

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Big Ten swimming/diving

Several former high school athletes from the Observer and Eccentric communities are competing this weekend in the Big Ten women's swimming and diving championships at the University of Michigan.

The defending champion Wolverines are expected to be challenged by Northwestern, Penn State and Minnesota. The three-day meet began today and concludes Saturday.

Area athletes include Northwestern's Kerry Doran (North Farmington), Christy Wicke (Andover) and Danielle Frottier (Seabolt), Michigan's Katie Knipper (Mercy), Michigan State's Allison Gowling (Groves), Joan Huellmann (Mercy) and Gwen Rowlands (Novi), Iowa's Jennifer Knapp (Stevenson) and Indiana's Jennifer Dixon (Lahser). All are swimmers except for Dixon, a diver.

The meet features 13 individual events, five relays and two diving events. The top 16 swimmers in each of the individual events will qualify for the point-scoring finale.

Preliminary heats start at 11 a.m. and finals at 7 p.m. each day in the Canham Natatorium. Tickets are available at the door. For information, call the U-M at 313-763-6544 or 313-747-2583.

Ladywood A.D. resigns

Livonia Ladywood High principal Sister Mary Ann Smith has assumed athletic director duties after the resignation last month of Joe Peruski.

"I'm not going to be hiring or interviewing anybody for the position until spring sports have already started," Sister Smith said. "I'm acting athletic director, but I've been able to get help with the parents and coaches pitching in. I'm managing right now."

Peruski, who served three years as Ladywood's head track coach, was hired last summer as A.D. to replace Kim Linenger, who resigned to take a similar administrative job with the Catholic Youth Organization.

Hawks breeze to win over Falcons



Holding the key: Senior point guard Keye Smith leads the Harrison offense during a fast break Tuesday against Farmington.



BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

The most thrilling moment in the Farmington-Farmington Hills Harrison basketball game Tuesday happened as the game's final buzzer sounded. However, the outcome was decided long before.

Ryan Forth's turnaround hook shot off a missed free throw as time expired meant all of the Hawks scored in Harrison's lackluster 61-39 victory over the visiting Falcons.

Harrison evened its overall record at 8-8 and, more importantly, improved its Western Lakes Activities Association mark to 8-2. The Hawks have won seven of their last eight games.

Farmington dropped to 6-10 overall and 3-7 in the league. The Falcons have lost four straight and seven of their last eight.

The game was far from pretty as a total of 58 fouls were called and 46 turnovers committed.

The shooting was colder than the icy temperatures outside as the Falcons shot 25 percent from the floor (14-of-55) and 43 percent from the free throw line (10-of-23). The Hawks weren't much better as they converted 41 percent of their shots from the floor (21-of-51) and 38 percent from the line (15-of-40).

"No comment," said Farmington coach Denny Mikel after the game. "I'm too embarrassed to talk because of the way my team played."

Harrison coach Mike Teachman saw the game's outcome in a more positive light.

"We didn't play well on offense, but we played great defense," he said. "That was the key and that's where

Farmington Hills Harrison got back on track in Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball Tuesday when the Hawks rolled over crosstown rival Farmington, 61-39.

we won the game."

"We like the outcome but we have a lot to improve on before we play Plymouth Canton Friday," Harrison junior guard Ryan Cahill said.

The Hawks played without starting senior forward Don Bryant, who twisted his ankle during practice Sunday and is expected to miss two weeks.

Harrison received another scare early in the third quarter when Jeremy Teachman fell to the floor with a slight sprained ankle. The senior guard didn't return but is expected to play against Canton.

"We're missing the slashing, rebounding and ability to create fouls without Don," Teachman said. "Tonight we got some great contributions from players on our bench — Nick Williams, Jeff Cielo, Aaron Weiss, Rick Smith, Chuck Bambenek and Dave Bennett."

The game got off to a slow start as Harrison clung to a 6-4 lead nearly six minutes into the opening quarter. The Hawks scored the final seven points to lead 13-4.

A 9-2 run gave Harrison a 22-6 lead in the second quarter. The rally was keyed by a technical foul on Farmington's Scott Menser.

Menser, a junior guard and one of the Falcons' top scorers, was frustrated the entire night and finished with two points.

Farmington made one of its brief comebacks by closing the score to 28-17, but a three-pointer by Cahill just before the halftime horn gave Harrison a 14-point cushion.

