

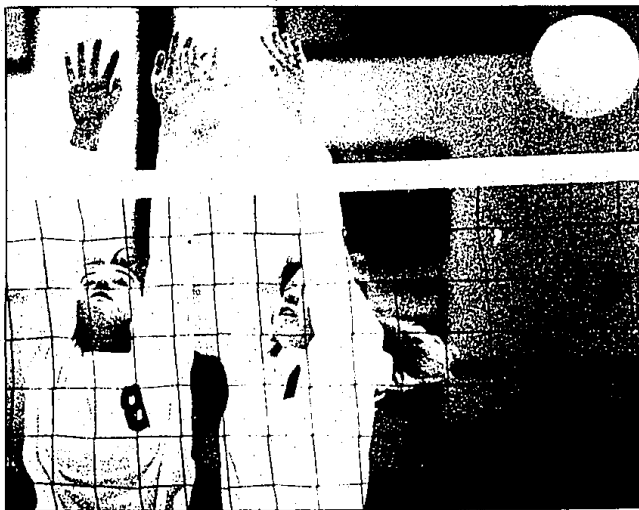
Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312



Thursday, January 17, 1991 O&E

(F10)



North players Liz Whiteman (left) and Sarah Lungren block a spike attempt by the Rockets in the Monday night match. The Raiders lost

the first game but won the next three and improved to 2-0 in the WLAA.

SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

Raiders defuse Rockets

North Farmington had an ace up its sleeve Monday, resulting in a 14-16, 15-12, 15-8, 15-9 Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball triumph over visiting Westland John Glenn.

Junior Karen Miller served 11 aces in the match, lifting the Raiders to their fourth win in five starts. They are 2-0 in the WLAA.

With North behind 12-10 in the second game, Miller served five straight points, including four aces, to even the match at 1-1.

In the third game, Miller did it again, serving five straight aces to catapult North to victory.

Junior setter Karen Seremet also served up a storm, scoring 16 points, including nine aces.

Coach Sandy Lubienicki also received sterling all-around play from junior Sarah Lungren. Hitting from the back row, Lungren had six kills and 11 blocks. She was also 15-of-15 in service reception.

Senior middle hitter Eve Claar had 13 kills, while senior setter Dana Botwick contributed 13 assists.

Nikki Wojcik paced Glenn, 1-2 in the WLAA, with 14 kills and eight blocks. Kristi Zimmer added 11 kills and Kara Deeny added six aces.

FARMINGTON WON the first game of its match with Plymouth Salem 15-12, but the Falcons fell victim to a Salem rally. The Rocks regrouped to win the next three games, 15-2, 15-10, 15-4.

"In the first game, I thought we were kinda standing around," Salem coach Brian Gilles said. "We just seemed to turn it up a little bit."

"The only thing we were concerned about is that we have to come out and start playing harder right away. Other than that, we were really pleased with the way we played."

Salem is 2-0 in the league and 2-0 overall, the Falcons 0-2 and 3-5.

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Eve Claar spikes the ball for a North point.

Marlins dominate rivals in volleyball

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball coach Tim DeBeliso wouldn't have been opposed to a change of venue for Monday's match against Livonia Ladywood.

Playing inside the Blazers' tiny gym, it took Mercy less than 45 minutes to win the Catholic League/Central Division encounter, 15-4, 15-3. The way Mercy controlled things, it might not have made a difference where the match was played.

"We talked about it yesterday," DeBeliso said. "It doesn't matter where we play. You can draw a line in the parking lot and we'll play them there. It's the attitude you've got to have. You can't control the environment you play in. You have to have blinders on and know the court is 30 feet by 30 feet and the net is seven feet, four inches high."

Although the dimensions of the court are the same as any other, both teams had to overcome the low-hanging rafters inside the Ladywood gym. Several attempted return shots by the Blazers hit the rafters, but that was only one of their worries.

Ladywood, which won the Class A title in 1988 and '89, fell behind early in both games and never mounted a serious challenge. The win improved Mercy to 28-12 overall and 3-0 in the Central Division.

LADYWOOD FELL TO 11-3-1 overall and 2-1 in the division.

"I don't like to lose period, home court or away," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said. "I was discouraged in that we didn't give a good battle and discouraged that we failed at a lower level, passing and setting. There are limitations here, but that's what we lacked today was our passing."

"We have a very young setter (Mary Jo Kelly) who is working hard and has to improve on her speed and Kell Haeger has to work on her transition game. Mercy is a good team and Tim does a great job. They hit hard and have a great outside attack."

Leading Mercy's attack was junior hitter Karen Pinkerton, who finished with six kills. Senior outside hitters Maureen Paulin and Gail Murie had four kills each and the Marlins were even more impressive serving, finishing with only two bad serves during the match.

"It's always a great feeling beating Ladywood, but since this is my senior year it's a real good feeling," said Paulin. "We heard the ceiling was real low and knew we had to keep passing low. We came in with a positive attitude about the whole thing."

Nora Hand got Mercy started early, serving the first three points of the match and six straight midway through Game 1 to give the Marlins a commanding, 10-2 lead. After Ladywood closed to within 10-4, Mercy scored the last five points to win the first game, 15-4.

KELLY AND ANDREA Pottl provided Ladywood's best defense in the first game with three and two kills, respectively.

The second game was a near repeat of Game 1, as Mercy scored the first five points as well as the last 10 straight to win decisively. Ladywood's best net player, senior hitter Rebecca Willey, finished with three kills and Jannel Hemme recorded five digs, but the Blazers couldn't match Mercy's overall efficiency.

