

Sports

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(F10)

Mercy headed to regional final

Macioce scores 2 in 3-0 win

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

As he strolled out to his car early Wednesday evening, Farmington Hills Mercy soccer coach Henry Klimes realized he wasn't alone.

Klimes was holding a water cooler in one hand and a medical kit in the other. A backpack was draped over his shoulder. He resembled anything but a coach who had just led the Marlins to a 3-0 win over visiting Woodhaven in a Class A regional semifinal.

"I'm really not a (head) coach," joked Klimes. "Call me a water boy, a trainer, an interim coach."

Call him successful. Klimes, in his second year, has the Marlins believing in themselves. Wednesday's win means Mercy, 12-14 overall, has earned a spot in Saturday's regional final, played at Troy Athens.

THE MARLINS WILL play the winner of Wednesday's Birmingham Marian-Athens contest. Regardless of the opponent, Mercy figures to be ready.

The Marlins have never advanced this far and senior midfielder Carrie Bowler isn't about ready to call it a career.

"We're aiming to go all the way," said Bowler. "We've worked hard and there's no stopping us now. We're very optimistic and have very positive attitudes. Henry is a great



Mercy's Courtenay Lyons, a junior midfielder, tries to head the ball away from a Woodhaven defender.

guy. He's kept us going with the attitudes and is a real nice person."

Sophomore forward Tanla Macioce scored two goals for Mercy, while teammate Dana Lehmkuhl contributed her 22nd goal of the season. Kathryn Dudley, Anne Scullen and Liz DeMatia had one assist apiece for Mercy, but afterward Klimes also wanted to praise the play of Bowler, a co-captain.

Bowler missed most of the season with a sprained ankle before recently returning to the lineup. Klimes estimates she's playing at about 80 or 90 percent, but that's a lot better than not having her in the lineup at all.

soccer

"Carrie means a lot to us," said Klimes. "Her leadership out there is great. It's like having a second voice on the field. I can relate to her and she can spread the word. You need someone on the field to do it as well, because I can't yell the whole 80 minutes. I'm really happy she's back."

NEITHER OF THEM needed to do much yelling against Woodhaven, which was outplayed and outshot, 10-4. Junior Renee Larambell earned the shutout and the entire Mercy team earned plenty of respect from Woodhaven coach Bob Kellogg.

Woodhaven, which finished in third place during the Northwest Suburban League regular season, ended its best season ever with a 13-5-1 overall record. Mercy beat the downriver school, 2-1, earlier this year, but Kellogg said he'd like to keep the Marlins on his schedule.

"(Mercy) is just technically very good," Kellogg said. "They're well-skilled, well-coached and a little maturity helps. They have a good cross-section of players and are quicker to the ball than we are. They have a super goalie and that makes a world of difference. I give them a real good chance to advance."

Mercy led 2-0 at halftime on goals by Lehmkuhl and Macioce. Lehmkuhl opened the scoring, converting a neat crossing pass from Dudley. Not long after, Macioce kicked in a rebound off a shot by Scullen to give the Marlins a 2-0 lead.

MACIOCE FINISHED the scoring in the second half, getting her 10th



SHARON LEHMUEX/staff photographer

Anne Scullen, Mercy's senior midfielder, battles Woodhaven's Kristen Snell for the loose ball Wednesday at Pioneer Park. The Marlins

goal of the season on a throw-in pass from DeMatia. Mercy's forward line of Dudley, Macioce, freshman Carrie Driandoss and Lehmkuhl has combined for 51 goals.

"We've got one of the top front-

lined Woodhaven, 3-0, to advance to Saturday's Class A regional final at Troy Athens.

lines around," Klimes said. "I can't ask for any better production and no matter who I put in center-striker it works out well. And when those two (Dudley and Lehmkuhl) go, we go."

"We'll just go one half and one

game at a time. Even if the season ended today, I'd have been proud of the girls. But I'm happy it didn't end."

He's having fun carrying the equipment out to the car.

Falcons, CC might play for baseball tourney title

District pairings, SD

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

The prospect of a Redford Catholic Central-Farmington showdown for a district baseball championship would also be a battle for Observerland supremacy.

The two powers have emerged as the area's top teams this year, but they might not get to the final of the Southfield tournament if they look too far ahead Saturday.

