

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



Thursday, January 3, 1991 O&P

(F11D)

Bump, set, spike

City netters ready for '91 season

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

With one of the area's top hitters and a pair of experienced setters, North Farmington hopes to contend for the Lakes Division volleyball championship this year.

The Raiders' veterans—up to personal player Dennis Stevenson in the division last year, finishing 6-6 in the Lakes and 15-12 overall in the regular season, North placed fourth in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament.

North graduated its leading hitters from a year ago, Courtney Knapp and Vicki Seamons, but the losses are offset by the return of 5-foot-7 senior Eve Claar, who will be the main attacker in 1991.

"Her hitting has improved tremendously," North coach Sam Lubieniecki said. "She can tip the ball and put it anywhere on the court. She can block anybody; it doesn't matter how tall they are."

Chiar, a two-area basketball player who accepted a scholarship from Central Michigan in that sport, was the team's No. 3 hitter last year. She had 123 spiking kills and 68 tips for point. Claar had an impressive 29-percent attacking

rate, and she also was second in serve reception and digging.

"She's an all-around good player," Lubieniecki said. "Spiking, tipping or blocking, she should be one of the top players of the 12 teams in the WLAA."

Setting the ball for Claar and the other attackers will senior Dana Botwick and junior Karen Serem, both of whom gained experience at that position last year.

Serem missed the last quarter of the season with mononucleosis, but both players are of sufficient ability that Lubieniecki plans to use a 6-2 alignment with both staying in the back row.

"Both setters are hitting this year, which they're enjoying," Lubieniecki said. "Both are two of our top athletes, so we want both of them on the floor."

Having two capable setters like Botwick, who led the team in assists, and Serem also helps to lessen the loss of Knapp and Seamons. They

are backed up by senior Andrea Boalice.

"This year our setters are experienced, and the hitting is coming along well," Lubieniecki said. "Those are the toughest spots to fill when you lose your setters."

"Both were first-year varsity players last year. We were hurt when Karen missed the end of the season, but she got a lot of time.

The game really comes along when you get the setting."

Joining Claar in the front row will be 5-foot-3 junior Sarah Lundgren and 5-foot-5 junior Karen Miller. Both started in the back row last year, but they're versatile enough to play in the front, according to Lubieniecki. Lundgren also will be the No. 1 server after grading 93 percent last year.

"Sarah and Karen didn't play a lot in the front row, but they got a lot of experience. We had a tendency to go to the tall girls, and they didn't get a lot of attacking time."

"We used [Miller] in the back row, because we had some taller girls and she was one of our top passers and servers."

North's sixth server will be 5-foot-10 senior Christy Krall, an outside hitter who was a varsity reserve. She will serve as tri-captain along with Claar and Botwick.

"She really helps us blocking and hitting," Lubieniecki said, adding Krall is a "dynamic server."

Other varsity players are junior Vicki Vosler, sophomore Whitehead and Tracey Miller, sophomores Stefanie White and Michelle Bohne. Nakamura is a back-row player, and the others are hitters.

In their only competition thus far, the Raiders were third in the Harrison tournament. North was 4-2 in pool play but lost in the semifinals. The Raiders beat Farmington 15-9 to win the consolation game.

"We're getting stronger all the way through," Lubieniecki said. "If we play as we're capable of playing, we can compete with any of the other five teams."

HARRISON

With a veteran team, the Hawks hope to move up from the Western Division cellar this year.

Harrison finished last and was 5-22 overall with a young team that included only two seniors a year ago.

Now the Hawks are more experienced and boast six seniors among their nine varsity players.

"As a team, we've shown a lot of improvement in our skills, but we have to put it together in the floor yet," Harrison coach Bob Shortt said.

"With all the seniors, I'm hoping they'll come through and get the team to jell."

"One problem is we've been a team of younger players for years and years, and these players have to learn to be leaders. There's a lot of desire-on-the-part-of-the-kids to do well."

