

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1993

FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Gable all-state skier

Farmington Hills sophomore Niki Gable earned all-state ski honors Monday, but the Marlins didn't fare as well in team competition at the state finals in Marquette.

Gable finished 10th in the slalom and seventh in the giant slalom among the 80 girls who participated. She had a combined two-run time of 95.51 in the slalom and 69.47 in the giant.

"It's a fantastic achievement," Mercy coach Tom Gable said. He is Niki's father, too. "The state of Michigan puts out some fine skiers, and that's certainly a feather in her cap."

Mercy had a lot of misfortunes in the team slalom in which only two girls finished and ended up last in the 10-team event. Petoskey won the team title.

One skier lost a pole at the starting gate and went half way down before losing control. Another banked a turn the wrong way and lost a ski, and another missed a gate and was unable to get back on course.

Also, one of the regulars had the flu, and Gable had to use a freshman substitute. The only other to finish did so with penalty points for exceeding the one-minute limit.

"The luck of the Marlins ran out," Gable said. "The team dug such a hole in the slalom, even though we did much better in the giant slalom, we couldn't make up the difference."

"Smith is still quite an accomplishment," he added, recalling Mercy failed to qualify for the league finals but came back the next week and placed second in the regional.

"It's a tribute to the entire team that it kept plugging away. They have to hold their heads up high for doing that."

Maggie Jones was 46th (76.41) in the giant slalom, Jen Busser 50th (77.35), Mardi Miller 57th (80.88), Danielle Spiwak 74th (1:09.87) and Jen Werner 75th (1:10.31).

Gable added his skiers were not accustomed to the longer course in Marquette. They're used to 20-second courses in this area, but the average time up there was 48 seconds.

"They were getting tired and falling at the bottom," he said. "It takes a lot of practice to concentrate for that long. The slopes were not quite as steep but much longer."

Salem slams Hawks in WLAA semi

Plymouth Salem came alive in the fourth quarter Tuesday to defeat Farmington Hills Harrison in the WLAA basketball tournament.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER



James Head didn't start the basketball game Tuesday, but he was around to help his teammates finish it in a big way.

The junior forward keyed a rally that saw Plymouth Salem overbook Farmington Hills Harrison in the fourth quarter and win going away 69-53.

The Rocks (17-2) will play top-seeded and No. 9-ranked Walled Lake Central (19-0) for the Western Lakes Activities Association championship at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Salem gym.

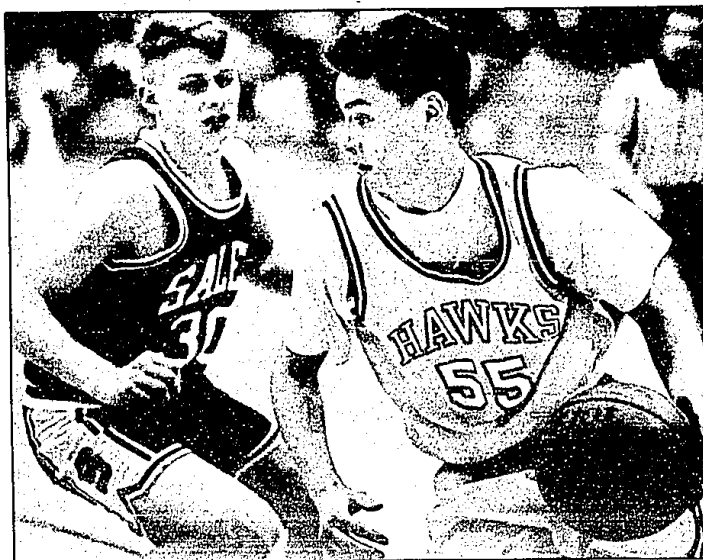
Head scored 10 of his 15 points — he played little and was scoreless in the first half — in the fourth quarter and was a major factor in Salem's half-court trap, which helped turn the game around.

"James Head took over the game," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said. "It's too bad he doesn't want to play that way all the time."

"Not only is he 6-foot-6 but his wing span makes him a bigger player. We have to start measuring players by the height of their arms above their heads."

Senior Mike Stone was a big contributor to the late surge, which overcame a 46-43 deficit at the end of three periods. He scored 14 of his game-high 18 points in the second half, eight in the third quarter.

Stone, who played closer to the post instead of guard, didn't have a three-point basket and most of his points on layups.



SHARON LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tourney tussle: Harrison's Ricky Smith outmaneuvers Jeff Lamb in the WLAA tournament game in which Salem prevailed 69-53.

