

Madonna women denied hoop win

By C.J. RIBAK
STAFF WRITER

The difference between first and fifth place can sometimes be narrowed down to a single 17-second span.

Madonna University's women's basketball team discovered that when it fell at home to Spring Arbor Thursday, 70-87, in an NIAA District 23 game.

The Lady Crusaders entered Friday's match having lost their previous two district games; they could ill-afford another setback.

And finding themselves in such a backs-to-the-wall position, the last team they'd want to face is the district leader. But that's who came to town on Spring Arbor, winner in eight of its previous nine district contests, riding a seven-game victory streak.

Madonna refused to give in, however. The Crusaders led most of the first half and were even with the Cougars with just under two minutes left to play.

That's when it occurred — the 17 seconds that defined each team, champion and, very likely, also-ron.

Spring Arbor's Kristan Nord drove through the lane and banked in a layup, giving her team a 67-65 lead with 1:57 left. The Cougars had been pressuring, off-and-on, throughout the game; they were at it again on Madonna's inbound. Nobach stole the ball and went back down the lane, scored and was fouled by Dana Sevech.

Nobach's free throw with 1:40 remaining sealed the Crusaders' fate.

"We had great intensity tonight," said Madonna coach Bill Potter. "We just lost it for about two minutes."

It was a mistake teams struggling to reach the playoffs cannot make. The loss left Madonna at 4-6 in the district, 10-15 overall. Spring Arbor is 14-10 overall, 9-1 in the district.

After Nobach's three-point play — she ended up with a game-high 20 points — the Crusaders had chances. But unlike Spring Arbor, they weren't bailed out by a go-to person.

Jill Burt — an all-district selection last year who's been well off-track this season, averaging

Gable advances to league ski finals

Farmington Hills Mercy sophomore Niki Gable qualified for the league ski finals later this week, but the Marlins failed to advance in team competition Thursday.

The top three teams and 10 individuals from the divisional meet at Mount Brighton advance to the Southeast Michigan League finals Thursday at Alpine Valley.

Mercy was third in the giant slalom portion of the meet but fifth in the slalom, and the Marlins finished fourth overall behind Brighton, Birmingham Seaholm and Hartland.

Gable was first in giant slalom

(39.96) and Mardi Millia 16th (41.12).

On her first slalom run, Gable had the best time (20.38) of the day. She straddled a gate on her second, pulled to a stop, walked back up to the gate and restarted from there.

Her perseverance impressed her father/coach, but the mishap dropped her back to sixth.

Janet was 13th and Jen Werner 15th, but two others still skied and were disqualified. The penalty points put Mercy fifth (77) behind Brighton (34), Seaholm (45), Hartland (65) and East Lansing (70).

"We still have the regional, and

if those girls stand up this time we have a real good chance of getting to the state meet," Tom Gable said.

"Niki remains very positive and still encouraged her teammates not to get down. They can still come back and try their best in the regional."

The top three teams from the Pine Valley, Alpine Valley, Mount Holly and Mount Brighton divisions will compete in the league meet Thursday.

The slalom runs are scheduled for 9:30 and 11 a.m., the giant slalom competition approximately 1 and 2:30 p.m.

Hawks regroup in time to beat Glenn

Farmington Hills Harrison's boys' volleyball team put the Hawks on a five-game match for a change.

The Hawks, who went the distance with Walled Lake Central and Plymouth Salem but came up short, rallied to win the last two games and beat Westland John Glenn.

The Rockets won the second and third (12-11), Harrison the first (13). The Hawks rebounded with decisive victories (4-3) in the fourth and fifth.

"We started out slow, but the kids decided at the end they didn't want to lose and came on real strong," Harrison coach Ron Short said.

"We didn't play up to par in the first two games. We struggled midway through the second and third games, but the kids came through when they had to. We're still rolling along and having a fun year."

Julie Heist had 31 attacks, 16 kills, eight blocks and two block assists. Krista Snow played a key role at the net, with seven blocks and one assist. Amanda Ault had five aces in 27 serves and chipped in 10 kills (32 attack).

What did it for us was Maggie Frump's serving and Debbie Schroeder's hitting and serving," Farmington coach Julio Ingalls said. "When Maggie was serving, that's when Debbie was in the front row, so we were getting a lot of points that way."

Frump was 21-of-24 serving with 19 points, including six aces. She served eight points in the first game.

Schroeder was 18-of-19 hitting with 13 spike kills and one tip kill. She hit 10 of 11 serves for eight points (two aces). Schroeder had a big Game 3 with seven straight service points and was 8-of-8 hitting with six kills.

Sophomore Krisay Mahon also gave the Falcons a solid effort. She was 7-of-7 passing, 6-of-8 receiving serves and 6-of-7 hitting.

"We're trying to improve things; we're trying to get quicker," Ingalls said. "We notice when we play the Stevensons and the Churchills their offenses are very quick."

"So we're trying to speed things up and get quicker, too. Yet, we know we need to rely on our strong serving. The girls even requested to practice those things

VOLLEYBALL

WESTERN LAKES VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS (through Wednesday matches)

1. Livonia Stevenson	5-1 (3-1)
2. Livonia Churchill	5-1 (3-0)
3. Plymouth Salem	5-1 (2-1)
4. Walled Lake Central	5-1 (2-1)
5. Farmington Harrison	5-3 (4-0)
6. Plymouth Canton	3-3 (2-2)
7. Farmington	3-3 (2-1)
8. Livonia Franklin	2-4 (1-2)
9. Walled Lake Western	2-5 (0-4)
10. Northville	1-5 (0-4)
11. Westland John Glenn	1-5 (1-2)
12. North Farmington	0-6 (0-4)

League records are listed first with division records in parentheses.

we need to do."

