

running

Little Caesars hosted its 19th Annual New Year's Eve Family Fun Run/Walk, and several participants from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area enjoyed fine performances.

Five events were on the agenda, highlighted by the one-mile run in both the men's and women's divisions. Mike Kearns of Sterling Heights outdistanced the rest of the field in the men's division, finishing the course in 4:57. Latrice Dukes of Detroit won the women's one-mile race in 5:48.

Two O&E area runners managed top-10 finishes in the men's division of the one-mile run. They were Robert Kocembo of Farmington Hills, who placed sixth (5:57), and Westland's Rick Anger, who crossed the tape at 6:02 in seventh place.

In the four-mile run — the longest running event of the evening — three O&E runners finished among the top 10 in the women's division. Tracy Donahue of Troy placed fourth, finishing the course in 23:44. Nancy Denniston (24:50) and Kim Moffatt (25:54), both of Rochester, placed seventh and 10th, respectively. Rochester's Dan Derbeek was the only male entry from the O&E area to claim a top 10 placing, finishing 10th at 20:12.

In the one-mile run for girls under 12, Brenda Van Meter of Southfield finished third in 6:36. Canton's Katie McWha was fourth (7:39) and Jean Roy of Livonia placed fifth (7:40).

In the four-mile racewalk competition, Gary Gray of Livonia placed fourth at 40:59. Troy's Patty Maiorano was eighth on the women's ledger, finishing the racewalk in 50:00.

The four-mile fitness walk capped off the evening, and Roger Brown of Southfield placed ninth in 32:59. Redford's Sarah Mikula was a 10th place finisher in the women's fitness walk, clocking 62:37.

Marlins claim tourney title

Without one of its top hitters, Farmington Mercy's volleyball team managed to win the West Bloomfield Invitational, defeating the host school in the final Saturday.

The Marlins needed come-from-behind efforts in the semifinals and championship match. Mercy rallied to beat the Lakers 10-15, 15-12, 15-16 in the hourlong final after having overtaken Bloomfield Hills Lakers, 10-15, 15-4, 15-11.

The Marlins were minus Jennifer Goff, who was sidelined by a case of strep throat. She was replaced in the starting lineup by sophomore Becky Leddy.

"It was nice to see the kids play well in her absence," coach Tim DeBeliso said. "It gave them confidence to know they can still play good volleyball even if one of their teammates is not there."

"It was good for a young player (Leddy) with a good future to see what she can do in the heat of battle," he said.

MERCY FINISHED second in pool play but advanced to the quarterfinals with a 4-2 record. Milford Lakeland, which defeated the Marlins 7-15, 14-16, was first at 5-1;

however, the Eagles were beaten by West Bloomfield in the semifinals.

The Marlins opened with a 15-2, 15-6 victory over Berkley and followed that with a pair of 15-4 wins over Warren Cusino before meeting Lakeland. Mercy defeated the Eagles 15-7, 15-4 in the quarterfinals.

Junior outside hitter Andrea Velthoven had 48 kills, an average of 3.4 per game, to lead the Mercy attack. Pam Thompson averaged 2.3 kills and Lee Albrecht 2.1.

Thompson had 11 kills in the championship match, including nine in the marathon third game.

(Thompson) showed a lot of senior leadership in the championship match," DeBeliso said.

The Marlins rallied from 5-10, 11-13 and 12-14 deficits, he said.

Mercy served at an 86-percent rate, but that was deceiving, DeBeliso said, since the Marlins committed many of their 45 bad serves in critical situations.

"If we're going to be a good team, we have to serve better," he said. "We're happy that we won the tournament, but we need a lot of improvement in our serving and defense."

Ladywood wins division showdown

Continued from Page 1

ting the ball hard at them and making them work for it. When you let two good hitters take free swings at the ball, you create a lot of problems for yourself."

Ladywood dominated most of the first game, leading 6-0 behind Dana Domanski's serving. The Marlins cut it to 8-6 with a Leddy kill, but the Blazers worked their way to a five-point win, culminating with an Adzima kill.

MERCY REGROUPED in the second game, bouncing back from a 3-1 deficit to lead 7-2 and 13-9.

Velthoven, who had 12 kills in 20 attacks, paced the effort with five service points early and later demonstrated her ability as an attacker. Pam Gryn came off the bench to serve the last two points, including an ace for the game winner.

"(Velthoven) has to be a force for us game in and game out," DeBeliso said. "She has to be if we're going to be a good team."

After playing tentatively in her first starting assignment last Saturday, Leddy impressed DeBeliso with her aggressiveness. She was 10-of-13 as an attacker and had only two errors in 19 serves. Pam Thompson had nine kills out of 11 attacks.

"We did well hitting," DeBeliso said. "Where we tend to have a lot of errors is in serve reception. (Nikki Burns) does a good job (as the setter), but when you're not passing well it's hard for the setter to get to the ball and run an effective offense."

"We're disappointed because we felt if we had played well we could have won tonight. We started out 6-0 and just broke down. But the errors are all correctable."

Falcons tie for 2nd

Whew, that was close!

In one of the closest meets you'll find, Plymouth Canton's gymnastics team prevailed Monday over visiting Northville, 121.55 to 121.00.

Johanna Anderson, the last Canton girl to compete in the floor exercise, provided the margin of victory, scoring 8.3. Canton trailed by 1.7 points going into Anderson's final effort.

"Our last girl on the floor was the difference," Canton coach John Cunningham said. "She had to score above 8.0 to win it and she did."

Canton's win overshadowed the effort of Northville's Wendy Beach, who won the vault, beam and bars competitions. She also finished third in the floor exercise.

Beach won the all-around competition with 33.25 points. Anderson had a fine day for Canton, placing second in three events and finishing with 31.0 points overall.

Heather Fortier won the floor exercise, scoring 8.4 points. Turning in second-place performances for Canton on the bars was Shannon Connell, 7.6. Heather Murphy (8.25) and Annis Yoon (7.7) earned third place on the vault and beam, respectively.

"I was pleased that we won, and I was real pleased with the number of good performances," Cunningham said. "I know we can score higher; the potential is there."

FARMINGTON tied with Hartland for second place in a triangular meet Monday, gathering 116.15 points. Livonia Clarenceville won the competition with 117.3 points.

Christine Oates starred for Farmington, winning the floor exercise (8.4) and placing second in both the beam (7.65) and bars (7.9) competitions. She also was fourth on vault (8.15).

Debbie Ford finished third on the bars, scoring 7.8, and Amber Arbuckle tied for fourth place on the beam for the Falcons, compiling a 7.45 score.

Clarenceville's Jennifer Kelpio won the bars competition (8.0) and tied with Arbuckle on beam. Teammate Lisa Granfield was third on vault (8.2), fourth on bars (7.7) and third on floor (8.2). Colleen Wood gave the Trojans second on vault (8.3).

The Falcons competed without their No. 2 all-around gymnast, Julie Lawton, who was ill. The impact of a healthy Lawton might have made the difference for Farmington, according to coach Mary Beth Schornhorst.

"I think it would have," she said. "We were a little stale besides that, but she is one of our top scorers in all four events."

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