

Sports

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INSIDE:
Street Scene, Page 4B
Travel, Page 8A

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Falcons whip Warriors, win dual crown

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Farmington added the Western Lakes Activities Association dual-meet title to its growing list of wrestling achievements Thursday.

The Falcons outmaneuvered visiting Wallied Lake Western 39-20 in a contest that was more one-sided than when the teams tied 31-31 last month in the Novi dual tournament.

"We didn't get pins when we needed them, and we didn't stay off our backs," Western coach Dick Watson said, adding that more and less of the respective two wouldn't necessarily have altered the outcome.

"But it would have made the score look better. They were a better team tonight. They showed up and we didn't."

Farmington (13-1-1) won seven bouts, three ending in pins and another by technical fall. Of the four Western (10-2-2) victories, only one resulted in a pin.

"I TOLD THE kids from now on until the

state (team) meet, that's what it's going to take," Farmington coach Al Beyar said. "We have to have pins and we can't give up any. That's why we had such a big difference in the score."

The Falcons found themselves trailing 13-0 after three bouts, but that wasn't so bad, according to Beyar, who was confident his team would come back in the upper weights where Farmington is strong.

Western's Rob Fritz (103) defeated Fabio Cervi 2-5. Andy Fritz (112) pinned Chris Darrell in 1:44 and Benji Kim (119) earned a 9-1 decision over John Lane.

"Actually, you could have been down 18-0," Beyar said. "Two kids wrestled pretty well, so we were five points better than I thought we would be. I knew the next three matches would be ours."

The Falcons took a 17-13 lead when Jon Duff (125) pinned Eric Bagalay (1:48). Matt Smith (130) scored a technical fall over Jon Keevis, leading 18-0 midway in the second period, and Steve Lemieux (135) pinned Andy Scott (2:59).

In what Beyar termed a swing match at

140, Farmington's Mike Prough defeated Dustin Sizer 6-4. Travis Haeque got the Warriors back within three points (20-17) when he defeated Jason Holliday 13-1 in the next bout.

But the Falcons, who were guaranteed six points because of a forfeit in the heavy-weight class, clinched the victory with three straight wins.

DAVE MONGE (152), who defeated Tom Maliszewski 3-2 previously, won 5-0 this time. Mike Pough (160) pinned Tracy Coughlin in 49 seconds, and Ryan Adams (171), leading 6-4 after two periods, scored eight points in the finale and defeated Scott Olfertman 14-6. The wins pushed Farmington's lead to 39-17.

"That was a big kid for (Adams)," Beyar said. "He wrestled a kid from Berkley who was built better than the Western kid, and he was able to beat him, too."

"He moves real well, scores points early and basically wears them out. His quickness and agility are really phenomenal." Western's Arnie Gillert (189) edged Rob

Cavagnol 3-2 when he scored a two-point takedown in the final seconds.

Adams and Cavagnol could compete at 160, but the Falcons have three good wrestlers at that weight. Adams weighs 164 and Cavagnol 162.

Farmington's Matt Siskosky was the heavyweight winner. The previous dual ended in a tie when he was disqualified for using an illegal move. The Western heavyweight who wrestled Siskosky that day has since quit the team, and the new one was sick Thursday, Watson said.

The Warriors were minus three other varsity wrestlers but so was Farmington, Watson added.

WESTERN'S JOHN Gibson (130), Dave Bartlett (135) and Zack Budden (140) were either injured or sick, he said. Farmington's Dave Link (140) has the flu, and Beyar chose not to enter either John Economy (103) or Rob Sutton (119), both of whom were cutting weight, he said.

The crossover dual meet between WLAA division winners — an addition to the sched-

ule in 1992 — meant two of the league contenders had to wrestle each other just two days before the tournament, which is the sole factor in determining the champion.

"I still like the idea (of the dual)," Watson said. "It was a chance to get some good competition. The only thing that hurts you is when you lose to someone you've beaten before."

Watson added he took a "soft" approach in preparing his team for the dual because it had little significance.

"If they decided to make this the league championship, it would have been a little different," he said. "This is still just a match."

Beyar said he would like to see the wrestling champion determined the same way the WLAA does it in football whereby the division winners play an actual title game.

"If we're going to have a dual, it should decide the conference championship," he said. "The league meet could be done as strictly an individual thing or a combination (co-champs if one team wins the dual meet and another wins the tournament)."

Blazers win showdown with Marlins in division

By Brad Emone
staff writer

The front-runner, at least for now, in Catholic League volleyball circles is Livonia Ladywood.