"They had a smaller player on Mike, so he took the ball inside for us," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "You have to take advantage of the matchups. Sometimes the game is more complex than people think."

Brian Jensen and Brandon Stone

added 13 points apiece and helped keep Salem in the game in the first half with nine and eight, respectively. The Rocks also got unexpected scoring from point guard Todd Forbes, who usually advances and distributes the ball but this time

chipped in 10 points, too.

Junior center Calvin Pruitt had 14 points to lead the Hawks (9-10), who play Westland John Glenn in the consolation game at 6 p.m. Saturday at Salem. Jeremy Teachman had 19.

See HAWKS, 2B

Lawrence, Gloetzner head for state despite adversity

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Two months ago it looked as if seniors Jared Lawrence and Dave Gloetzner might be done wrestling.

The thought of competing in the state finals was not realistic then, but both have battled back from mid-season adversity to do just that.

North Farmington's Lawrence and Farmington Hills Harrison's Gloetzner qualified Saturday for the Class A championships March 12-13 in Battle Creek. Each finished third at his weight in the South Lyon regional.

Lawrence, who missed a month with mononucleosis, placed Vyn last in the consolation at 160 pounds. Lawrence won both 3-2. McKemmy scored two points in

the last minute, but Lawrence got a takedown with 10 seconds left to win.

"I only came back a month ago, and I'm finally happy with the way I'm wrestling," Lawrence (25-5) said.

"I'm not wrestling as well as I would want if I hadn't been out. I'd be in better shape, but for being back as short a time as I have, I like the way I'm wrestling."

Winning his last match and placing third was important for purposes of seeding at the state meet, Lawrence said.

"I lost to the South Lyon kid (Jason Brown) early in the year, and it messed up my seeding when I came back. I kept getting a lot of four seeds, which meant I met Reeves in the semis instead of the finals."

Lawrence was sixth in the state at 160 last year and plans to do as well or better this time.

"With a third seed instead of fourth, I won't wrestle Reeves un-

til the final," he said. "I'm sure there will be plenty of good guys along the way, but it will give me a little more room to increase my final placing."

The 189-pound Gloetzner has been wrestling again for three weeks after he cut a tendon and nearly severed his right thumb in an accident involving glass.

"I was thinking about not coming back because it's my last year and I've been doing it for so long I thought I might as well finish," he said.

Gloetzner (13-6) had far fewer matches than most of the regional entries but proved deserving of a state meet appearance.

"I just want to be there," he said. "I want to upset people and make sure they know who I am when I leave."

He lost his first match 10-8 to Terrence Bedford's Dan Sunday but fought through the losers bracket to win the consolation

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have had split-second possession, I would have blown it. Hey, I'm a Livonia Bentley graduate and I'd love to see a Livonia school go all the way but I call it as I see it."

Stevenson (14-8-1) also wasn't happy with an intentional off-sides call with 26 seconds left that brought the faceoff to the Spartans' end.

"We needed the call, didn't get it and that cost us the game," Stevenson coach Matt Mulcahy said. "You'd like to lose fair and square. But it's only a game, I mean, there's people dying in Somalia."

Wheeler said high school rules allowed CC to have as many players in the crease as it wanted as long as the puck is in at the same time.

"As long as the puck is in the crease, anybody can go in," he said.

See WRESTLING, 4B

CC advances in hockey tourney

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Redford Catholic Central junior forward Jon Heady will remember the first goal he scored in Monday's 6-45 Regional first-round playoff game not for its beauty but for its significance.

Heady, stopped time and again by Livonia Stevenson goalie Daryl Chamberlain, finally scored on a mad scramble in the goal crease with 12 seconds left in the third period to force sudden death overtime.

Heady scored a more conventional way in sudden death to give CC a 4-3 win and send the Shamrocks back to Compuware Arena for tonight's 6:45 second round game against Livonia Franklin.

But the score everyone was talking about was the one at the end of regulation. The controversial play started with a shot from the point and ended at least five

seconds later, after several attempts by CC to get to the puck, with referee Rick Wheeler signaling a goal.

"The puck was under the goalie and I just pushed (with my stick) the goalie into the net (with the puck)," said Heady, who was stopped by Chamberlain from point-blank range four minutes earlier. "I was hoping the whistle wouldn't go before I got to the puck."

The goal judge did not turn on the light, but Wheeler, one of three officials who had the best angle, had the last say.

"The puck was staying loose, went between the goalie's legs and slid over the goal line three inches," said Wheeler. "I was right there — I literally stuck my head in the net. I had the whistle in my mouth and the minute he would

See HOCKEY, 2B

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