

Sports

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Jennifer Goff attempts to block an opponent's spike during tournament play Saturday in the West Bloomfield Invitational. Mercy won 12

straight games (six matches) to capture the team title, its second in tournament play.

JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Marlins dominate tourney

Farmington Hills Mercy won its second volleyball tournament Saturday, defeating Bloomfield Hills Lahser in the final of the West Bloomfield Invitational.

The Marlins didn't lose a game all day, beating six straight opponents in two straight games to run their season match record to 12-0.

Mercy's 15-7, 15-6 win over Lahser was its most difficult match. The Marlins whipped Orionville-Brandon 15-3, 15-6 in the quarterfinals and then breezed past Hazel Park in the semifinals, 15-1, 15-4.

"We played steady all day," Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso said. "Against some of the better teams, we raised our game up a notch, but overall we played very consistently."

"Our passing and serving were consistent, and the hitters all did a good job. All of them had a kill percentage over .300 for the day. Nikki (Burns) did a good job of getting the ball up to the hitters, and we got a lot of kills."

JENNIFER Goff recorded 42 kills and Andrea Velthoven 24 to lead the Mercy attack. Goff also had a team-leading 10 service aces.

In addition, Lee Albrecht chipped in 18 kills, Maureen Paulin 15 and Gail Murie, playing in her first varsity game, 11. Goff had a hitting percentage of .456, Velthoven .421, Albrecht .500, Paulin .333 and Murie .478.

And setting up the hitters for all those kills was Burns. She averaged nine assists per game and also had five aces. Paulin fared well on the service line, too, dropping nine aces on the opposing side of the court.

"I thought Andrea had maybe her best day overall in terms of her front-row play," DeBeliso said. "She hit with authority and kept the (opposing) defense off balance."

"One time she'd hit it hard, and then she'd come back with a dink shot or little roll shot. She was thinking about what she was doing. She's realizing sometimes a soft shot is more effective than hitting the ball hard. She's starting to improve in that area."

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Macomb shocks OCC

By C.J. Rlack
staff writer

All factors pointed to a lopsided win for Oakland Community College Wednesday night — which is exactly what beat the Raiders.

Consider: They were coming off a truly devastating performance against Mott CC. Mott defeated Kanawha (Ill.), the No. 2-ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I, and OCC ripped Mott 127-83 Saturday.

Factor No. 2: Macomb, OCC's opponent Wednesday, was in the running for first place in the Eastern Conference with the Raiders. But the Monarchs were without two starters, including their top rebounder.

"I could just see it, sense it," said OCC coach Lynn Reed. "We just weren't mentally ready to play. Two of (Macomb's) big kids weren't here, and (OCC) saw that. They just had a meltdown."

The combination of OCC's swelled egos and a still-potent Macomb attack resulted in an 81-78 Monarch

triumph at OCC, which — together with Schoolcraft College's upset of Highland Park CC Wednesday — further scrambled the conference race.

MACOMB IS just 10-7 overall, but its 5-1 league record puts them all alone in first. OCC (4-2) and Mott both have two league losses; OCC is 11-3 overall.

Reed had more than just instincts to base his feelings on. "I thought they'd be the toughest teams in the conference to beat because they don't have a weakness," said Reed of Macomb. "They shoot well, they rebound well, and you can't press them because they handle the ball well and can hit their free throws."

The Monarchs did all of that in defeating the Raiders, who led only briefly in the game. The main catalyst in OCC's defeat was guard Clarence Rich. Rich didn't start, but when he got into the game, he scored — connecting on four three-pointers in the first half (scoring 18 points) and three more in the second. Rich finished with 34 points.

volleyball

Ladywood match next for Mercy

Farmington Hills Mercy had one last tune-up match Monday before meeting traditional rival Livonia Ladywood on the volleyball court.

The undefeated Marlins, who ran their record to 13-0 when they whipped Redford Bishop Borgess, meet No. 2-ranked Ladywood, two-time defending Class A champion, 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Madonna College.

Mercy dominated the host Spartans 15-0, 15-1 in the Central Division debut for both teams Monday.

Nikki Burns served 14 points in the second game. Jennifer Goff, Maureen Paulin and Amy Miller had one ace apiece in the first game.

OCC MADE a couple of runs at the Monarchs, but the Raiders' lethargic start — they trailed 24-15 with 7:36 left in the first half, having already committed 11 turnovers — doomed them.

Thanks to Mike Bailey (33 points, 14 rebounds), OCC did manage to get a three-point lead twice in the second half, the last time at 53-50 with 10:53 left.

