

Canton ends long drought against North

* Plymouth Canton had never beaten perennial power North Farmington in a gymnastics dual meet. That was until Monday night when the Chiefs snapped a 12-year unlucky streak with a come-from-behind victory.

Canton scored 135.85 in its own gym, and the Raiders achieved a season high of 135.45.

The Chiefs improved to 3-0, while defending Western Lakes Activities Association champion North dipped to 3-2.

"My team was ecstatic," Canton coach John Cunningham said. "My teams have always wanted to beat North, and we knew we had a real good chance at them."

"It was one of those meets that was a real heart pounder all the way."

THE RAIDERS jumped in front with an impressive showing on the vault. Canton closed the gap on the uneven bars and balance beam and pulled out the victory with a strong performance in floor exercise.

The Chiefs won only one event, capturing the meet with their depth. That was all the more difficult, yet impressive, since Canton lost junior Heather Murphy to a migraine headache just before the meet was to start.

Jenny Tedesco had Canton's lone first on bars (8.5), North's Kym Heller and Heather Kahn tied for third place on beam (8.5), with Heller also winning the floor exercise (9.4) and Kahn the vault (9.5).

Canton's Kim Rennolds set a school record on vault, breaking her own standard of 9.20 with a third-place score of 9.25. Jameelah Gater of North was fourth (8.7).

The Raiders swept the next three places after Tedesco on bars. Kahn and Kristin Szutarski tied for second (8.3) and Gater again was fourth (8.25).

Rennolds and teammate Johanna Anderson share the school record in floor exercise. Both accomplished 9.2 Monday, bettering the 9.05 recorded by teammate Danielle Mirro in the Northville meet. Kahn was second in floor (9.3).

THE TRIO of Kahn, Anderson and Canton's Dawn Clifford tied for second place on vault (8.6).

"This is an indication to me how good these kids are," Cunningham said. "We had a good meet, but we had a couple falls on dismount from the beam, and some of our bar

gymnastics

routines weren't there. We didn't swing bars well with the exception of Jenny.

"But, on floor, we maxed out. It was an exceptional event. We had to do it if we were going to beat them — and we did."

Canton also was third in the 16-team Rockford Invitational Saturday. Holland was first (136.55), with Muskegon Mona Shores (132.30), the Chiefs (128.10) and East Lansing (122.60) finishing in the top 25 percent.

The top 10 individuals in each event received medals, and six Canton girls were so honored.

The best finish belonged to Clifford, who was third on beam (8.5). Murphy was third on beam (8.35), Mirro ninth in all-around scoring (32.69) and Tedesco ninth on bars (8.5). A pair of 10th-place efforts came from Rennolds on vault (8.5) and Anderson on beam (7.9).

LISA GRANFELDT won three of four events Monday, leading the Livonia Clarenceville gymnastics team (7-1) to an easy 122.7 to 99.3 victory over visiting Walled Lake Western (0-5).

Granfeldt led the Trojans on a sweep of both the floor exercise and balance beam. She scored 8.85 on the beam, followed by teammates Roberta Wiggle with 7.90, Jennifer Kaipio with 7.75 and Cathy Kelley with 7.50.

Granfeldt won the floor exercise with a score of 8.25, followed by teammates Sherry Hochstadt with 7.9 and Tonya Rostron with 7.05.

Granfeldt's other victory came on the vault with an 8.55. Wiggle placed second on the vault with an 8.05 and Western's Julie Dibble third with 7.85.

Clarenceville's Erin Magvine led the Trojans on a sweep of the uneven parallel bars, winning the event with a score of 7.55. Trojan Tricia Dunklee placed second with 7.35 and Kaipio third with 7.25.

Dibble paced the Warriors, adding a fourth-place finish on the bars with 7.25 and a fourth in the floor with 6.9.

Western's Amber Baker earned sixth place on the beam with a score of 6.85.



Kristin Szutarski of North concentrates on her uneven bars routine. The Raiders saw their longtime dominance of Plymouth Canton end with a loss.



Jameelah Gater competes in the floor exercise at Canton. Her best events were vault and bars in which she scored 8.7 and 8.25, respectively.

Mercy rally leads to division victory

Farmington Hills Mercy won its fourth straight Central Division volleyball match, rallying in the second game Monday to beat host Birmingham Marian 15-5, 15-12.

The Marlins, 4-0 in the division and 21-2 overall, trailed 8-2 in the second game, but they overcame the deficit behind the serving of Andrea Velthoven.

"I thought we showed a lot of character and poise in that game," Mercy coach Tim DeBello said.

Velthoven, an outside hitter, also led the Marlins' attack with 11 kills. Jennifer Guff put down 10 kills. Lee Albrecht seven and Gail Murie three.

Mercy plays host to Redford Bishop Burgess in another division match tonight.

LIVONIA Clarenceville reached the semifinals Saturday of the Royal Oak Shrine Invitational before losing to the host Knights, 15-3, 6-15, 17-15.

Lake Orion took the crown by beating Shrine in three games.

Outside hitter Karl Watson and setter Tara Riedl, who had seniors, represented Clarenceville on the all-tournament team.