The Blazers wrapped up their first Central Division title since 1989 with a 15-13, 15-13 victory Thursday on the road against rival Farmington Hills Mercy. Ladywood clinched the division with an 8-1 record, while Mercy finished 7-2.

It was the third meeting this season between the two state-ranked teams.

Ladywood avenged a lopsided 15-12, 15-6 loss to the two-time defending Catholic League champion Marlins on their home floor back on Jan. 30.

The Blazers, 28-4-3 overall, now lead the spirited season series 2-1.

"It's the first time (Central Division title) in three years and you give credit to our seniors and captains Mary Jo Kelly, Jannel Hemme and Michelle Wilson," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said. "There was a lot of pressure on both teams, but I don't think either team played its best match."

volleyball

"I think the difference this time was our serving and our serve reception. The last time it was the other way around. It was their serving and serve reception that beat us."

Both teams now advance to the single-elimination Catholic League playoffs, which begin tonight at two sites. See *playoff pairings*.

"YOU CAN CROSS out serve reception and just put serving," said first-year Mercy coach Ann Kolyk, explaining her team's loss. "There were nine missed serves in the last game, and if we had served just one over, we'd have won."

In the opening game, Ladywood built leads of 6-2 and 14-8 before holding off a late Mercy run. Wendy Wolksi, a 5-foot-9 Mercy senior, served five consecutive points, including an ace, to pull the Blazers to within one point, 14-13. But Ladywood closed out the

game on kills by Junior Liz Gunn and Mary Jo Kelly (the game-winner).

The second game was nip-and-tuck all the way with numerous slide-outs.

Despite trailing most of the way, Mercy stayed within striking distance thanks to the front-row play of 6-foot Junior Angela Assad (three kills and three blocks).

But with the score knotted at 13-all, Mercy misfired three different times on serves.

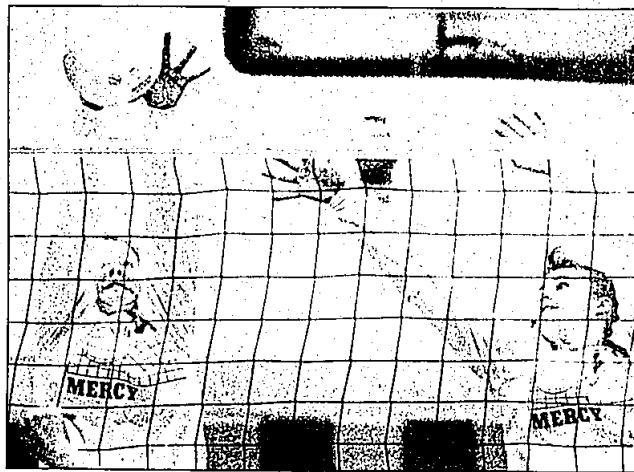
The Marlins made an unforced error on fall bobbins 14-13. Kelly's shot then crossed over the net unforced for the game-winner.

TEETERS SINGLED out the clutch effort of middle-blocker Hemme, a 5-foot-9 senior, who figured prominently in the victory.

"She went from one of her worst games (the last meeting against Mercy) to one of her best," said the Ladywood coach. "It was her steadiness, her key blocks, serving and serve reception."

Unofficially, Gunn and Kelly recorded eight and six kills, respectively, for the winners.

Please turn to Page 3



Mercy's Karin Kivela and Wendy Wolksi try to block a Ladywood spike in the Catholic League showdown Thursday. The Marlins lost in two games.

SHARON LAMUEUX/staff photographer

Hawks make strong bid but fall short

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Plymouth Canton hasn't yet reached the mountain top in Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball, but it's king of the hill for now.

Following its latest victory, Canton will remain as such for the start of the league tournament even if North Farmington and Livonia Franklin should do the unlikely this week and upset the Chiefs.

In winning its 10th consecutive game Friday, Canton established a two-game lead with a 53-48 victory over host Farmington Hills Harrison — the last remaining challenger for the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

Harrison and Wallied Lake Central have two losses but could tie the Chiefs for first place, however, Canton has beaten both and wins any tie-breakers.

The Chiefs lead the WLAA with a 9-0 record and two regular-season games on the schedule before post-season play starts Friday, Feb. 28. The Hawks slipped to 7-2. Both teams are 12-3 overall.

"WE'RE JUST ecstatic to come out of this place with a victory," Canton coach Dave Van Wagener said, knowing the big prize will be the tournament title to be decided Saturday, March 7. "It's still early. We have a lot of improvement to do before the year is over."

basketball

Harrison will be in the playoffs, too, and coach Mike Teachman figures the Hawks can't avoid Canton and still have a successful tournament run.

"I don't think there's any way, if you're going to win the league, that you're only going to play Plymouth Canton once," he said. "We proved even when we're not at our best we can stay with them."

