at various sites throughout the state.

Some of the best Class A action can be seen right in this area as both Southfield-Lathrup and Troy Athens will host regional tournaments. According to present seedings, Birmingham Marian is favored to win at Lathrup while Seaholm has a slight edge at Athens.

The top two teams and the No. 1 flight champion and runner-up advance to the state final. The Class A championship meet will be held Oct. 16-17 at the Midland Community Tennis Center Complex. Eastern Michigan University will host the Class B meet while Okemos High School will be the site of the Class C-D state tourney.

The 11-team tourney at Lathrup promises

to be among the most competitive as West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills Andover, Birmingham Groves and Farmington Mercy will push Marian for the title. There should be a heated battle for second place.

The No. 1 singles flight championship also is wide open.

The No. 1-seeded player is Catholic League champion Nicole Transou of Mercy. Marian's Jenny Catalano, who missed most of the season with an illness, Southfield's Charis Hunt, Groves' Gina Leo and Andover's Jenny Gottfarb should provide Transou with some stiff competition.

"Jenny just got back this week and I hope she'll be OK by the regionals," said Marian coach Julie McKnight. "We started out this season as being a super team on paper. We've had four matches rained out, but in spite of the injuries and the rain, I still think we have one of the strongest doubles lineup in the area."

LAHSER, TRADITIONALLY boasting a powerful singles lineup, will have to earn its state-qualifying berth through its doubles team. All three doubles squads are No. 1 seeds at the Athens regional, as is Elizabeth Nau at No. 1 flight singles.

At No. 2 flight, Seaholm's Debbie Michelson and Lahser's Nicole Ashare share No. 1 seeds. Seaholm's Deirdre Keating and Sue Fredericks are top seeds at the Nos. 3 and 4 flights, respectively.

The host Red Hawks have three singles players — Sandy Sosnoski (No. 2), Nadine Messih (No. 3) and Kathy Wen (No. 4) — as No. 2 seeds. Troy's Michelle Pezold is seeded third at No. 2 singles.

"If the seeds hold up, Seaholm should win by one point over Lahser," said Athens coach and tournament director Warren Block. "But, if either one gets upset Troy Athens is ready to jump in."

The highly-regarded Knights doubles

teams include Tracy Cronin and Debbie So, state Class A semifinalists at No. 1 flight last year, Stephanie Fishman and Jennifer Way (No. 2) and Heather Witbeck and Kristine Roth (No. 3). Cronin and So had brief flings earlier this year as singles players but are back together and ready for the regional.

"Seaholm has the depth through the singles but we have depth through the doubles," said Lahser coach Maxie Neugebauer. "We've always had a good No. 1 doubles team, but this year our Nos. 2 and 3 doubles teams are a notch stronger."

"Plus, we'll be getting good competition at this regional. We've been in some easy regionals in the past and the kids never got specially in the doubles. I really think that's one reason why the state title has eluded us all these years because we got knocked out so early in doubles."

"I think it's to our benefit to be in a tough-

er regional," she said. "It gets the girls used to pressure."

HOCHESTER ADAMS will be heavy favorites to win the regional at Waterford Mont.

The Highlanders displaced Lahser as Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) champions this year and are looking forward to a strong showing at the state meet.

Adams, primarily because of Amy Frazier's decision to play prep tennis, has been among the state's top-ranked teams all season. The nationally-ranked Frazier is expected to qualify for the state championship meet at No. 1 singles flight against another nationally-ranked player in Livonia Churchill's Carrie Cunningham.

Shannon Condon, formerly Adams' No. 1 player, should have a good shot at the No. 2 flight state championship. Mariga Neubauer (No. 3) and Erin Rourke (No. 4) round out the formidable Highlanders' singles line-up.

Lawmen run for Special Olympics

How much pizza can law enforcement officers eat while joggling from the Upper to the Lower Peninsula?

Little Caesars franchisees will find out this week, through Friday, during the Little Caesars Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run. Franchisees of the Farmington Hills-based pizza chain will support runners representing 100 law enforcement agencies by providing meals. This year's goal is to raise \$75,000 for Michigan Special Olympics.

The Torch runners, comprised of Michigan law enforcement officials and organized by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, will form two teams that will carry the Special Olympics Torch 1,600 miles.

The run started Monday in Copper Harbor and Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula, where the runners will join forces at the Mackinaw Bridge. Another team of runners will start in Whitehall (north of Muskegon) on Thursday.

The two teams of runners will meet at the Gen-

eral Motors Tech Center in Warren on Friday, for the concluding ceremony and the lighting of the Special Olympics Torch.

The Michigan Special Olympics Programs provide training and athletic opportunities for mentally impaired children and adults.

The Special Olympics receives no state or federal funding, but instead relies entirely on the donations of time, materials and money from businesses, individuals and organizations from throughout the state.

Falcons blast Thurston

Pete Frauenheim scored three times and Joey Crowe added two goals and three assists as Oakland roared to a 10-1 victory Monday over visiting Redford Thurston in boys soccer.

Scott Yoder also scored twice for Farmington, which led 7-0 at the half. Mike Gammerrath, Scott Seabolt and Scott Phillips added one goal each, and Steve Lee and Tom Krupka had two assists apiece.

With the win, the Falcons improved to 7-3 on the season.

Hawks surprise Howell

Mike Jacques took medalist honors with 38 in leading Farmington Harrison past previously unbeaten Howell 177-182 in boys golf last Thursday at Falkland Shores Country Club. Jason Tratechoud and Jason McDonnell added rounds of 46, and Jim Story finished with a 47 as the Hawks improved to 6-3 on the season.

OU netters lose 2

Oakland University's women's volleyball squad lost two matches last week, but it wasn't due to a lack of effort.

The Pioneers fell before two nationally-ranked Division II schools — Wayne State University and Ferris State College. Both matches were highly competitive. Unfortunately for coach Bob Hurdle's squad, the opponents were members of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). Oakland had been undefeated in league play.

Oakland University lost to No. 8-ranked Wayne State University on Thursday, 3-15, 15-13, 7-15, 15-pivotal game 5, 7-6, before Tartar Rachel Rogers from Swartz Creek served for eight straight points and the match.

Tracey Jones led Oakland in that match with 17 kills. The Pioneers played without leading

killer Sue Lormin from Troy Athens who suffered an ankle injury during a practice.

Wayne State's Rachel Farham had 25 kills.

IN SATURDAY'S match against Ferris State University, Oakland lost in four games, 4-15, 14-16, 16-12 and 2-15.

The Pioneers were leading the second game by a 14-8 score, but couldn't put it away. Ferris, ranked No. 5 nationally, scored eight straight points to register the victory.

Jones again led OU with 14 kills. Ferris All-American Patty Thels dominated the net with 16 kills and 13 blocks.

Oakland's overall record fell to 13-4 and its league mark evened at 2-2. Wayne State is 12-3 and 4-1, while Ferris is the five-time defending GLIAC champion, 15-13, 5-0.

sports shorts

EQUINE SEMINAR

An equine preventive medicine and lameness course will be conducted by Dr. John R. Keating and Dr. Michael E. Hall at the Oakland Equine Center this fall. The course will consist of eight two-hour sessions every Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m., beginning Oct. 6 and continuing through Nov. 24. A minimum of 25 applicants is required to conduct the course, and the

class will be limited to the first 45 applicants.

Advanced registration is \$55 per person, \$35 for each additional family member. Registration at the first session, to take place at 7 p.m., will be \$55 per person.

Checks should be made payable and mailed to: Advanced Equine Seminar, c/o 3282 Mendor Lane, Farmington Hills, Mich. 48018. For further information, call 437-3361.

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