They helped the Trojans defeat Royal Oak Dondero (15-12, 15-7), Southfield Christian (15-7, 15-7) and Ann Arbor Pioneer (15-13, 15-7) in pool play.

The Trojans, 8-4 overall, return to action tonight at home against Metro Conference foe Detroit Lutheran West.

LIVONIA Stevenson, behind the all-around play Monday of sophomore Teresa Sarno, defeated host North Farmington in a Western Lakes Activities Association match, 15-2, 14-16, 15-8, 13-15, 15-4.

"I think we had a little more energy at the end," said Stevenson coach Sharon Heikkio said. "We're just having trouble pulling it out at the end. I don't know if it's a mental block or what, but I think we'll turn it around by the end of the year."

Glenn is now 5-1 in the WLA and 6-7 overall.

LIVONIA Franklin, led by the setting of sophomore Sue Bona, evened its WLA record at 2-2 Monday with a 15-7, 15-9, 16-14 win over host Farmington Harrison.

The Patriots overcame a 14-7 deficit to clinch the match. Bona recorded 12 assists in 67 attempts.

volleyball

"And Collette Rockwell (a junior) attacked the middle very well."

In the Cornstock Invitational, Stevenson did not make it out of pool play after splitting with Temperance-Bedford and Marshall. The Spartans swept Bellevue.

WESTLAND John Glenn won its WLA encounter Monday with visiting Farmington, outlasting the Falcons, 15-7, 12-15, 12-15, 15-6, 15-11.

Middle hitters Kara Beeny and Nikki Wojcik recorded 14 and 11 kills, respectively.

Michelle Myers led with 12 digs, while Jennifer Massey contributed 13 assists. Karen Olack served seven aces.

Farmington, 0-5 in the WLA and 0-14-2 overall, was led by setter Kim Owczarzak, who had 10 assists, and Bonnie Wheelis, who served 12 aces.

Corrie Miller contributed nine kills and four aces, and Vincelis and Dawn Montrose had four kills apiece for the Falcons, who've lost several five-game matches.

"We played real well; all were close games," Farmington coach Sharon Heikkio said. "We're just having trouble pulling it out at the end. I don't know if it's a mental block or what, but I think we'll turn it around by the end of the year."

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Falcons mat winners

Farmington took advantage of five voids by Birmingham Seaholm as the Falcons earned a 10-24 victory Tuesday in non-league wrestling action.

Farmington won three matches by pin. Chris Phillips (119) took Seaholm's Ryan Kadro in 41 seconds, Joe Goudeau (140) pinned Al Pellumbi in 1:27 and Chris Krest (152) pinned Sean Lawrie in 1:42.

Bob Sutton (103), John Layne (112), Matt Smith (125), Mike Pallo (145) and Chad Haney (189) won by void for the Falcons.

For Seaholm, Andy Menden earned a 5-5 decision over Brian Link at 130, Mark Walter (145) clipped Matt Mullin 5-4, Alex Cobb stuck Ryan Adams in 31 seconds of their match at 160 and Jamie Downes (171) pinned Matt Siskosky in 1:22.

Farmington, 3-11 overall, will be host to Walled Lake Central, 0-4, tonight. Farmington sophomores placed second to Westland John Glenn in the Garden City Novice Tournament last Saturday.

Dave Monge won the championship at 140. Ryan Adams (169) and Matt Siskosky (171) placed second, and Pallo (152) and Jon Duff (119) placed third.

Dinges paces Oakland CC romp

There's something about playing St. Clair Community College that brings out the scorer in Bobby Dinges.

The 6-foot-2 guard scored a season-high 32 points Saturday to ignite Oakland Community College's 123-102, shootout victory.

More impressive is the way Dinges, who had a career high of 30 points last year against St. Clair, got that many points.

With the exception of two free throws, he scored all of his points on 3-point field goals, shooting 10-of-13 from the floor.

The wide-open style of play employed by underdog St. Clair helps set the stage for Dinges, a University of Detroit High graduate, to have a big game, according to OCC assistant coach Chris Peponis.

"It's THE type of game they try to play," he said.

Dinges scored 26 in the first half, and the Raiders needed that kind of output as they held only a one-point halftime lead over St. Clair, 57-56.

"If it wasn't for him in the first half, we would have gotten killed," Peponis said. "St. Clair plays everybody close for a half, but they don't have the horses to finish it."

While OCC improved to 7-2 in the Eastern Conference and 13-3 overall, St. Clair, which hasn't won a

game in two years, dropped to 0-9 and 6-17.

St. Clair couldn't maintain the pace in the second half, scoring only seven points in the first 10 minutes.

The Raiders, meanwhile, opened up an 81-63 lead and eventually won by 21 points.

Dinges had plenty of scoring support from his teammates, especially in the second half when St. Clair played a box-and-one on him.

ED PASQUE scored all 12 of his points in the last half. Tim Hobson 11 of his 19 and Starlin Stevens 10 of his 12.

For the game, OCC's Michael Bailey finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, Ed Whitaker had 10 points and 10 assists and Jerry Priekorn had 15 points.

St. Clair's Ted Stager poured in 30 points and Ken Ringer 24. Larry Levi added 15.

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