



Debbie Weintraub, the setter on the North Farmington volleyball team, makes an extra effort to keep play alive with this pass before the ball can be properly set for an attack. The Raiders are 2-0 in the Lakes Division.

BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

Raiders take Lakes Division win

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"NORTH MIGHT have finished off the Rocks on Clear's serve as the Raiders went down a 2-7 lead to the brink of match point, 14-7.

But the officials said a North defender dug the ball with an open hand. After some discussion, they opted for a replay, the result being a sideout.

The Raiders failed on two attempts to score the winning point, while Salem closed to within 14-10.

Clear finally produced the game winner with a kill.

North streaked to an 8-0 lead in the second game before the Rocks rallied to 9-6 behind the serving of Wiklund and Jenny Justice and Wordhouse's hitting. The Raiders later got back-to-back aces from Knapp to make it 14-9.

"It makes it hard when two teams are playing such good volleyball," Lubienicki said. "It got to be 8-0, but I knew we weren't going to blow them away."

Wordhouse had a match-high seven kills in the second game, and Azala Motoyama collected five kills for the match. Wolras was successful on several dinks, also.

"It's hard for the kids to play a fast-paced game and stay attentive to what's going on every minute of the game," said Smith, adding there's still "a lot of season left" to be played.

S'craft volleyball players commit to 4-year schools

By C.J. Risko
staff writer

Lols Webb had hoped for a clean sweep, but three out of four isn't too shabby.

And that's just what the volleyball coach for Florida Southern got last week when three stars for Schoolcraft College's national championship team verbally committed to attend Southern and play for Webb.

Setter Chris Paciero, a Livonia Churchill grad, and outside hitters Maria Evans, from Garden City, and Sarah Heddle, from Ypsilanti, visited the Southern campus a week ago and all three decided that's where they'd like to go.

Webb also was after SC's Nikki Stubbs, the player of the year in the National Junior College Athletic Association, but Stubbs has decided to attend Eastern Michigan and play for Nona Richardson.

"I'M VERY happy to have all three of those girls," said Webb. "I watched them for three days (at the NJCAA finals in Miami). That's where I got interested in them. I liked their style of play, and the fact that they did not win easily but they never gave up."

It didn't take long to convince all three to sign. Florida Southern is an NCAA Division II school with an enrollment of 1,800, located in a spot familiar to Detroiters: Lakeland, the Tigers' spring training camp. It is highly-regarded academically and athletically — Webb's teams have been to the NCAA II tournament eight times in her 12 seasons as coach.

Webb is losing three valuable starters to graduation: Trish Gadsberry, an All-American middle hitter, and outside hitters Lisa Frisbie and Virginia Huck, both all-region performers. That could open up starting positions for all three, although Webb has also signed Mary Davosia of Jefferson (Mo.) CC, an NJCAA All-American at outside hitter.

IT HELPED that all three received full-ride scholarships.

Evans, who boasts a 3.6 grade-point average and was named to the NJCAA all-tournament team, plans on going into elementary education. Paciero wants to go into secondary education, with a social sciences major. Heddle is also planning to go into education.

Although Evans and Heddle made up their minds about Southern while visiting the picturesque campus — it's located on Lake Hollingsworth, the school's buildings are all of Frank Lloyd Wright design, and the climate is, well, Florida — Paciero hesitated.

"What they decided to do didn't have any bearing on my decision," she said. "They made up their mind down there, but I waited until I got back."

After considering the offer, Paciero decided to sign. "It's very good academically," she noted. "And they have a reciprocal agreement with this state, so if I get my teacher's certificate down there, it'll be good here."

"That, and getting a full-ride — well, you just can't beat it."

STUBBS, FROM Garden City, gave Southern serious consideration, but she "wanted to go Division I." Several schools contacted her, but those showing the most interest were Central Michigan, Hofstra and EMU.

"I wasn't sure about Central," Stubbs said. "The coach, Marcy Westin, was going to become the (assistant) athletic director. Plus, they had five senior starters last year, and I didn't want to be in a rebuilding program."

