

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1993

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS
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SCENE

Mat teams invade CC

Some of the state's top wrestling teams, including No. 2-ranked Temperance-Bodford, the defending state Class A champion, and No. 4 Howell, are among 16 teams competing Saturday in the 29th Annual Redford Catholic Central Invitational.

First-round action begins at 10:30 a.m. with the finals slated for 7 p.m. (All-day admission is \$3.) Other participating teams in the CC Invitational include the host Shamrocks, Westland John Glenn, Birmingham Brother Rice, Clio, Davison, Dearborn, East Detroit, Fowlerville, Holt, Millford Lakeside, Mount Clemens, Mount Pleasant, Utica Ford and Warren Lincoln.

Bedford, led by 103-pounder Mark Williamson, is gunning for its third straight CC title.

Other individual standouts include Greg Mayer (Warren Lincoln), 119; Brian Byars (Fowlerville), 140; Mike Reeves (John Glenn) and Orie Long (Holt), 160; Jason Steinkner (Howell) and Jack Beeman (Holt), 189.

Reeves and Steinkner are defending state champions.

Whitfield invitational

The second annual Jason Whitfield Memorial Foundation gymnastics meet will be Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23-24 at the University of Michigan's Cliff Keen Arena, 1000 S. State, Ann Arbor.

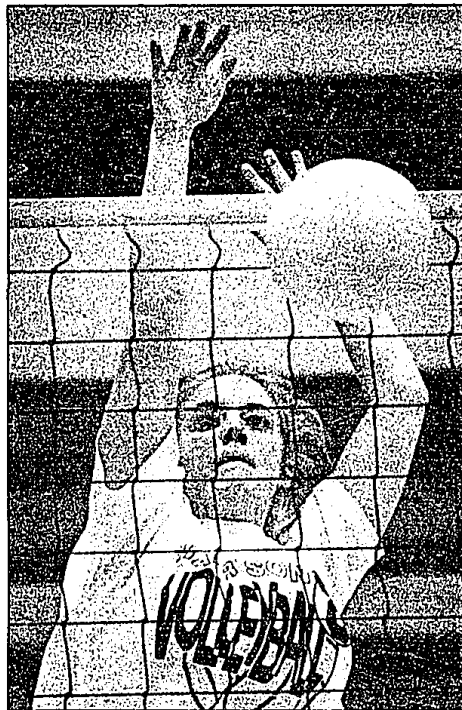
The meet is in memory of former U.S. national qualifier Jason Whitfield of Westland, whose pursuit of an Olympic dream was cut short by a tragic accident in September 1991.

The meet is sponsored by the Boys Booster Club of Blake's Gymnastics Center of Warren and Conrad's Gymnastics Club of Farmington Hills in cooperation with the U-M men's gymnastics program.

On Saturday, Class 3-4 modified optionals will begin at 10 a.m. with the Elite and Class 1-2 compulsorys set for 1 p.m. (admission is \$3). The Michigan-Ohio State dual meet will follow at 7 p.m. (admission free).

On Sunday, Class 6 events start at 8:45 a.m. followed by scholarship award presented at 12:30 p.m. in Whitfield's name to Drew Durbin, a Columbus (Ohio) native who will attend OSU this fall. The meet concludes at 1 p.m. with Elite, Class 1-2 optionals followed by Class 5 at 3:30 p.m. (admission is \$3).

Hawks retain Observer trophy



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Snow job: Harrison's Krista Snow covers an attempted spike with a block during the Observer volleyball tournament.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Hopefully, Farmington Hills Harrison volleyball coach Ron Shortt tried to work out a 2-for-1 deal with the engraver.

Shortt didn't realize until he was preparing for this year's Observer city tournament the championship Harrison won last year was never inscribed on the traveling trophy.

No problem since the trophy won't be traveling this year. It was still with the engraver when the host Hawks won again Monday night.

"Instead of picking it up, I'll just call and say 'Hey, do it again,'" Shortt said.

It was the third time Harrison has won the title. The Hawks ended North Farmington's four-year hold on the championship last year.

Harrison had a tough time with Farmington in the first match. After winning the first game 15-4, the Hawks lost the rest one 13-15 and prevailed 15-12 in the third.

"We came out like gangbusters, and I thought we were going to take them in two," Shortt said. "In the second game, they played better and we started making unforced errors. We got a lead in the third and hung on."

After the Falcons defeated North in two games (15-10, 15-10), Harrison clinched the championship with 15-6, 15-8 victories over the Raiders.

None of the teams was at the top of its game after a long day of competition Saturday in the West Bloomfield Invitational, according to Shortt. The Hawks had an emotional, come-from-behind win over Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley in the final match to clinch third place.

"Tonight it could have been anybody's game," he said. "I know all the kids were a little tired. I imagine all

three coaches feel they probably played a little better on Saturday."

"When you're struggling, you have to think about what you can do to not make errors. I'm happy with the win, but it was not our typical night."

Harrison (9-4-3) was represented on the all-tournament team by middle hitter Julie Heist and setter/hitter Amanda Ault and defensive specialist Lori Hubble.

They were joined by Farmington's hitter Debbie Schroeder (for the third consecutive year) and setter Michelle Lorenz and North hitter Carey Perkins.

"It's been a real good two years and right now we're playing with only one senior," Shortt said. "But it's Julie and she's going to be tough to replace."

"We need to start developing other kids to be good hitters. Krista Snow has made big improvement this year."

