

# District tourney holds possibility of '89 rematch

By Bob Stebbins  
staff writer

Is it in the cards again? Farmington Hills Mercy and Livonia Franklin have met in the state softball playoffs four straight years, and another possible Mercy-Franklin showdown looms Saturday in the finals of the Southfield Civic Center district tournament.

"It would be nice to beat Franklin," said Mercy coach Suzanne Brown. "We are tied 2-2 with them." (Franklin and Mercy have split their last four meetings in tournament play.)

The Marlins, however, first have to get past a strong Northville team in the first round.

Even though Mercy beat the Mustangs earlier this season, 6-5, in the Plymouth Invitational, Brown considers her team to be the underdogs in the district opener.

"I don't think we are (the district favorite)," said Brown. "Out of Franklin, Northville and us, I would rate us third right now."

Brown respects the Mustangs, but said her team could very well get to the finals.

"They (Northville) do have a good team, but I think they are beatable," said the Mercy coach.

Brown is looking for the Marlins' bats to carry her club.

Mercy's top hitter is Kathleen Berrigan, who batted .547 and stole 26 bases. Maureen Paulin hit .430 and led the Marlins in RBI.

"I have a hitting ball club this year," she said. "On any given night, it can be spread out."

Mercy will play Northville at noon on Saturday at the Southfield Civic Center. (See tournament pairings on page 6D.)

Meanwhile, Franklin (14-7) should have an easier game in the district opener. The Patriots meet the Blue Jays of Southfield at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

"From what I understand, Southfield, other than the pre-district, has not won a game all year," said Franklin coach Joe Epstein.

Epstein considers his club and Northville to be the favorites in the district.

"FROM WHAT I see, Northville and our team will be co-favorites to

## softball

win it," he said. "We and Northville split earlier this year, and we have beaten Mercy."

Franklin beat the Mustangs at home, 5-4, earlier in the year, while Northville returned the favor, 1-0, late last month. The Patriots defeated Mercy, 8-2, earlier this season in a game called because of rain after 4 1/2 innings.

Epstein said Northville should defeat Mercy, but he doesn't rule out the Marlins.

"It is not out of the realm of possibility that they could beat Northville, but I noticed that Northville's young pitcher (Rozann Stankis) is getting stronger and stronger," said the Franklin coach. "She has really been coming on."

The Franklin mentor points to fielding as the leading factor in his team's chances.

"The key for us is that we have to play much better defensively," said Epstein. "Our pitcher (Jenny Mayle) has been good all year and proven herself. I'm not concerned about her in the least."

THE MERCY COACH pegged the Patriots as the team to beat.

"Franklin's the favorite," said Brown. "Their pitcher throws pretty hard, but I don't think they have the exceptional fielders and hitters they have had in the past."

The Patriots' leading hitter heading into the district will be Karen Brown, who hit .417 for the season.

"She is very fast and gets a lot of infield hits," said Epstein.

On the mound, Mayle ended up with a 0.76 earned run average and gave up 44 runs for the season, with 27 of those being unearned. She struck out 130 and walked 44.

The winner of the Southfield-Franklin clash will advance to the championship game at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The district winner will move on to the Wyandotte Roosevelt Regional to play the winner of the Westland John Glenn district on Saturday, June 9.

# CC, Hoffman gear for state

By Ray Sollock  
staff writer

With the Class A Tennis Championships slated for Friday and Saturday at the Midland Tennis Center, it appears that Redford Catholic Central will make some noise.

According to coach Frank Garlicki, the Shamrocks will put plenty of stock in their Nos. 2 and 3 doubles teams. The No. 2 team of Jayson Torres and Chris Alonte are 10-1 this season, while the No. 3 team of Chip Shado and Chris Matson is 9-2. "Our greatest strength comes from our doubles players," he said. "They should give us a boost."

The No. 2 doubles team is seeded third and will get a bye in the first round. The No. 3 team is seeded sixth and will play Grand Blanc in the opening round.

CC IS ALSO expected to get contributions from No. 1 singles player Paul Bozyk and No. 2

singles player Marko Habekovic. Bozyk (9-8) is seeded seventh, while Habekovic (9-6) is seeded fourth. Both players will receive a bye in the first round.

"Realistically, I think we will finish somewhere around fifth," Garlicki said. "But with a few surprises anything can happen."

Plymouth Canton will also make a trip to the championships, but coach Jim Hayes isn't looking too far ahead.

"None of our guys won their regional, therefore they won't be seeded," Hayes said. "Much of our hope lies in the first round. If the seedings work in our favor, we can maybe get through the opening round and get to the better players."

ACCORDING TO Hayes, No. 3 singles player Scott Jones may surprise a few people.

"Lane has a 12-1 record," the coach said. "He's a scrappy player and you just never know what can happen."


Hayes says the Chiefs' No. 3 doubles tandem of Joe Binder and Adam Majewski may also surprise.

"The No. 3 team got to the finals in the regional," Hayes said. "They had a 12-1 record and could get some attention."

North Farmington freshman Seth Hoffman will enter the championships with a 19-0 record. He is ranked No. 1 in the Midwest by the Western Tennis Association in the 14-and-under age bracket and is ranked No. 6 nationally by the U.S. Tennis Association.

PUNEET AILAWADI of Livonia Churchill will also participate this weekend and is hoping for an upset.

"I will try my best," he said. "I hope to make things happen and surprise someone." Ailawadi will take a 17-3 record into the competition. He lost to Bozyk at the regional, 6-0, 6-2.



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# Mercy sweeps DH

Farmington Hills Mercy improved its softball record to 12-16 Tuesday by sweeping a double-header from host Madison Heights Bishop Foley.

The Marlins captured the opening game 14-2 and the nightcap 8-3.

Maureen Paulin earned the victory in the first game, striking out four, walking five and yielding just two hits in five innings.

Maura Phency collected three hits, including a double and triple, to lead the Marlins offensively. She also had four RBI.

The game was concluded in five innings due to the mercy rule.

In the second game, Krista Miller went the distance to get the win. She allowed four hits and four walks and struck out six.

Mercy pounded six hits, led by Kim Reichard's solo homer.

MERCY SPLIT a double-header with visiting Birmingham Marian last Thursday, losing the first game 7-2 but winning the nightcap 12-4.

Paulin took the loss in the opening

game, hurling seven innings, striking out three, walking six and allowing four hits.

Katie Heffernan had one of the two Mercy hits.

Mercy was charged with nine errors and Marian just one.

In the second game, Miller earned the victory for Mercy, striking out four and walking one.

The Marlins pounded 10 hits, three of which came off the bat of Heffernan. She also had three RBI and scored four runs. Kathleen Berrigan contributed two hits.

Marian committed seven errors and Mercy four in that game.

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