

Sports

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Patty Chapp of Mercy (with ball) drives to the hoop against Borgess defender Angle Ross during Wednesday's regional game at Southfield.

Strong finish

Mercy ousts Borgess in state tourney

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy turned on the afterburners in the final quarter Wednesday, outscoring Redford Bishop Borgess 22-4 to advance in the Class A girls basketball regional at Southfield with a 58-34 triumph over the Spartans.

Mercy's win sets up a rematch with the winner of tonight's other regional game between Livonia Ladywood (17-4) and Plymouth Salem (22-1). Those two teams will play at 7 tonight, also at Southfield. The championship game is 7 p.m. Saturday.

"I prefer to play the loser," cracked Mercy coach Larry Baker. "Whoever wins that game (Salem-Ladywood) is going to be sky-high and feeling good about themselves. But we'll be there and I think we were naturally looking ahead."

"We're in position now to prepare a little more."

For three quarters Mercy may have taken the young Borgess team, which starts four juniors, for granted. The Spartans, who lost to Catholic League Central Division rival Mercy for the third time this

girls basketball

season, trailed by four after one quarter (14-10), nine at the half (26-17) and six after three quarters (36-30).

BORGESS, IN FACT, had a chance to cut Mercy's lead to two with less than a minute left in the third quarter, but Katy Foley missed a 16-foot jumper with 30 seconds to go and Jennifer Slosar converted a layup on the other end with 10 seconds left to give Mercy an important four-point swing.

Mercy, using an effective full-court press, then pulled away in the final quarter as Adrienne Clark scored seven of her 11 points and Jan Herberholz added six of her game-high 20 to spark the surge.

"We gave them a good game for three quarters," said Borgess coach Mike Resmer, whose team bowed out with a 10-11 record. "Of the three games this is the best we

played them . . . for three quarters."

"I think they wore us down in the fourth quarter and defensively we had a letdown. The key was that we turned the ball over too much."

Baker was not happy with his team's first-half showing. And prior to the game Mercy showed up with the wrong-colored jerseys. Baker sent a representative back on the bus to retrieve the right set, but what he got on the return trip from school was the JV uniforms, wrong numbers and all.

"INITIALLY WE WEREN'T executing our half-court offense . . . it was more like we impersonated a JV team," Baker said. "In the first half our full-court game was OK. We executed our half-court offense much better in the second half, even though we missed some shots."

"There was no question Borgess showed good discipline with its offense. I think we were fighting ourselves. But the kids hung tough throughout."

Herberholz, a 5-9 senior, has been Mercy's top scorer all season. She played another strong game as did Patty Chapp, who chipped in with 14 points.

'I think they wore us down and defensively we had a letdown. The key is that we turned it over too much.'

—Mike Resmer
Borgess coach

"Jan has been a valuable player throughout the season and tonight it was much the same," said Baker. "And Patty played a heads-up game as well."

For Borgess, nobody score in double figures.

Junior Angle Ross, who came on strong in post-season tournament play, led the Spartans with eight points. Foley and Shelley Blanding, the only graduating seniors, added seven and six respectively.

"I THINK THIS team will be good next year," said Resmer. "I think we'll have a better team next year, but it's too early to give any predictions."

"Mercy is a little better team right now."

This player knows no handicaps

HANDICAPPED? The thought never crosses Katy Foley's mind.

And truthfully, that's not what I was thinking the first time I saw this girl play basketball.

But I marveled at the way the Borgess senior could play, considering she has a severe case of clubfoot. Clubfoot is a congenital deformity that misshapes the feet, often into a clublike appearance.

She adeptly dribbled behind her back and through her legs against some pretty quick girls from Detroit Mackenzie. She rarely turned the ball over. I was thinking to myself, "Half the teams in the area would love to have this girl running their offense."

Foley, a tiny 5-foot-2 point-guard, relishes the sharks darting at her, trying to steal the ball.

"I like it when they do that," she smiles. "I'm just thinking, 'Come and get it.'"

Maybe inspiration is a better term for Katy Foley.

WE ALL MARVEL at Jim Abbott, the one-handed pitcher for Michigan. He's truly an inspiration. And when I was in high school I was amazed when I watched a runaway guard from Livonia Stevenson, Paul Van Wagner, the son of a coach, whiplash opponents like Isiah Thomas. He had a withered right arm.

Any good athlete, limited or not, needs support. And Katy's biggest supporter is her mother, Marilyn.

She hauled Katy off to Shriners Hospital in Chicago when she was a youngster to get the proper treatment. There were times when they'd go every week.

"I remember a lot of airports and changing casts," said Marilyn, a registered nurse who works with the physically handicapped in the Detroit Public Schools.



Brad Emons

When Katy was born, Patrick and Marilyn Foley were told that their youngest of five children may never be able to run.

But after 12 surgical procedures, including a pair of large bone fusions performed by doctors where she spent one summer in a wheelchair, Katy bounced back and succeeded where many girls her age have failed.