Despite the loss, Teachman was not displeased with his team's per-

formance, especially when considering many of his players were still fighting the effects of the flu.

"As sick and physically down as our team is, I'm glad to be this close, because they have the stuff to bury you," he said. "They spread their scoring around, and you can't concentrate on one guy."

One of those guys was senior guard Derrick McDonald, who had another big fourth quarter when he scored eight of his 14 points to help the Chiefs claim another come-from-behind win.

"Derrick McDonald can take over a game in the fourth quarter, which he has done many times," Van Wagener said. "He does that time and

again. He makes me look like a good coach."

SENIOR FORWARD Hal Heard matched McDonald's scoring output, and senior center Tony Coshart, returning to action after missing the last three games, had 13 points, including a monstrous slam dunk as the game ended.

Senior center Paul Gillyvda scored a game-high 23 points for Harrison, and senior guard Dan Hight finished with 16. Only four Harrison players scored as Mike Pesel and Justin Romans combined for the remaining nine points.

With a share of first place at stake for the Hawks and two of the WLAA's biggest teams going head-

to-head, the competition was intense and often times physical as the big men banged under the boards.

A minor scuffle broke out as the players exchanged handshakes after the game, and McDonald and Hight were quickly separated by coaches and teammates.

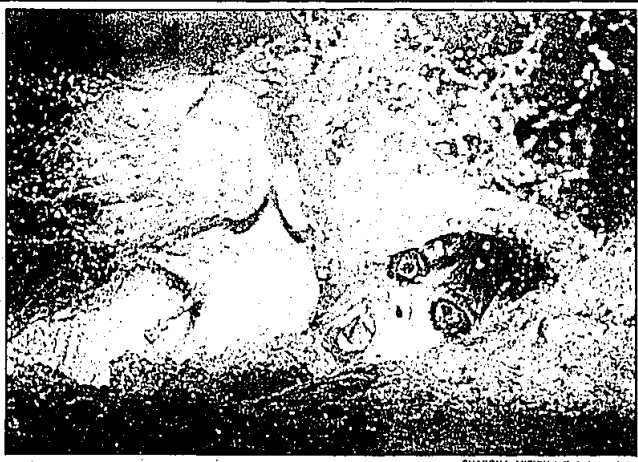
"It was just a hotly-contested ball game, and emotions got away at the end," Van Wagener said.

Harrison led 34-32 entering the final quarter, but 6-7 guard Mike Brennan hit a three-point shot that put Canton ahead to stay. The Chiefs scored the first seven points of the period and 11 of the first 13 to lead 43-35.

Please turn to Page 2

Harrison swimming

Farmington Hills Harrison lost its Western Lakes Activities Association dual meet with Northville, but the Hawks' Todd Farabee was an individual winner Thursday night. See story on Page 3B.



SHARON LAMUEUX/staff photographer

Shamrocks earn league ski crown

The Redford Catholic Central ski team lived up to coach Cass Zarlikowski's expectations.

The Shamrocks, who earlier this month won the Mount Brighton Ski Division championship, captured the Southeast Michigan League title Thursday at Mount Holly, CC became champion with 110 points, while West Bloomfield placed second with 142 and Clarkston came in third at 187.

The placing did not surprise Zarlikowski, who believes the Shamrocks can make a similar showing in Thursday's regional at Alpine Valley. The regional is set to start at 9 a.m.

"I expect them to win," he said. "Anything can happen, but I think we can go all the way this time. I thought they did real well (in the league meet). We're peaking out at the right time."

Among those peaking are senior Steve Wilk, who paced CC's run in the slalom course with a fourth-place time of 54.31 seconds. Witke

drew support from teammates Jason Darnell, 18th (57.79), Tim Williams, 24th (58.70), Andy Casella, 28th (59.07) and Andy Krook, 29th (59.46).

Both Darnell and Witke placed among the top 10 skiers in the giant slalom race. Darnell was third (44.33) and Witke placed sixth (46.18), while Matt McIntosh took 12th (46.61), Casella, 15th (47.23), Williams, 27th (47.58) and Mike Williams, 60th (50.12).

Mike Williams might have fared better had his goggles not fogged up near the end of the course.

"It was like skiing blind-folded," Zarlikowski said of Williams' effort. "THE FARMINGTON HILLS Mercy ski team took seventh place in the girls meet, and to no one's surprise, Nicole Sinclair and Nicole Gable led the Marlins' effort."

Mercy gathered 200 points. Birmingham Marian won the meet with 63 points, and Bloomfield Hills Andover took second place (172).

Please turn to Page 3