

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1992

SPORTS

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Mercy has perfect season

Farmington Hills Mercy finished its dual-meet season with a 15-0 record in girls golf Monday, concluding with a 196-210 victory over Birmingham Seaholm at Walnut Creek in South Lyon.

"This is the first time we've been undefeated," Mercy coach Vicky Kowalski said. "Even with Meg Mallon, we were never defeated, so we're real excited to have the perfect dual season."

Mercy senior Kristin Schulkins shot 34 and edged defending state champion Patty White of Seaholm by one stroke.

"I hope her scores keep coming down, so she can get a medal at the state meet," Kowalski said.

Dana Deshaw shot 48, Meredith Taylor 50 and Amy Schulkins 51 to round out the Mercy scoring.

Marlins in district final

Farmington Hills Mercy was the lone city team still alive in the girls soccer tournament Wednesday, advancing to the championship of the Birmingham Seaholm district at 4 p.m. Friday.

The Marlins, who will play host Seaholm for the title, blanked host Farmington Hills Harrison 4-0 Wednesday.

Tania MacIose scored three goals, and Flannery Campbell had one goal and three assists. Theresa Cisco and Carrie Dziadosz also got credit for assists.

Mercy (13-3-3) fired 29 shots at Harrison. Amy Watrola and Beth Chmielewski played one half each in goal for the Marlins and made two saves apiece.

Seaholm, which lost 4-1 to Mercy earlier in the season, reached the final by beating North Farmington 6-2 Wednesday and Birmingham Marian 3-2 in double overtime Monday.

"That was one of our better games," Mercy assistant coach Bruce Zera said. "Obviously, they have improved, so we'll have our hands full."

The Marlins defeated Birmingham Groves 4-1 in the district opener Monday. Campbell scored twice, and Margaret Wirth and MacIose got the other goals.

In another district game Wednesday, Livonia Franklin upset state-ranked Farmington 3-1 and advanced to the Southfield final at 1 p.m. Saturday against Livonia Stevenson. The Falcons ended 7-4-2.

WLAA track finals



Long leap: Colleen Heinzmann gives it her best effort in the long jump Tuesday at the Western Lakes Activities Association track meet. See results on Page 11B.

Marlins capture 3rd straight title

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

A woman asked Farmington Hills Mercy girls track coach Gary Servais on Tuesday if he wanted a new shirt to wear since the one he had on was soaked.

"No, I think I'll wear this one for a while," Servais said. "It feels good."

Servais couldn't complain about Mercy's third-straight Catholic League, A-B Division championship — or being doused with a cooler of ice and water afterwards by his joyous players.

Mercy, which earlier this year lost some team members for various reasons, overcame a big deficit after the field events to finish in the top spot with 118 points.

The Marlins, who beat second-place Dearborn Divine Child by seven points, clinched the championship in the final event when the 1,600-meter relay team of Dawn DiPonio, Eileen O'Connell, Kathy Cook and Nicole Pryor came in first in 1:48.0.

Servais also pointed to the Marlins' performance in the 3,200 run, where they swept the top three spots for 24 points. Heather Noll won the race in 12:30.9. Amy Fretwell was second and Sharmila Prasad third.

"Those who stayed with the team were committed and it showed," Servais said. "The key in the meet was when we swept the 3,200 run and the 24 points put us back in the lead. We know going into the last event if we went one, two or three we'd win it."

"When you look at how we come out of the field events, being down by some 40 points, and coming back to win, this is the best of the three (championships). We've got about nine key kids who did it for us."

Two of those were the Marlins' only seniors, Noll and Cook. Besides winning the 3,200 run, Noll finished second in the 1,600 race (6:41.2) and was a member of the winning 3,200 relay (10:11.3) along with DiPonio, O'Connell and Fretwell.

Along with her spot on the winning 1,600 relay, Cook ran on the 800 relay along with Pryor, O'Connell and DiPonio that took first place (1:48.0).

Noll, who will attend Cornell University in the fall, says she'll miss competing as a member of Servais' team.

"He grows on you; after four years, you learn his system," Noll said. "It's going to be different if I run next year and I'm not running with him."

Mercy's other individual winner was Pryor, who took first place in the 400 dash (69.2).

Marion, which finished sixth a year ago, had a pair of double winners in Michele Coughlin and Nicole Eberle and a single winner, Atiga Bussey.

