

All-Area spikers bright

By Brad Emons
staff writer

COMBINING BRAINS and talent, state Class A champion Livonia Churchill leads another talented group of All-Oberver volleyball players for 1991. The Chargers, coached by Mike Hughes, played three honor students, all the first team.

Hughes, who guided Churchill to a 47-1-1 record, was also selected Oberverland Coach of the Year after leading his squad to three invitational titles, along with conference (Western Lakes) and division (Western) district, regional and state crowns.

The 19-year-old coach has an overall record of 399-116-32.

Wayne Memorial, Class A quarter-finalists and Wolverine A League champions, also garnered three first-team berths along with Livonia Stevenson, the only team to beat Churchill this season.

Meanwhile, Catholic League A-B Division and district champion Farmington Hills Mercy landed two players on the first team.

Area coaches gathered recently to select the top players in the area. Here is a look at the first-team selections.

FIRST TEAM

Brandy Caincross, Wayne Memorial. Named to the first team at 6'2 1/2", Caincross is a senior at Wayne Memorial. She has been playing volleyball since she was 10 and has been on the team for five years.

The senior, who played in 60 games, finished with 42 kills and 100 digs. She also had 100 blocks and 100 aces. She was named to the first team in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

She has a career record of 1,650 kills and 1,000 digs. She was named to the first team in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

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1991 ALL-OBSERVER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

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Christina Garry, Livonia Churchill
Alyssa Beldare, Farmington Hills Mercy
Maureen Paulin, Farmington Hills Mercy
Suzie Atchinson, Farmington Hills Mercy
Teresa Sarno, Livonia Stevenson
Patty Diamond, Livonia Stevenson
Keli Haeger, Livonia Stevenson
Sue Bell, Livonia Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Christina Garry, Livonia Churchill
Alyssa Beldare, Farmington Hills Mercy
Maureen Paulin, Farmington Hills Mercy
Suzie Atchinson, Farmington Hills Mercy
Teresa Sarno, Livonia Stevenson
Patty Diamond, Livonia Stevenson
Keli Haeger, Livonia Stevenson
Sue Bell, Livonia Stevenson

THIRD TEAM

Christina Garry, Livonia Churchill
Alyssa Beldare, Farmington Hills Mercy
Maureen Paulin, Farmington Hills Mercy
Suzie Atchinson, Farmington Hills Mercy
Teresa Sarno, Livonia Stevenson
Patty Diamond, Livonia Stevenson
Keli Haeger, Livonia Stevenson
Sue Bell, Livonia Stevenson

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Hughes, Livonia Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

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Maureen Paulin, Farmington Hills Mercy
Suzie Atchinson, Farmington Hills Mercy
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crowns, a pair of district championships and a berth in the 1990 final four. (Mercy was 130-21 during her stint.)

Paulin registered 352 kills in 909 attempts (250 percent) along with 316 digs.

The 5'8 outside hitter was selected second-team All-State (Class A) and first-team All-Catholic. Paulin also carries a 3.2 GPA.

She was also MVP at the Livonia Stevenson and Madonna tournaments, along with team MVP.

"Maureen is simply one of the finest young ladies I've been fortunate to work with, and is arguably the best volleyball player Mercy has produced," Mercy coach Tim DeBeno said. "Maureen emerged as our leader in both work and play. Her commitment to her coach, team and school was extraordinary. Her competitive fire and relentless pursuit of excellence were without a doubt, the driving force behind our success."

Suzie Atchinson, Farm. Hills Mercy: The 5'7 senior setter was an honorable mention All-State and reaped first-team honors in the Catholic League and Region.

Atchinson was also named to the all-tournament teams at Madonna College and Stevenson.

She has 854 assists this season and 255 digs. Although she had only 18 service errors in 341 attempts and 23 reception errors in 356 attempts.

"A first-year setter, Suzie quickly understood what was expected of her," DeBeno said. "Regularly, she was the first to arrive and the last to leave practice. Her good attitude, though, is her most treasured quality."

Her dedication, discipline and refusal to accept anything less than her best, catapulted Mercy to the second best record in the Catholic League (48-6-2).

Atchinson is also an outstanding student, carrying a 3.974 GPA.

Keli Haeger, Liv. Ladywood: The 5'9 senior setter and middle blocker was an honorable mention All-State and All-Catholic League pick.

She led the Chargers to a final record of 43-11-3 en route to tournament victories at Delta, Dearborn, Equi Ford, Conover, Garber.

Atchinson's jump approach at 9 feet, 4 inches, brought down 76 kills and 170 digs per game.

Haeger, a three-year starter, was a member of Ladywood's 1988 state Class A championship squad. As a junior, she helped the Chargers to a second place finish at state.

The 1990 yearbook has improved her jumping ability to be one of the top jumpers in the state. Coach Tom Tarkenton said, "But more importantly, her setter job has improved 100 percent since we left the state. She will be one of the best setters in the state."

Sue Bell, Liv. Stevenson: The third-team Class A-A State pick and Stevenson's top setter was named to the Western Lakes Association and a district crown.

She was also an All-Western Lakes setter. The 5'7 senior setter registered 248 kills in 494 attempts (126.1 percent) and 127 digs in 445 attempts, along with 326 blocks.

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she is a quality person. She was a good friend to her teammates and also a help to me. She has always given her best and her heart to volleyball."

Teresa Sarno, Liv. Stevenson: The 5'9 middle blocker with a 24-inch vertical jump made the All-Western Lakes and All-Region squads.

She also made the all-tournament teams at the Temperance-Bedford and Stevenson invitational.

She recorded 137 kills in 351 attacks (176.1 percent), 70 ace serves in 388 attempts, 115 total solo blocks and 276 total digs.

"Teresa is a player finally coming into her own as a team leader," Garry said. "Her volleyball skills have improved greatly. She has dominant defensive skills and will improve offensively. Teresa gives her all, every minute, in every practice and game."

Patty Diamond, Liv. Stevenson: The 5'10 sophomore setter recorded 664 assists in 2,306 attempts (76.5 percent). She also added 258 digs, 42 solo blocks and 47 ace serves for the Chargers.

Diamond was named to the All-Western Lakes team as well as a member of Stevenson and Bedford.

"The most enthusiastic, enthusiastic player we've had in years," Sarno said. "Patty has a strong, strong personality as a first-year all-around setter."

Potentially, she is one of the best setters in the state. She has a strong personality as a first-year all-around setter.

Laura Fisher, Wayne Memorial: The 5'7 junior setter was the district co-leader and was named Most Valuable Player.

Fisher also made the A-A Western Lakes and All-Region teams.

In 111 games, Fisher recorded 142 kills in 274 attempts (128.1 percent), 23 aces in 298 attempts, 142 solo blocks and 47 ace serves for the Chargers.

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Wayne Memorial



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Churchill



Alyssa Beldare
Churchill



Amy Baron
Churchill



Maureen Paulin
Mercy



Suzie Atchinson
Mercy

all-area volleyball



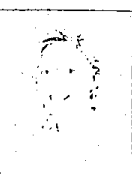
Keli Haeger
Ladywood



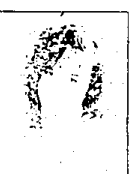
Sue Bell
Stevenson



Teresa Sarno
Stevenson



Patty Diamond
Stevenson



Laura Fisher
Wayne Memorial



Gerri Ruffing
Wayne Memorial

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