"THE WONDERFUL THING," says Marilyn, "is that Katy never said 'I can't do it.' She never complained."

She remembers a determined girl who played Mac-Mac T-Ball and took tap dance lessons wearing casts.

"She really did better in casts when she played T-Ball because it gave her the stability," said Mrs. Foley. "And I didn't think she could tap dance, but she did."

Katy played grade school basketball at St. Mary's of Redford. As she grew up she idolized her older sister, Sue, eight years older, who played for St. Mary's High.

When Katy left grade school she contemplated going to Farmington Hills Mercy, a Catholic League power in basketball, but opportunity to play at Borgess swayed her thinking.

"A lot of my friends are at Mercy and I knew it was very competitive," said Katy. "I decided it was best for me to go somewhere where I had a chance to play."

AND BORGESS COULDN'T be happier with their little guard, who helped the Spartans win their first district title in five years, earning a spot in the regional, ironically, against Mercy.

"She's just a female gym rat," said Borgess coach Mike Resmer. "From my point of view she plays with tremendous heart. She's done a heck of a lot for this program. She knows the game and has good court awareness. She sees a lot of things on the floor."

Foley's success also has its drawbacks. She's a tiny girl who takes a pounding on the hardwoods against bigger and stronger players in the Catholic League. And even though she experiences some pain, it doesn't get her down.

"It doesn't bother me when I'm playing," she said. "But sometimes I get a little sore and have to soak my feet."

"But this never stopped me from doing anything I wanted to do. I never considered myself handicapped."

WITH HER HIGH school career rapidly coming to a close, Katy, who also plays varsity volleyball and softball (an all-leaguer), would like to continue basketball in college, but fears some coaches may look the other way because of her size and club feet.

"I'm really undecided and I don't know where I want to go," said Katy, a student with above-average grades. "Maybe a Division III school or something like that. I'd like to keep playing."

Somewhere you get the feeling Katy Foley, who would like to be a teacher and coach some day, will find her niche.

On Tuesday, I caught the tail end of Borgess's practice. The final order of business was wind sprints, affectionately called "suicide drills" by Resmer.

And there was Katy, one of the top three crossing the finish line. Truly an inspiration.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Katy Foley (right) fits right in the Borgess attack along with teammates Marlam Carr (left) and Angle Ross (center).

Hawk gridders receive emotional lift after defeat

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The healing process began Sunday when each member of Farmington Hills Harrison's football program had a day to himself — probably the first in almost four months — to sort things out and reflect on the season.

The Hawks suffered an emotional round Saturday night as Grand Rapids Catholic Central took a 19-7 victory and the Class B state championship from Harrison in the Pontiac Silverdome.

The return to school and the everyday routine Monday helped even more, and the players received a show of support from the student body during a school-wide assembly that morning.

"That helped the players a lot," coach John Herrington said. "They were really down."

"The fact people were there to honor them made them feel good."

BUT THE STING of such a setback might linger for some time. After all, the Hawks won 11 of 13 games, including three playoff contests, only to be denied the ultimate prize for a prep athlete — a state title.

football

"People keep saying we had a good season," Herrington said, "but when you lose the state championship game you're going to feel bad for a while."

"We worked very hard for it, didn't make it and there's kind of an empty feeling there."

Harrison's coaches and players did their off-season work well, too. The Hawks didn't have a starter returning on offense, and six of the 11 on defense had graduated.

Yet, Herrington and his staff put together another championship-caliber squad, and Harrison maintained its high standards, winning its first seven games, finishing as runner-up in the Western Lakes, being a playoff qualifier for the seventh time since 1978 and, of course, getting within one victory of the Class B crown.

NOT BAD FOR a team with so many first-time starters. But it is actually a testimony to the Harrison

program that most of the 21 seniors could step in and fill needed roles.

"So far we have been able to do that," Herrington said. "Our feeling is the team is primarily seniors, and we bring them along for that."

"Our philosophy is if a senior and a junior are equal, we play the senior. Some teams will play the junior, because they figure they'll have him another year."

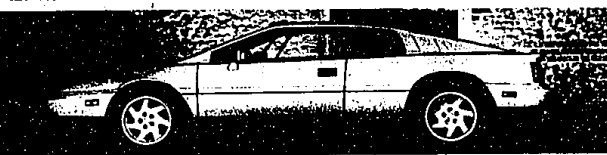
"You can have some outstanding sophomores and juniors, but you don't win consistently with them," he added. "People like (Chris) Cox (Mark) Bonasso, (Pat) Heath and (Bob) Hird really had to be there for us."

Herrington sounded a note of caution, however. A dropping enrollment might eventually affect Harrison's ability to groom upcoming classes for senior success, especially since the Hawks have been able to play two-plateau football.

BUT HE IS confident that tradition will continue in the near future, and that would mean Harrison's track record for success should continue, too.

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