"The seniors wanted this one and we played with tremendous emotion and intensity," DeBeliso said. "As a coach it's never flawless, but in terms of an emotional level, this was our best game of the season. We served well and they gave us a lot of easy balls."

"I don't know if 'easy' is the right word to describe this game. In last year's Catholic League championship (won by Mercy over Ladywood) we played well. Tonight, I thought we played very inspired."

More volleyball, 5D

Mercy settles for 2nd

Farmington Hills Mercy faced its toughest competition in tournament play Saturday, and the Marlins — while they didn't win the championship this time — still fared well.

Mercy, ranked No. 4 in the Class A, was second in the Portage Northern tournament, losing to the host and No. 2-rated Huskies in the final, 15-7 and 15-7.

"We played well against quality teams," Mercy coach Tim DeBeliso said.

The Marlins, who were champions in their previous two tournament appearances at Madonna College and West Bloomfield, are 20-12 overall.

Mercy defeated No. 5 Temperance-Bedford (15-6, 11-15, 15-12) in the semifinals and unranked Kalamazoo Lay Norrix (15-8, 15-8) in the quarterfinals.

In power-pool play and positioning for the quarterfinals, the Marlins split with Northern (15-10, 10-15) and defeated Bedford (15-4, 15-8). In pool play, Mercy split with Jackson Lumen Christi, fourth ranked in Class B, (15-6, 12-15), whipped Portage Central (15-11, 15-1) and defeated Richland Gull Lake (15-9, 15-6).

Junior hitter Karen Pinkerton had 62 kills out of 150 attempts to lead Mercy. She had a team-high hitting percentage of .320.

Senior Maureen Paulin had 57 kills, 159 attacks and a .264 percentage. Junior Laura DeMatia 32, 82 and 256, senior Gail Murie 40, 111 and 180.

The Marlins were 93 percent efficient on their serving, and senior Nora Hand served 12 aces. Setters Suzie Atchinson and Jill Evelevth played well, according to DeBeliso, who also cited the back-row play of specialist Shannon Goff.

Harrison's Sarcevich ponders college choice

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

Despite carrying a reputation as a big hitter, Farmington Hills Harrison linebacker Blazo Sarcevich hasn't been such a big hit with some of college football's national powers.

After showing early interest in Sarcevich, the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Penn State all have shied away from Harrison's all-time leading tackler. Sarcevich made an official visit to Central Michigan University last weekend and will visit UCLA later this month.

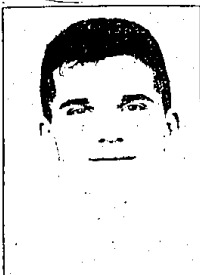
Sarcevich said he also may visit Miami (Ohio) University. He is waiting to hear from Arizona, Stanford and Florida, all of which have him on their playing days at Harrison. One of the things they have in common is Harrison's 18-15 loss to Detroit St. Martin DePorres last fall, when Sarcevich set a school record with 25 tackles.

Harrison coach John Harrington, who has sent John Miller, Brian Smolinski and Matt Coleman to MSU, was shocked to hear both MSU and Michigan back off of Sarcevich.

"I really think they're missing the boat," Harrington said. "I've seen a lot of linebackers in 30 years of coaching, and I think Blazo is a Big Ten linebacker. And I don't think I'm wrong on this."

"Michigan State said they're looking for another Percy Snow and at this time they didn't think Blazo could be one. And Michigan didn't give any reason. Penn State said Blazo's good enough to play for them, but they have linebackers in Pennsylvania just as good as Blazo and they'd just as soon recruit them first — which makes sense. Central loves him."

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound Sarcevich said he carries about a 3.0 grade



Blazo Sarcevich
Harrison linebacker

point average and "education is going to play a big part" in his decision. He said he enjoyed his visit to CMU, the Mid-American Conference champion which played in the California Raisin Bowl.

"It's pretty nice," Sarcevich said. Wednesday, Feb. 6, is the first day high school athletes can sign binding national letters of intent.

Sarcevich is scheduled to visit UCLA Jan. 27, but isn't sure what the other two weekends have in store for him prior to the signing date.

"I kind of want to go out of state and I'd like to play in the Big Ten or PAC 10 — big-time Division I football," Sarcevich said. "In the next few weeks I'll know."

Redford Catholic Central won the Class AA state title, and as expected the Shamrocks have the most recruited senior class in Observer-

football

land. As many as 10 players could receive some kind of football scholarship, with safety Mike Thomas being the most highly recruited.

Thomas has visited U-M and MSU and will visit CMU this weekend. The University of Colorado also has shown interest but Thomas hasn't scheduled a visit.

"I'm not leaning toward any," said Thomas, who added that MSU is the only school of the four to have offered a full-ride football scholarship. "Right now I'm taking a close look at each (U-M and MSU) and if I don't like either, State or U-M I feel pretty secure with Central. (MSU coach George) Perles is a great guy. If I choose to go there, he should be a great father figure."

While Thomas admits the recruiting season is exciting, CC coach Tom Mach has found it somewhat hectic. The football season ended for CC in late November and college coaches were able to begin contacting players Dec. 1.

"It's fun, because the kids have a chance to go to school, but hectic because we have a banquet coming up and I've got films out on kids all over America," Mach said. "I'm trying to figure out who has sent film back and who hasn't."

Plymouth Canton's Karl Wukle, the first-team All-Observer quarterback, wants to play at the MAC level, according to Chiefs coach Bob Khowen, but few teams have shown interest.

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