



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Becky Leddy played well in a starting role for the Marlins, who lost a three-game match to Catholic League rival Livonia Ladywood on Monday night.

Rally repelled Defending champ holds off Mercy

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington Mercy has fashioned itself as a team capable of repeated comebacks early in the 1989 volleyball season.

The Marlins were on the verge of doing it again Monday night, but catching the defending Catholic League and Class A champion was too tall an order.

Instead, it was Livonia Ladywood that roared from behind in the third game and won the Central Division showdown 15-10, 12-15, 15-9 at Schoolcraft College.

"We've got a tough group," Blazers coach Tom Teeters said. "We've got a lot of talent left over from last year, and some new talent has come in."

Senior attackers Sarah Addima and Stacey Girard, holdovers from the championship team, were instrumental in the victory with their hitting and general front-row play, while junior Peggy Knittel and the sophomore duo of Kell Haeger and Rebecca Willey added their support.

ADDIMA, WHO helped nail down the win with two late kills that put unbeaten Ladywood (2-0) in position for match point, and Girard had a team-high 10 kills apiece. Haeger knocked down five attacks and Knittel three.

"Early in the year, we're going to (Addima and Girard) most of the time, but we're going to spread it around eventually," Teeters said. They hit the most, but scoring-wise our leaders were Willey, Haeger and Knittel."

While the Ladywood serving was sharp, the Marlins had difficulty with serve reception when the game was on the line.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Nikki Burns passes the ball to a teammate. Mercy had trouble with serve reception in the third game and made it difficult for Burns, the setter, to do her job.

volleyball

There was no doubt in Teeters' mind the Domanski sisters, senior Dana and junior Kari, were largely responsible for the Blazers' success. Dana was on the line for 16 Ladywood points and had seven aces.

"They key to this match was the Domanskis coming through with their serving when we had the right people up front," Teeters said. "Haeger got us started in the third; she got us back in the game."

THE MARLINS, 1-1 in the division and 9-3 overall, jumped in front 6-0 in the finale behind the serving of sophomore Becky Leddy and hitting of Andrea Velthoven. After Dana Domanski served an ace to break Mercy's momentum, the Blazers rallied to tie during Haeger's turn in the rotation.

Except for a brief interruption when Leddy, who played well in place of starter Jennifer Goff, scored back-to-back points, it was all Ladywood after the poor start.

Addima had a dink and two kills for points down the stretch, and the Blazers won it when a Mercy attacker hit the ball out of bounds. Because their setter had to go deep to take the pass, the Marlins often ended up lobbing the ball over the net just to keep play alive.

"We gave them a lot of free balls when it was 6-0, and Addima and Girard are excellent hitters," Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso said.

"All they were doing was hitting the ball hard at us. We weren't hit-

Please turn to Page 6

Hoffman tallies 40 in unsuccessful bid

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

If they were making an old Western movie, Matt Hoffman and Jeff Elliott would have faced each other in the middle of Main Street, with six-shooters on their hips.

But the North Farmington gymnasium provided the venue, and Hoffman and Elliott got the most applause for their theatrics Tuesday night.

Both players finished with career-high scoring totals, but it was Hoffman who won the individual battle with a gym-record 40 points for North.

But one man wasn't enough to stop Plymouth Salem, which dropped the host Raiders 84-72 behind a 32-point performance from Elliott.

Hoffman scored 26 points in the first half and was 7-of-12 shooting the 3-point shot. He was 11-of-16 shooting free throws, to boot.

"I'M PLEASED and displeased," Hoffman said. "It's nice to have that kind of game, but I wish we would have won. Our record is more important than scoring."

While the Rocks improved to 2-0 in the Lakes Division and 7-1 overall, North slipped to 1-1 and 3-5.

Elliott, who made three triples, virtually matched Hoffman point for point in the first half and had 22 by halftime. He was 5-of-7 at the free-throw line.

The shootout intensified in the second quarter when the Raiders made a run at Salem, which led 25-12 and was threatening to turn the game into a blowout.

North canned five straight 3-pointers, three by Hoffman, and more than doubled its scoring total in 14 minutes. The teams combined for seven triples in a row, with Scott Hale and Elliott each making one for Salem, to keep the Rocks in front 31-27.

The Raiders, who led early before Salem's speed and quickness took over, never did regain the lead, but the scoring display made for an entertaining evening.

"IT'S FUN AS long as both teams are doing it," Salem coach Bob Bro-

basketball

'I'm pleased and displeased. It's nice to have that kind of game, but I wish we would have won. Our record is more important than scoring.'

— Matt Hoffman
North basketball player

die said. "You could just feel the crowd getting into the game."

"We kept the same philosophy," he added. "We were going to stop their penetration inside and prevent the second and third shots."

Salem surged behind sophomore center Jake Baker's five points, 38-33, and Elliott, who seemed to be responding to a challenge from Hoffman, nailed two triples down the stretch for a 48-42 halftime lead. Hoffman had 18 second-quarter points and Elliott 13.

"It helps to counter with one (triple) if it's a good shot," Elliott said. "You don't want to force anything. They were giving it to me, and they were going in tonight."

"It might have looked like we were (matching triples). It feels pretty good when you can do that, too."

North got within five, 59-54, late in the third period after Hoffman followed a triple with a steal and jumper in the lane.

THE RAIDERS threatened again in the fourth when Hoffman passed to Eric Dettler for a layup that cut Salem's lead to 68-62. North, however, couldn't catch the more experienced Rocks, who pulled away to a 78-66 lead behind the play of Jeff Jagucki, Elliott and Craig Marshall.

"A couple of their shots weren't falling," Brodie said. "We took our

time and got the ball inside. That's where it took its toll in the second half. We were getting a lot of inside shots."

"It was exciting for Jeff and it was exciting for Hoffman, but I firmly believe our team beat their team."

That was evidenced by the added scoring the Rocks offered in support of Elliott's total. Marshall scored 14 points, Baker 12, Jagucki and Hale 10 apiece.

"They put five good athletes on the floor and come with two others (Mike Albertson and Hale) off the bench," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "They understand the game, and Bob does a good job of getting them to do what we want."

The Raiders, who played poorly in a loss to Livonia Franklin, according to Negoshian, gave a much better account Tuesday, and Hoffman's increased role was a reason. He attempted only five shots and scored nine points in the Franklin game.

"WE'VE TALKED about that all year, but part of it is being healthy enough to do it," Negoshian said.

Hoffman suffered an ankle injury early in preseason practice and didn't play until late December. "He's still not healthy, and that's what everybody has to understand," Negoshian said. "He still has a knot on his ankle."

Hoffman, who broke Mark Bleh's 10-year-old gym record of 38 points, wasn't necessarily taking matters into his own hands, but trying to follow Negoshian's orders, he said. (The school record is 48 points by Ken Kilka in 1983.)

"I think we had to keep taking shots instead of turning the ball over," Hoffman said. "That's what coach was harping on the last couple games."

"We were bringing the ball down and weren't getting a shot. A lot of us were looking to shoot the ball tonight instead of turning it over."

Brodie said he knew better than to hope for another game like the Raiders had against Franklin.

"I know which team is going to show up when it comes to playing Plymouth Salem," he said.

SERVICE.

It's just a simple word. But in the right hands it can really mean something. If you haven't experienced it lately, stop by an Allstate office in your neighborhood and let us show you what it means.

Let an Allstate agent help you choose the right protection for your car and your home.

A member of the
Scare Financial Network
Allstate
You're in good hands.