

# Marian girls win league hoop title

By STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Marian basketball player Tara Walsh didn't need to eat a chocolate-covered piece of cake Sunday night to feel a rush of energy.

Some parents baked sweets and gave them to the Marian players, who already felt good after a 57-41 victory over Redford Bishop Borgess in the Catholic League championship game at the University of Detroit-Mercy's Calthan Hall.

"I'm so excited we won — I'm having a natural high," said Walsh, who scored a game-high 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Marian, which last won a Catholic League title in 1988, improved to 18-1 overall. Borgess, a 39-37 upset winner over Harper Woods Regina in last Wednesday's semifinal, fell to 17-2 overall.

Senior guard Stephanie Storen scored 10 points before fouling out in the fourth quarter and senior guard Jennifer Jalabu contributed nine points off the bench, including seven in the second half.

But it was Walsh, who last week committed to Central Michigan University, and a trapping defense that was the difference.

Walsh scored 12 points in the first quarter as Marian opened up a 20-6 lead and she had 18 points by halftime when the Mustangs led 32-20.

Walsh is averaging more than 20 points the last six games.

"I have to thank my teammates because they gave me great passes," Walsh said. "I think I got off to a slow start but I'm more relaxed now. It's getting down to the nitty-gritty now, we can't afford to lose anymore, and I've got to come to play."

Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone praised Walsh and reserves Jalabu and Colleen Conway.

"Tara has been a steady, confident player the last six games, she scores whether it's off the boards or coming off screens," Lillie-Cicerone said. "I had to keep taking Judy (Stuart) and Stephanie out the whole darn game because of foul trouble but Jennifer and Colleen played excellent."

Marian led 40-22 midway through the third quarter before Borgess rallied and closed the gap to 42-31 heading into the fourth quarter. Guards Maxann Reese and Latoya Embrey led the Spartans with 10 points each.

Borgess coach Dave Mann said his players struggled to adjust to Marian's defense.

"If I could have called Mary (Lillie-Cicerone) the day before the game and said 'Hey, can we work an hour on your trap with you,' then it would have been easier to face," Mann said. "I think we were fine. I just think Marian did a great job with the trap and out-executed us."

# CC runners finish 2nd in state meet

By STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Mike Mittman went from not having a place on Redford Catholic Central's track team to first place in Saturday's Class A state cross country state meet at the Flint IMA Course.

Mittman, dismissed from CC's track program for disciplinary reasons during the 1991 season by coach Tony Magni, became the first Shamrock to win an individual state cross country championship with a personal best time of 15 minutes, 55.8 seconds. Monroe won the team standings with 57 points and CC took second place with 109 points.

Mittman never dreamt of winning the individual championship, especially after being kicked off Magni's track team as a sophomore, along with teammate Jam-

ie Fitzgerald. Magni also coaches the CC cross country team, which has won three Class A titles.

"We were supposed to run five, six miles to school (after practice) and decided to take a short cut and walk 1 1/2 miles back," Mittman said. "Coach Magni happened to drive by and see us. He said, 'I don't need to win, I don't want people on the team who aren't going to work.'"

"When I got kicked off, I realized I've got to start working if I'm going to be a good runner. Jamie and I started running every day on our own. That's when I turned from a 'who cares attitude to wanting to win.'"

Fitzgerald also has bounced back nicely since being let go from the track team in 1991. The senior came in 24th place overall (16:30.34) and was the Sham-

rocks' third finisher behind teammate Mark Leo, who took 16th (16:22.51).

"Jamie ran well with Mike for two miles but I knew Mike would start moving," Magni said. "Mark (Leo) ran a heck of a race, a smart race."

Mittman finished 23rd in last year's Class A race but made a strong push in the last 400 meters to pass about eight runners, including second place Matt Krupinski of Monroe (15:57.84).

"My goal was to finish in the top five but when I hit the last turn I was in eighth, ninth place and I could see the leaders 30 yards ahead of me," Mittman said. "I said, 'I don't want to break into the top five, I want to win the race.'"

Said Magni: "A runner from Flint Kearsley said he thought it

was Carl Lewis making the pass."

The Shamrocks key runner, according to Magni, was senior Eric McKeon, who placed 25th (16:35.04). Teammate Joe Leo came in 39th (16:40.91).

"The IMA course is made for McKeon," Magni said. "The last 600 yards is a straight shot, he's a quarter miler and I told him before the last turn, look for the flags and just start passing. We were pleased. We knew it would be difficult to beat Monroe, so I just told the guys if we can't get first let's be second."

No other Observersland team placed in the team standings but Lee Devers of Livonia Franklin was 32nd (16:45.35), Scott Crehan of Livonia Stevenson was 42nd (16:53.40) and Brian Mockeridge of Redford Union was 46th (16:56.19).

## Cross country from page 1B

beat a lot of kids who beat him during the year. His composure was outstanding."

Farmington senior Dave Clarendon finished his career with a solid performance, placing 13th in the Class A individual race at 16:22.

"He was hoping to get in the top 15 and get a medal, and that's exactly what he did," coach Jerry Young said. "He ran real well. I was very pleased with him."

Farmington sophomore Dana Goba was 25th in the girls race despite being sick with strep throat last week and able to practice just one day. She ran her third-best time of the year at 20:20.

"She was probably not in the best of shape, but she still ran well," coach John Barrett said. "She was eighth at one point but it caught up with her, being sick and not having a lot of time to train."

"It was a good experience for her, and I believe she'll be a force to contend with next year, particularly in our conference."

Harrison sophomore and first-year runner Allison Noe was 53rd in her first appearance at the girls state meet. She achieved her goal of running her best time (20:58) of the season.

"We didn't know how she was going to place, but we were pretty satisfied with that," Harrison

coach Mark Babcock said. "Obviously, she wants to go back next year and make it into the medal places."

"She's just starting. To be a good runner, it takes a season or two. She should get a lot better."

North junior Keegan Keefover finished 70th at state. She was seventh last year but was fortunate to qualify and do as well as she did after being injured most of the season, Pinnell said.

## Raiders from page 1B

made his availability uncertain.

Which is a good way to describe OCC all together. Finding some proven scorers may take a while, although Martin, Coleman and Banks each had their moments at Three Rivers. Martin scored 22 against Shelby and 18 against Shoals; Coleman, named to the all-tournament team, had 22 against Shelby, 13 against Three Rivers, and 14 against Shoals; and Banks netted 20 against Three Rivers and 14 against Shoals.

Still, Reed is hoping his other

returning veterans and a few of his freshmen step up with more consistent performances. Woodmore did score 20 against Three Rivers and 15 against Shoals, and Knight looked good despite playing against much bigger opponents. Thurston, though, has been up-and-down.

If newcomers Hicks, Payne and Galbraith can use their size to stay in the program and contribute, OCC just might challenge in the conference. But there are a lot of ifs to address.

## Hoops from page 1B

Carey Perkins and Gordon finished with 11 points each to lead the Raiders. McCoy added eight.

Nicole Jacques had 12 points for the Warriors (5-13), Erin Vicary and Angie Bickel 11 apiece.

North led 20-16 at halftime and 27-20 entering the fourth quarter.

and Nicole Bingamen 13 for visiting Farmington (4-15) in the WLAAC consolation round Tuesday.

The Patriots jumped in front 25-9 in the first quarter. They led 34-15 at halftime and 48-21 after three periods.

Rebecca Bloch had 16 points, Tracy Rynkiewicz 13 and Lisa Craven 12 for Franklin (7-11).

The Falcons play at Westland John Glenn tonight.

FRANKLIN 50, FARM. 32; Tammy Allen scored 14 points

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