Farmington, which finished last year, came close to winning the tournament after starting slowly.

"We weren't moving at all; we were too timid," said Farmington coach Julie Ingalls of the first Harrison game. "In the third game, we just needed a couple things to go our way."

"I have no regrets about anything that happened here today. The girls played hard and have started to realize the mental aspect of the game. They're learning the concept of coverage, getting to a spot and reading the hitters so they can react faster."

Ault served the last six points in the first North game, including an ace and a quick-set kill. The Hawks built a 14-6 lead in the second but had five sideouts before getting the final point.

See VOLLEYBALL, 2B

Spartans triumph at Delta

Livonia Stevenson put it all together Saturday, knocking off three state-ranked teams en route to the Delta Community College Invitational volleyball title.

The Spartans defeated Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport, the state's No. 3-ranked team in Class C, 15-8, 16-14, to win the championship.

Setter Patty Diamond, a 5-foot-11 senior headed to Florida State, led the Spartans with 87 assists on the day in 235 attempts. She also had 25 blocks.

"She did an excellent job delivering the ball to our hitters," said Stevenson coach Lee Cagle, whose team is 15-3 overall.

Stevenson also eliminated Piquette, the No. 4-ranked team in Class B, 15-14, 15-5, in the semifinals, and No. 5 (Class A) Bay City Western, 15-4, 15-3, in the quarterfinals.

"It was an important win because we've been close in other tournaments," Cagle said. "We were tied 14-11 in the final game and were able to get over the hump."

Stevenson opened pool play in the 16-team tournament with wins over Swan Valley (15-6, 15-8), West Branch Ogemaw Heights (15-13, 15-10) and Essexville-Garber (15-6, 15-6).

Cagle said senior Kristian Dragich "had an MVP day" with 33 ace serves and only five errors in 74 attempts. She added 39 digs.

"Middle hitter Julie Martin, a 6-1 senior, contributed 60 kills in 107 attempts, while Karen Groulx and Rachel Clinck added 19 kills apiece. Angie Pilgus chipped in with 16 kills and 28 digs. Heather Taylor also had 21 digs and served 59 times.

"Right now there is great chemistry on this team," Cagle said. "They worked very hard in preparation for the tournament. And everyone made a contribution to the win. Every kid should feel a part of the victory. Everyone deserved a medal."

Blazers beat Mercy

It took awhile Monday for Livonia Ladywood to get comfortable, but the Blazers adjusted in time to beat visiting Farmington Hills Mercy, 13-15, 15-8, 15-7.

The win improved Ladywood to 3-0 in the Catholic League Central Division and 6-1 overall. Mercy is 1-2 in the Central Division.

Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said he's experimenting with a new lineup that should help take advantage of his strengths.

"The best some of the best teams we're going to have to do different things," Teeters said. "Our new lineup gives us a different look each time we rotate."

Teeters said the lineup helps to get three of Ladywood's tallest

hitters — Liz Gunn, Mary Jo Kelly and Tara Overatle — in better position but all the Blazers seemed to benefit after falling behind 13-8 in Game 1.

Ladywood scored five straight points to forge a 13-13 tie before Mercy scored the deciding points for a 1-0 lead in games.

The Blazers prevailed in games 2 and 3, which were closer than the scores indicated, according to Mercy coach Peggy Spengler.

"It was one heck of a match, it's fun to baffle Ladywood once in a while," Spengler said. "The girls played great, came out fighting right from the start. We still had a lot of mistakes (in the second and third games)."

Kelly had 11 kills in 27 attempts with only two errors while senior Andrea Putti had seven kills, one block and only two errors to go with a pair of service aces.

Overatle contributed five kills and two blocks. Valerie Adzima led Ladywood with four aces and Kristy Walker had nine digs.

Mercy's top hitter was Kristina Kudelko, who had eight kills in the first game and 16 overall. She also had three service aces. Setter Jill Jarosz had 24 sets to kills and five kills. The Marlines served 96 percent and Christiane Grant had 20 hits in three games.

Justin Ronayne started the CC scoring with an unassisted goal in the first period.

Sean Seyferth scored the lone goal for Pioneer (6-1-5).

It was a rock-on-suck-on style game (15 penalties, nine called on CC), a style that the Shamrocks are being lulled into too often to suit Gumbleton.

"Nine penalties is too much," he said. "I don't mind if you check when you are supposed to check, but you don't just throw bodies around to please the crowd. We are out there to play hockey and score goals, not to throw people over the boards."

playing well and our goaltending is starting to perform and that's been the key. I'm not sure we are scoring goals like I thought we would."

CC was outshot by Pioneer, 30-18.

"That's deceiving," Gumbleton said. "I felt we had the territorial advantage. We had the shots, we just didn't always take them."

Frank Novock took most of the ones that counted. He netched goals number 11 and 12 on the season and assisted on linemate Mike Giordano's goal. Novock leads the Shamrocks with 21

Gumbleton gets 400th win

There was no cake, but Redford Catholic Central's Jack Gumbleton was buying after notching his 400th career coaching victory Saturday at the Redford Ice Arena.

The CC players were treated to soda pop by Gumbleton following their 4-1 Michigan Metro hockey win over Ann Arbor Pioneer in a battle of state-ranked teams.

CC, now 7-0-2 overall, is rated No. 2 in the Class A coaches poll, while Pioneer is rated No. 6. "There were a lot of unknowns about this team, mainly because of our young defense," Gumbleton said. "But the defense has been

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