But a three-pointer by Tim Switchulas (the Monarchs made nine-of-19 treys; OCC was four-of-eight) tied it with 9:06 to go, setting the stage for Rich. He scored 12 points in the next six minutes, sparking the Monarchs to a 67-61 advantage with 3:06 left.

After that, it was just a matter of making their free throws — which Macomb did, hitting 10 straight in the last 1:03 to offset three OCC treys in the final 30 seconds.

Tolne Murphy netted 18 points and Jerry Priksorn had 15 and 11 rebounds for OCC. Dave Siwicki got 16 for Macomb.

Coleman weighs collegiate options

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Coaching uncertainties in the football programs at the state's Big Ten universities have given Mill Coleman that much more to think about. Michigan and Michigan State are two of the three schools the Farmington Hills Harrison quarterback is considering, with Colorado being the third.

But Bo Schembechler's retirement at the U-M and George Perles' possible departure from MSU have raised additional questions as Coleman tries to select the right college program for him.

Coleman has visited MSU and Colorado and will make his official visit to Michigan on Saturday, Jan. 20. Schembechler picked assistant Gary Moeller to replace him at the U-M, and Perles has interviewed for the New York Jets job.

Millard Coleman Sr., who has played an active role in screening recruiters and assisting his son in the selection process, said they would expand the number of schools being considered if Perles were to leave.

COLEMAN, WHO would still have two official visits left to use, otherwise plans to make a decision a week or two after the Michigan visit.

"Right now, we're holding tight to see what happens at Michigan State," Millard Sr. said. "Taking a coach already on the (U-M) staff, it doesn't look like there will be too much change at Michigan."

"It makes you think a little harder about what you want to do," Coleman said.

Moeller was the offensive coordinator for the Wolverines, and there's been talk Michigan might throw more when he's head coach. But that could require a dropback passer instead of the rollout style Coleman is suited for.

"I haven't been to U-M and talked with coach Moeller to ask him what his plans are," Coleman said. "I'll have more answers to that after I visit."

Should Perles leave MSU, that would cause some uncertainty for the Colemans, as well as any drastic changes in Michigan's choice of personnel.

"THAT DEFINITELY is a major concern, because he has to fit into a specific kind of offense," Millard Sr.



Mill Coleman considering 3 schools

said. "He needs to be able to sprint, bootleg and have some options."

"We're more confident with teams and coaches who know what his abilities are. It's one thing for a coach to know what he's done, but it's another to say 'I've seen him play; I know what he can do.'"

"I think (Mill) has an advantage in this state, because of the publicity he's gotten. They've had the opportunity to read about him and see him play."

Another benefit of the U-M and MSU coaches being familiar with Coleman is they're not turned off like some naysayers by his 5-foot-9, 165-pound size.

"He'll have an equal opportunity to compete without size being a factor," Millard Sr. said.

"Some coaches, probably like a lot of people, say he's not going to be able to play college football without giving any consideration to the offense they're running."

"Michigan State has absolutely no reservations about his size. Colorado had no reservations either. (Colorado coach) Bill McCartney has been following Mill for two, three years. If you look at his quarterbacks, Mill fits the profile almost exactly."

EXCEPT FOR the fact he's about 20 pounds lighter, Coleman is a lot like quarterback Darlan Hagan, who led the Buffaloes to the Big Eight championship and No. 2 ranking. Coleman and his father visited Colorado in December while the

football

team was practicing for the Orange Bowl. Coleman met a number of the players, including Hagan.

"They do a lot of sprintout, rollout, option," Coleman said. "I'm willing to be an all-round quarterback, able to run the ball and throw."

Millard Sr. acknowledged the personal character of McCartney, a born-again Christian, appealed to the Colemans, a close-knit, religious family.

"We want (Mill) to know he's in an environment he's comfortable with," he said. "In fact, when we were out there, (McCartney) went to church with us. The Christian environment is important to us, especially when you're away from home and with pressure (in the transition to college life) involved."

Ironically, the football program McCartney heads has the opposite reputation from the one he has personally cultivated.

WHILE THE coach's character gets high marks, many of his former athletes have been characterized as thugs. Sports Illustrated last year documented the number of Colorado football players who've had brushes with the law.

"That becomes of great concern if 'What happens should Bill McCartney not be there after two years?'"

Millard Sr. asked. "I'm confident Bill McCartney has been able to build an environment — though all the kids might not come from the best environment — that is desirable for them. I think most of those have dropped out of the program or are in the last stages."

"I'm satisfied the other (21) recruits that were there with us are of character comparable to the kids Michigan or Michigan State might bring in."

"That doesn't bother me as long as the head of the program has the morals and standards I would expect of my son," he added. "Mill has developed the kind of mind to deal with those situations and avoid situations he could be drawn into. He's very sound when it comes to making good decisions."

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