

Spartan tradition wins

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Livonia Stevenson isn't the powerhouse soccer team it was a year ago, but the Spartans are still Livonia Stevenson nonetheless. Until someone decides otherwise, the Spartans remain the defending league and state champions, and coach Pete Scerri believes the school's tradition in the sport contributed Monday to a 2-0 defeat of host Plymouth Salem.

"I betcha that's 80 percent of winning," said Scerri, who then summarized the pep talk he gave his players at halftime of a 0-0 ballgame. "I told them we're Stevenson, and we'll find a way to win. I'm proud of them; there's that tradition."

As it usually is when these teams play, the Lakes Division title was at stake, with the winner getting a rematch with undefeated and No. 1-ranked Livonia Churchill next Wednesday in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game.

The Spartans, 2-0-1 in the division and 9-1-1 overall as of Monday, had to beat Wallied Lake Central on Wednesday to make it official, but the Salem game decided the issue for all practical purposes.

soccer

Stevenson, ranked No. 8 this week, has won six straight and appears to be coming on despite being in what Scerri calls a rebuilding year after losing a lot of talent from the team that captured the Class A crown last fall.

The Spartans beat the No. 7-rated Rocks with goals by Shane Millner and Greg Smith, and goalkeeper Jerry Smolenski played a solid game, making several key saves on Salem shots.

"Some people are counting us out, but it's not over until it's over," Scerri said. "We're underdogs this year; I admit it."

"I didn't expect to be this far, but we're only lost to Churchill — and Churchill has a beautiful team this year. They're one of the best I've seen in the state."

The Spartans, who lost 1-0 to Churchill earlier this season, welcome the opportunity to play the Chargers, who are 12-0 and have won their last 11 games by shutout, in the WLA final. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Stevenson.

"I know they are a better team, but we're not going to take a back seat to anybody," Scerri said. "It's the other way around now. The pressure is on them for a change. They're No. 1, and nobody has scored on them."

The loss was devastating for Salem, which had hoped to end a frustrating week with a meaningful win over the Spartans. Instead, its worst both of late and historically in its rivalry with Stevenson continued.

The No. 7-rated Rocks, 2-1 and 10-3-1, were 0-3-1 in their last four games before playing North Farmington in the regular-season finale Wednesday. Salem had lost 1-0 to Churchill on Monday, Oct. 2, tied Walldale Lake Western 0-0 on Wednesday, Oct. 4, and lost 2-1 to No. 4 Troy Athens on Saturday.

Furthermore, the Rocks saw their winless streak in games against the Spartans extended to 0-12.

"We just couldn't finish," said Salem coach Ken Johnson, who saw his team outshoot Stevenson and, for the most part, dominate another game without success.

"We're not getting any breaks. It's just one of those things. I can't say we'll do this or practice that."

Another title for Transou

Nicole Transou of Farmington Hills Mercy repeated as No. 1 singles champion in the Catholic League girls tennis tournament Saturday at the Barcus Tennis Center in Detroit.

Transou breezed through the competition, beating Harper Woods Regina's Alexandra Loew 6-1, 6-2 in the final. In earlier matches, she beat Angie Myler of Royal Oak Shrine and Liz Mangle in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0.

"Nicole played well, but she really wasn't tested at any time during the tournament," Mercy coach Jim Kervin said.

Transou, the No. 1 seed in the Waterford regional, hopes to win

tennis

the Class A title that eluded her last year. She was runner-up to Meredith McGrath of Midland, who has since graduated.

"I think she's got a good chance," Kervin said. "I think she's a more complete player this year, and the defending champion is no longer in high school."

"She has her game together and, unless there's something unforeseen, she has a very good opportunity to take the state championship."

to take the state championship.

The Marlins were runners-up to Birmingham Marlin, which had 56 points to 44 for Mercy. In the team standings, Allen Park Cabrini, Livonia Ladywood and Regina tied for third.

"It winds up almost a dual meet at the end," Kervin said. "The Mercy girls I thought played well. Marlin's team had just too much depth. They were stronger than we were."

Mercy's Shannon Fitzpatrick, Allison West and Sue Strong finished second to Marlin players at Nos. 2-4 singles. The Marlins also were runners-up at Nos. 2-4 doubles.

Falcons finish far back in pack

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"THERE'S NO question he's one of the best kids in the state. So we'll see just how good in the next couple weeks."

West Bloomfield ran away with the first-place trophy in the girls race with a 61-point total. Farmington had 125 points, Millford 167. The Falcons, who were fifth last year, matched their best-ever finish (1986) in the county.

Out of 216 runners, the top 30 received medals. Farmington had three of those and just missed making it four.

In addition to Kiel, Jenny Derwinski was 25th (21:10) and Margaret Martin 27th (21:17). Allison Davis and Cheryl Casaroli also scored for the Falcons, rated No. 9 in Class A this week. Davis was 32nd (21:25) and Casaroli 40th (21:45).

Considering how many girls competed, Farmington's Gretchen Clappison and Sherri Vitale also fared well. Clappison was 61st (22:27) and Vitale 69th (22:44).

"The nice thing about this team is that it works well together," Barrett said. "Even if they're underdogs, they go in confident they can win the

race. That's what helped us win the (Redford Union) meet."