Coughlin won the 300 hurdles (49.1) and 100 hurdles (16.1), while Eberle was first in the 1,600 run (6:29.0) and 800 run (6:21.6). Bussey's win came in the 100 dash (12.7).

"I thought we'd be in the top three with Mercy and Divine Child but Heaven surprised everyone," Marion coach John Dunn said. "But this is the best team we've ever had (in Dunn's 10 years as coach) by far."

Ladypool had one individual winner, Chiquita Hinson, who placed first in the discus (108-10).

Ex-Falcon Young erases doubts, thrives at Central

By C.J. BISKAMP
STAFF WRITER

Nothing had gone as expected for Kevin Young this spring. Which was reason enough to anticipate a continuation when the final day of the Mid-American Conference baseball tournament got underway.

Alas, it was not to be. Young's Central Michigan University squad came into the tourney an underdog and left it a victory short of both the title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

The Chippewas were ousted by regular-season MAC champ — and tournament host — Kent State, 9-3 and 3-1 Saturday. CMU had advanced to the final day unbeaten, with wins over Ohio University and Kent State.

"Until that last day, Young's season with the Chippies had been almost too good to be true. The Farmington HS graduate (1990) was redshirted last year, playing for CMU's junior varsity.

"(The coaches) said they thought I could have made the varsity," said Young. "But they had a lot of outfielders, so they redshirted me. Then they had a lot of outfielders get injured during the season, and they said they wished they had brought me up."

There were few doubts regarding Young this season. He wasn't certain how much game time he'd get — "I wasn't really expecting to play that much" — but it didn't take long to find out. He ended up starting 46 of 59 games in right field.

Not bad for a freshman. Even better, though, were his regular-season accomplishments:

- A .359 batting average — .370 in MAC play, which tied him for seventh;
- Second on the team in doubles (15), tied for second in home runs (four), third in runs scored (30), hits (46) and stolen bases, and fourth in runs batted in (19);
- Only two errors in the field, a .961 average.

All of which made Young an obvious pick for the all-MAC second team.



Kevin Young

BASEBALL

Young batted second in the lineup, which didn't give him as many chances to drive in runs but did provide him with good pitches to hit. "They didn't try to pitch around me," he noted.

Hitting in the clutch

Which proved to be a mistake at times. In the first game against Kent State last weekend, the Chippies chose to intentionally walk CMU leadoff man Darin Dresky to pitch to Young. And this time, Young did it, it worked; Young "hit the ball real good," but it was right to the left fielder for the third out — with the bases loaded.

They tried the same strategy in the eighth, walking Dresky intentionally with a runner already at second, to pitch to Young. And this time, KSU brought in a hard-throwing righthander, Brian Tatkovics. Young wrecked that strategy, slicing a line hit to right field to deliver the game-winning run in a 7-6 CMU victory.

"I was pretty confident up there," Young said. "You have to be in that situation. They brought in (Tatkovics) who throws hard — in the 90s. That's why I went the other way (to right field). It's hard to pull a guy like that."

Missing out on the MAC title left Young with much he still wanted to accomplish. "I'm going to get on a rigorous weight program and work on everything. I also want to strengthen my arm."

Young knows what pro scouts look for initially in prospects: speed and a good arm. He is more than adequate in both, but as Kreiner said, "He's going to have to keep working on every part of his game and keep improving."

If Young does keep improving at the same rate he did this season, he'll be resetting his collegiate goals for something far loftier.

Gaining on goals

Although confident in his abilities, Young's season surprised him. "The goal I had on my list was to be all-MAC and make All-American by the time I graduated," he said.

He's ahead of schedule, Dean Kreiner, CMU's head coach, knew what he had when he initially saw Young. "As soon as we saw him, we knew he would be a good hitter," he said. "He has a lot of ability, and he doesn't have any real negatives. He has a decent arm and good speed, and he does a good job in the outfield."

But what Young does best is hit. He's more of a line-drive than power hitter, although Kreiner added, "He's going to hit a few homers." The only problem the CMU coach thought Young might possibly have at the plate is trying to pull the ball too much. Otherwise, Kreiner said, "I think he certainly does have potential."

Young credited CMU's hitting coach, former New York Yankee and Detroit Tiger Tom Trewh, with his ability to adjust to the college game so quickly. "He taught me how to play college ball," said Young. "He helped me on my swing, my stride and keeping my hands back."

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