The seniors are Lisa Vester, Carrie Hentnik, Kari Harder, Melanie

Marvin, and Michelle Bohne. Hentnik had 17 (including 11-of-11 free throws) points, 13 assists and five steals. Gillespie netted 12 points and nine boards, and Howard scored 12.

Hobby Allen collected 23 points and 10 rebounds for Lake Superior, with Brett Zauer scoring 16. Rick Gray 14 and Charles Fordham 12.

St. Mary's played its opener in the National Catholic Tournament yesterday against the College of Notre Dame (from Belmont, Calif.), and the Eagles were hoping for something better than their previous tournament showings. They had not won a first-round game in three previous appearances under coach Glen Johnson.

Against Lake Superior State in its opener Friday, St. Mary's used its pressure defense to effectively increase the tempo of the game, and that helped the Eagles post a 98-87 win. Grand Valley defeated Union College (Ky.) 97-82 Friday.

St. Mary's meets Viterbo, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, at 4 p.m. today. Wins by the Eagles in both rounds earn them a place in Saturday's semifinals. A loss Wednesday or Thursday will put St. Mary's in Friday's consolation round.

basketball

Marvin's shot from the free-throw line was within striking distance in the final three seconds, trailing 88-84 after a James Gillespie basket.

But a three-point play by the Lakers' Joe Schuttema pushed the gap to seven (91-84). Garth Howard closed it to 91-86 with 1:39 left, but Grand Valley hit its free throws, outscoring St. Mary's 14-3 down the stretch.

Howard fed the Eagles with 24 points. Gillespie netted 20, but he made just three of 21 shots. Jeff Siegert added 12 points. Shawn O'Mara's four points paired Grand Valley with Wittenberg getting 14, Todd Jenkins 17, Charlie Mandt (from Troy) 15 (and six rebounds) and Schuttema 14.

Against Lake Superior State in its opener Friday, St. Mary's used its pressure defense to effectively increase the tempo of the game, and that helped the Eagles post a 98-87 win. Grand Valley defeated Union College (Ky.) 97-82 Friday.

In spite of his foul problems, Borden came within a rebound of a triple-double (14 points, 10 assists,

10 boards). The Eagles were still within striking distance in the final three seconds, trailing 88-84 after a James Gillespie basket.

But a three-point play by the Lakers' Joe Schuttema pushed the gap to seven (91-84). Garth Howard closed it to 91-86 with 1:39 left, but Grand Valley hit its free throws, outscoring St. Mary's 14-3 down the stretch.

Howard fed the Eagles with 24 points. Gillespie netted 20, but he made just three of 21 shots. Jeff Siegert added 12 points. Shawn O'Mara's four points paired Grand Valley with Wittenberg getting 14, Todd Jenkins 17, Charlie Mandt (from Troy) 15 (and six rebounds) and Schuttema 14.

Against Lake Superior State in its

opener Friday, St. Mary's used its pressure defense to effectively increase the tempo of the game, and that helped the Eagles post a 98-87 win. Grand Valley defeated Union College (Ky.) 97-82 Friday.

St. Mary's meets Viterbo, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, at 4 p.m. today. Wins by the Eagles in both rounds earn them a place in Saturday's semifinals. A loss Wednesday or Thursday will put St. Mary's in Friday's consolation round.



Patti Hansen returns for another year with the Falcons and will be one of Farmington's main attackers, playing middle hitter.

SHARON LE MEUX/staff photographer

Please turn to Page 2

Van Boven
Winter Sale

As the holidays are now behind us, it is once again time for us to offer the remainder of our winter stock of clothing, furnishings and shoes at reductions of 20-50%.

**Plan to attend this post holiday tradition.
Sale Ends January 26th**

**Cluthing: 326 South State Street, Ann Arbor 665-7228
Shoes: 17 Nickels Avenue, Ann Arbor 665-2110
Clothing & Shoes: 152 N. Woodward Avenue, Birmingham 617-4150**

Hours are 9:00a-5:10 Monday through Saturday
and Fridays we are open until 8:00
Our hours open in Birmingham at 10:00 a.m.