THE FALCONS were second to Dearborn Edsel Ford in the Shrine Invitational but finished ahead of the Thunderbirds at the

Of the 41 boys teams that participated, Farmington was 16th, but that was below standard for what the Falcons, who were fifth last year, are accustomed to doing. Out of nearly 300 runners, Kevin Van Ord was 82nd, Darius Mehraban 94th, Eric Crawford 147th and Greg Endres 159th.

"It's been quite a while since we finished that low," Young said. "We had hoped to be in the top five. Ben ran well but the team didn't have a real good race."

Farmington wins 1st

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ly as possible to best serve our readers.

Thus, it always involves a bit of a gamble, never knowing what the outcome might be on Saturday. And, obviously, I had no way of knowing for sure that Farmington would win, certainly not by five touchdowns.

But one thing is for certain. The Farmington fans can be sure, if I was doing page layout on Saturday night as opposed to Friday, the Farmington story most certainly would have appeared at the top of Page 1C.

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Doran's twin wins carry North to 2nd in county

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Finishing second in the Oakland County girls swim meet was good and bad from the standpoint of North Farmington coach Pat Duthie.

First, the good. The Raiders were just a point (104-163) behind champion Farmington Hills Mercy, considered a prohibitive favorite in some corners.

Now the bad. If North could get that close to the Marlins, then maybe it would have been possible to score another point here or there and win the meet instead.

"You never like to finish second by such a close margin, because you can probably find places where you could have scored more points," Duthie said. "Mercy should have run away with the meet, but our kids did an outstanding job."

The Raiders were led by Kerry Doran, who is the county champion in two events, and they finished the meet with uplifting results, winning the 400-yard freestyle relay.

DORAN'S VICTORIES resulted from her 2:11.92 time in the individual

swimming

medley and her 50.90 showing in the butterfly.

"Kerry is a big-meet swimmer," Duthie said. "Both times were very outstanding for this time of year, and she came back and anchored the freestyle relay with an outstanding time, too. All four had outstanding splits."

The Raiders needed to win the freestyle relay and have Mercy finish fourth or lower to win the meet. But, while North was first, the Marlins did what they needed to win and that was finish third.

North's Christie Duthie, Jennifer Wagner, Karrie Kranz and Doran posted a 3:43.06 time. Doran finished with a 54.30 split.

"We were real surprised we came that close to Mercy," coach Duthie said. "We were hoping it would come down to a situation where we could win the last event and win the meet. Our kids, at that point, did all

they could do. We're happy because we swam well and had fun."

KRANZ ALSO WAS second in the individual medley (2:15.35) and third in the 500 freestyle (5:20.79). Christie Duthie added a pair of fourth-place finishes in the 200 freestyle (2:01.34) and the butterfly (1:01.86).

Anna Palmer placed in two events, taking fourth in the breaststroke (1:10.53) and sixth in the IM (2:20.84). The medley relay unit of Julianne Markey, Palmer, Kristen Celko and Wagner was fifth with a 1:59.30 clocking.

Markey also was eighth in the backstroke (1:06.24) and Wagner 11th in the 100 freestyle (53.99). Carrie Worthen clipped in an eighth-place finish in the breaststroke (1:13.43).

"It took a good performance to get us to second place," coach Duthie said. "I could think of a lot of places if we had gone a few seconds faster it would have made a difference."

"Then again, if the Mercy girls had a day comparable to other days, the meet probably wouldn't have been as close."

Mercy's depth is key to victory

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100 freestyle (56.01), and Knipper also was third in the breaststroke (1:09.36).

Never placed fourth in the 50 freestyle (25.53), and the Marlins completed their scoring with a pair of seventh-place finishes by Polly Tenuta in the 500 freestyle (5:34.16) and Joan Huelmantel in the backstroke (1:12.89), the latter a personal best.

THE OTHER BEST times came from Jennifer Duda in the breaststroke (1:16.58), Katie Scanlan in the 50 freestyle (27.23) and butterfly (1:05.65) and Mary Quinn in the 100 freestyle (59.44).

Mercy's success in the county meet makes the No. 2-rated Marlins a team to watch when the state's best swimmers compete in the Class A finals on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-18.

McClune believes the Marlins have a team that fits the pattern Ann Arbor Pioneer, the state's top-ranked team, has used successfully in the past at that meet.

"Pioneer tries to win state meets

on team depth," he said. "I don't believe I have kids who can win an event at state, but I believe we have the opportunity to put at least one person in the top six in a handful of events."

"I think the county meet reflects that. I know we have two relays that can compete. Fortunately, we have two weeks clear with no meets. That's two weeks of uninterrupted training."

"Another coach told me it's scary when you go into a state meet and realize you have a team that could win it," he added. "It's important for me to make sure the kids stay up, because a season can fall apart so easily."

Dearborn dunks Hawks

Dearborn bested host Farmington Hills Harrison 103-66 Tuesday in girls swimming at Harrison.

Winners for the Hawks included Michelle Doecker in the 100-yard freestyle (1:02.39), Jill Murany in the 500 freestyle (5:48.34) and Eliana Trager in diving (208.2).

Additionally, three Hawks had personal bests.

Doecker (27.88) and Veronica Forberger (27.97) set personal records while finishing second and third, respectively, in the 50 freestyle.

Other individual bests were recorded by Forberger in the backstroke (1:12.01) and Margaret O'Sullivan in the breaststroke (1:21.1).

Harrison is 0-4-2 for the season.

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