A pair of Livonia schools would like a district title just as much. In the first game, Franklin opposed Farmington at 9:30 a.m. and Churchill tackled CC at noon. The final is scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

"People are going to take an objective look and say it's a pretty tough," said Farmington coach Kevin Kamsman of seeing the Shamrocks in the final. "But, when it's one game and it's over, you can never do that. We're going there to play two, but we're not playing the second game before the first one."

The Falcons won the Western Lakes Activities Association crown and own a 19-2 record. CC, which played for the Catholic League last Wednesday, was 21-9 going into that game.

BUT CHURCHILL has won its last five games to improve its record to 7-10 and counts a victory over Farmington among its successes. Franklin is 8-12 but lost a number of one-run games.

"We're just happy we're there," Churchill coach Herb Osterland said. "We were 0-7 at the start of the year, but our ballclub has gotten stronger as we've gone along."

"If the kids continue to play the way they have the last few games, we'll hold our own. There's more pressure on them than on us."

CC is expected to throw Keith Bosyk against the Chargers, but coach John Salter was waiting to see how the pitching situation played out Wednesday. Bosyk is 5-2 with 83 strikeouts and 58 walks in 53 innings.

"I might think about saving him for the second game, but that's always a gamble," Salter said. "I'll think about it a few days before deciding."

Hawks win postponed tournament

Farmington Hills Harrison captured first place in the Southfield-Lathrup baseball tournament Thursday.

The Hawks handed the host Chargers an 8-2 defeat in the championship game, which was postponed because of bad weather.

Brian Ellison, the tournament most valuable player, hurled six solid innings for Harrison. He scattered 10 hits, while allowing no earned runs.

The Hawks (9-11) collected 10 hits, two each from Nick Budor, Andy Smith and Mike Pesci.

Pesci's two hits were highlighted by a home run. Budor was named the tournament's outstanding hitter.

Jamal Womble pitched four innings for Lathrup, giving six runs and walking five. Womble also pounded three hits in a losing cause.

The Shamrocks, who were Class A champs three years ago and semifinals last year, are led offensively by the Pironello brothers. Paul, a senior, is hitting .457 and leads the team with 28 RBI, and Dennis, a junior, carries a .372 average.

CC HAS SIX others hitting between .270 and .330, and the Shamrocks, with a .298 team average, are the most potent club CC has fielded in several years, Salter said.

"From what I've heard, (the Chargers) have a good left-hander," he said. "Left-handers are usually tough because you don't see that many of them, especially if they have a good breaking ball."

The pitcher is junior Mike Thomas, who is 4-2 after starting 0-2. He's walked only two in his last two outings while striking out 13. Osterland isn't afraid to use Dan Ackerman on

baseball

the mound, and freshman Mark Rutherford is 2-0.

Salter also knows about Churchill first baseman Jason Gabel, a senior hitting .475 and leading the Chargers with 27 RBI and seven doubles. Third baseman Russ McQuaid has less at-bats than Gabel (60-38) but is hitting .474.

"Jason has one of the liveliest bats I've ever seen," Osterland said. Farmington's ace is senior Chris Schmid, who is 7-0. Kamsman might throw Kevin Young (5-0 with one) or Cygnair Franklin and hold Schmid for the final.

"Even though people might say you're not pitching Chris because you're looking past the first game, someone has to pitch the second game if you win the first," he said. "You have to have some strategy."

YOUNG AND SCHMID have been the team leaders at the plate besides the mound. Young is batting .540 and leads in runs scored, RBI and stolen bases. Schmid, who also plays first base, is the second-leading hitter at .506.

Kamsman said the loss to Churchill late in the season taught the Falcons a lesson.

"We have a good team and we're having a good year, but we're not looking at the (total) year," he said. "We have to treat each game as it comes. We'll celebrate when it's over. Right now we have to go on any given day and play."

Tad Dennis is the likely starter for Franklin. He's 3-2 and has pitched well against good teams, coach Gerry Cullin. Steve McCool has a 3-1 record.

"If (Dennis) has a good ballgame, we could be in it, but we have to play good defense behind him because he doesn't strikeout many," Cullin said. "That could be the key. Our hitting has not been real consistent. A couple players have been hitting well all year, but the rest are kinda spotty."

Franklin's top threats are Scott Marinkovich and Craig Overalls, both 400-plus hitters.

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