See HAWKS, 4B

Marlins give Blazers scare in volleyball playoff match

BY BRAD ENIONS
STAFF WRITER

Monday was President's Day, but two longtime Catholic League volleyball rivals couldn't take the day off.

Livonia Ladywood, the pre-tourney favorite, was nearly impeached from the A-B Division playoffs, but the host Blazers rolled in the second and third games to edge rival Farmington Hills Mercy, 15-9, 10-16, 15-12.

Ladywood (26-6-2 overall) tangles with Dearborn Divine Child beginning at 7:30 tonight at Madonna University for the A-B title.

Redford St. Agatha and Center Line St. Clement will square off in the first game of the double-header at 5:30 for the C-D Division championship.

Ladywood is now 4-0 in the season series against the Marlins, but it was by far Mercy's most inspired performance of the four encounters.

The Blazers were able to overcome a 10-8 deficit in the second game to even the match at one apiece thanks to the timely hitting of senior Liz Gunn and the clutch back-row play of junior Tara Overatita.

But in the third game, Mercy jumped out to leads of 6-0 and 10-5 before the Blazers came charging back. The run was capped by Andrea Putti's kill to clinch the victory.

"This was definitely the toughest of the four matches

VOLLEYBALL

we've had with Mercy," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said. "There were three key factors in our victory.

"First, Lyndi Palling came in off the bench and had two big kills. Heather Zupse then had a run-down at a dig, and came up with another. And Mary Jo Kelly was able to mix things up and make their left-front people cover more ground."

Kelly, who had difficulty hitting over and through Mercy's block at the net, resorted to dumps and dink shots to keep the Marlins off balance.

The 5-foot-8 senior finished with a team-high 16 kills along with Gunn.

"Give her credit, Mary Jo adjusted to the circumstances and it worked," Teeters said. "But you don't want to live and die on it."

Mercy, meanwhile, relied on the potent hitting of 6-foot senior Angela Assad, who has been terror of late. She had 21 kills for the evening.

But after Mercy had exhausted its substitutes on rotation in the decisive third game, Assad was being back to the bench.

"When she couldn't come back that pumped up our hitters," Teeters said.

But it was a struggle for the

Blazers, even with Assad out of the lineup.

"Every single time we've been a little closer against Ladywood," said Mercy first-year coach Peggy Spengler. "I thought we had them a couple of times tonight, but Ladywood is a great team. Even when they get themselves in a hole, they seem to work themselves out."

The Marlins, however, are beginning to see signs of improvement after a slow start this season.

Senior outside-hitter Kristina Kudelko played a strong all-around game. She led Mercy with 23 digs, while 5-9 junior Jill Higgins added 18.

"This team has come so far," Spengler said. "The idea of our whole season is to peak at the end of the year, and we certainly are."

"We try and use everybody. We also just brought up four good players from JV team, two sophomores and two freshmen. Our goal the next two weeks, before the state tournament starts, is to work our players around more."

Ladywood, meanwhile, received strong contributions from middle-blockers Val Adzima (22 digs) and Tara Overatita (21), junior Kristy Walker added 14 digs and 18 receptions.

Ladywood reached the semifinal Monday with a 15-7, 15-9 win over Madison Heights Bishop Foley, while Mercy ousted Allen Park Cabrini in the quarter-final, 15-8, 15-11.

CC overcomes hockey foe, travel woes

It was a long ride home for the Redford Catholic Central hockey team following Tuesday's Michigan Metro High School Hockey League game at Gross Pointe North.

But the Shamrocks didn't mind the wait following a 5-4 triumph over the host Norceman as Jon Heady led the way with three goals and one assist. He now has 18 goals and 21 assists on the season.

"The bus overhated and we

had about a one-hour and 30-minute wait on the expressway," said CC coach Gambelton, whose team is 12-5-3 overall and 6-4-2 in the Metro. "We kind of froze while waiting for another bus. It was cold, but it all worked out well."

Mike Kasper added a goal and two assists. Mike Giordano also chipped in with a goal.

Brian Ronayne collected three assists, while Justin Ronayne had two.

Jamie Ronayne was the winning goaltender.

On Saturday, CC skated to a 10-1 Metro victory over visiting Ann Arbor Huron in a game played at the Redford Ice Arena.

Heady and Brian Ronayne each collected hat tricks.

Frank Novock contributed a pair of goals, while Jason Bellinger and Ken Lauer added one apiece.

Novock and Brian Ronayne also had three assists apiece for the state-ranked Shamrocks.

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