Farmington is 2-1 in the Lakes Division, 3-3 in the WLLA and 8-9-6 overall. The Raiders are 0-4 and 0-6.

FARMINGTON MERCY

The match started well for the host Marlins, who defeated rival Birmingham Marian 15-6 in the first game Thursday. But the Mustangs rallied to win the next two, 15-6 and 15-2.

"We fell apart big time," Mercy coach Peggy Spangler said. "We didn't play well at all in the second game. Our serve received was 50 percent and our passing 63 percent."

"The first game was just complete intensity. We passed everything, we ran every play we have and we expected to perfection. In the second one, we said, 'OK, we have that one in the bag, we can't do that to Marian again.'"

Senior middle hitter Angela Assad had 10 kills, was 19-of-20 hitting, and served five aces. Senior setter Jill Jaronc set the ball 72 times and had 18 assists. She added two tip kills.

The Marlins are 2-5 in the Central Division of the Catholic League and 12-8 overall.

Stevens 3rd at Daytona

Farmington's Jim Stevens was close to being on Cloud Nine after finishing third overall and second in the GTS class at the Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona a week ago.

His Roush Racing teammates won its ninth consecutive Daytona GTS title. The 22-year-old Stevens had his best-ever Daytona finish aboard Roush's new Mustang equipped with a 6.5-liter Ford V8.

"Jack Roush and the Roush Racing Team know how to win in this race," Stevens said. "Every car has problems during the 24 hours, but our cars never seem to have quite as many problems as the rest."

"And that's all because Jack Roush plans as much luck as possible into every race car he builds."

Toyota Eagle MK III captured the overall win, 10 laps ahead of the No. 11 Roush Mustang. The gap was only four laps after 22 hours.

"I thought we might be able to run the Toyotas down," Roush said, "but they got back up to speed and we knew we couldn't."

"Since we had an 18-lap lead over the Nissan team, we decided to back it down and make sure we finished."

Tom Kendall, Wally Dellenbach, Robby Gordon and Robbie Buhl scored the GTS class win, with Stevens and teammates John Fergus and NASCAR Winston Cup driver Mark Martin following two laps behind.

Stevens, who will graduate this year from Western Michigan University, will turn his full attention to racing, beginning with the SCCA Trans-Am season, open in April at the Long Beach Grand Prix.

Basketball from page 1C

The Rockets led 32-27 at half-time and outscored the Raiders 20-16 in the third quarter and 38-18 in the second half.

Tony Goins scored 20 points and John Miller 16 for Glenn, 7-0 in the WLLA and 11-1 overall. John Pennala had nine points and Evan Ellis eight for North, 3-4 and 6-7.

REDFORD CC 52, RICE 51: Maybe the alarm clock just went off late. At least it did go off, much to Redford Catholic Central's relief.

The Shamrocks were facing a homecourt defeat Friday, courtesy of Brother Rice, a loss that would undo all their upset wins over the University of Detroit-ten had accomplished three days earlier.

But the bell did go off, and CC answered, outscoring Rice 24-10 in the last quarter to pull out the win.

Andy Kummer turned in the game-winning play with less than 30 seconds left and CC trailing by a point. Kummer stole the ball from D.J. MacAlon. MacAlon fouled him, sending Kummer to the line for a one-and-one. He sank both to provide the Shamrocks with the winning margin.

Rice got off two shots in the closing seconds, but missed both and fell to 3-5 in the Catholic League

Soccer from page 1C

He also might get an academic scholarship, covering most of the \$7,000 annual expense.

OU's soccer tradition was a strong selling point, too. The Pioneers were 18-3-1 last fall and advanced to the NCAA Division II semifinals.

"They have one of the top teams in the nation," said Verrino, who also considered the University of Chicago for soccer. "The soccer program in Michigan is second to none. They're known all over the country."

"The other major point was the scholarship. The less I have to play the better the offer."

Verrino, who was an All-Ob-

Chiefs go faster than Hawks

Plymouth Canton senior Mike Orris hasn't let personal misfortune stand in the way of a successful swim season.


Orris, who missed 1½ months of practice and competition when he was ill with acute mononucleosis, won two events with state-qualifying times Thursday.

He also helped the Chiefs win the 400-yard freestyle relay in their victory over visiting Farmington Hills Harrison, 114-72.

Oris swam the 200 freestyle in 1:48.82 and the 500 in 4:55.29.

Canton's Jason Fowler and Harrison's Mark Stromer tied for first place in diving with 201.6 points apiece.


Harrison won the medley relay (1:54.38) with Roger Stadler, Steve Swartz, Peter Metz and Craig Dixon. Dixon, Matt Canavan, Jason Weiss and Mark Springer combined to win the 200 freestyle relay (1:40.63).



Ski Time!

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Cross-country skiing is a fun, exciting, and healthful way to enjoy the outdoors this winter. Learn to cross-country ski at the Observer & Eccentric Ski Schools listed below. Because there is limited space availability, pre-registration is required. For more registration information, call Monday through Friday at least one week in advance of the lesson.



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