The Hurons, on the other hand, "are only graduating two people." One of them is Kim Relyea, a Livonia Stevenson grad who also starred at Schoolcraft. Relyea was an outside hitter for EMU; Stubbs could step in and fill her position.

"That's what they said," she said. "But nothing's for sure."

Stubbs plans to go into business administration.

North reaches tourney semis

Oh, so close!

North Farmington was one point away from the final of the Wayne Memorial volleyball tournament Saturday, but Redford Bishop Borgess beat the Raiders to it.

North had a 12-15 lead in the third game of the semifinal match, but the Spartans rallied to win 8-15, 15-6, 18-16.

In the final, the Spartans defeated Birmingham Groves 15-15, 15-10, 15-10.

Doona O'Brien, Eve Clear and Courtney Knapp were North's top hitters for the day. O'Brien had 101 good hits out of 110 attempts. Clear was 81-of-96 and Knapp 74-of-90.

O'Brien had 32 spike kills, Clear 27 and Knapp 17. Clear led in terms of all attack kills with 37.

Kelly Coulson was the top server, putting 54 of 58 into play for 11 aces and 34 points. Knapp served a team-high 13 aces.

Debbie Weintraub accumulated 59 assists and Pam Gressler 29. Coulson led the defense with 35 digs and Knapp had 31.

In pool play, North defeated Mt. Clemens 15-5, 16-14 and split with Royal Oak Kinsall (15-12, 15-10) and Groves (15-8, 3-15). In the quarterfinals, the Raiders defeated Mount Clemens 15-4, 15-9.

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Marlins beat Borgess

Farmington Hills Mercy had to do a fast psyche job on the volleyball court and pulled it off Monday night.

After being pummeled 15-4 in the first game of their Catholic League match with Observeland rival Redford Bishop Borgess, the Marlins remained in composure and confidence.

The result was a pair of 15-5, 15-12 wins and the match victory for Mercy, which remained in contention for the Central Division title with a 4-2 record. The Spartans are 3-3.

"In the second game, we came around and started doing some good things," Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso said. "They weren't passing real well and, consequently, gave us a lot of free balls, and we were able to run a sustained attack."

The lead in the third game see-sawed with the biggest margin being a 14-10 advantage for the Marlins, 16-6 overall. Jennifer Goff delivered the game-winning kill.

"Near the end we played some real scrappy defense," DeBeliso said, "and made a nice transition off some balls Borgess hit hard at us."

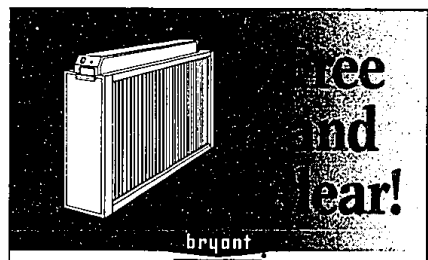
"It was a weird match; it was a great volleyball match," Borgess coach Jerry Abraham said. "We played inconsistently."

Andrea Velthoven had 10 kills out of 25 attacks for Mercy, and Goff was 7-of-15. Maureen Paulin had six digs on defense. The Marlins were 91 percent effective at serving and had seven aces, four by Goff.

DeBeliso said Tanisha Stokes played an outstanding game at the net for Borgess, and Mazie Pilut impressed the opposing coach with her hustling play. Ann DiMambro had nine kills and Stokes eight to lead Borgess, 20-4.

"We had a hard time getting the ball over the net past (Stokes)," DeBeliso said. "She was getting a hand on everything. Every time Andrea went up to hit, Tanisha was right there in her face."

As for Pilut, he added: "They weren't passing real well, and she had to run all over the court. But she was getting to them and setting the ball with accuracy."



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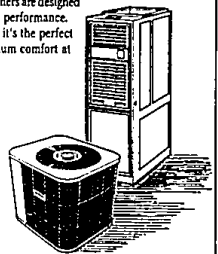
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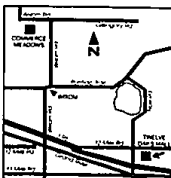
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