

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993

SPORTS

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FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Marlins capture district crown

The Mercy High volleyball team started slowly Saturday in the district final but eventually prevailed over host Berkeley.

By NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER



Will the real Farmington Hills Mercy volleyball team please stand up?

The real Marlins, though it took them awhile to get rolling Saturday, did rise to the occasion by defeating host Berkeley (16-14, 15-6) in the district championship match.

After trailing 5-0 and 9-2 in the opening game against the Bears, Mercy fell behind 14-11 before making a thrilling comeback for the victory. The Marlins then made quick work of Berkeley in the next game by jumping to a 13-0 lead.

"We have a history of not warming up until it counts," senior middle hitter Angela Asaad said. "It usually takes us a little time to get going. Maybe we came in too pumped up. We're a team of mood swings and different personalities."

The Marlins hope to leave their Jeckyl-and-Hyde syndrome at home Saturday when play No. 2-ranked Livonia Stevenson in the Northville regional at 11 a.m.

The Spartans (43-7-2) beat No. 6 Livonia Ladywood in their district final. Stevenson is led by setter Patty Diamond and 6-foot-1 Julie Martin. Mercy coach Peggy Spengler knows the Marlins (18-16-3) will have their hands full with them.

"We know them well because we



Words of wisdom: Mercy volleyball coach Peggy Spengler hopes to guide the Marlins to a regional championship Saturday.

scrimmaged them in December and several of our players are from Livonia," Spengler said. "It's going to be tough. We're going to have to work on pulling the middle block."

The Marlins know they have to start better than they did against Berkeley. The Bears took advantage of numerous sidouts as Mercy failed to score on its first five serves. Meanwhile, Berkeley took a 9-2 lead on the

lifeless Marlins. "Sometimes we fall asleep out there and that worries me," Spengler said. "It usually takes us one good beating before we get it going."

Mercy then caught on fire after adjusting its defense.

"We've had trouble all season with short stuff and dinks," Spengler said. "We switched our defense and then didn't have any problems. We adjust-

ed by pulling all our blockers off the net except one and moving our back row players up."

The Marlins turned the momentum by scoring eight consecutive points and taking a 10-9 lead. The highlight of the run was a sensational back-row kill by senior Kristina Kudelko. Mercy also took advantage of poor Berkeley hitting.

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O'Donnell archery champ

Olympic archer Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington Hills won the gold medal in the women's recurve division March 5-7 at the Second World Indoor Championships in Perpignan, France.

O'Donnell, competing for the U.S. archery team, defeated Natalie Valeeva of Russia, the reigning world indoor champion, 23-27 in a shoot off.

The indoor finals format was match-play competition. Sixteen archers qualified in each of four divisions. Each match consisted of 15 arrows shot at 25 meters for compound shooters and 18 meters for recurve.

U.S. competitors advanced to the world tournament by making the team at the World Trials in Salt Lake City (Utah) Jan. 7-10.

Wrestling state finals

Fourteen wrestlers will represent Observers-land in the Class A and B state championships this weekend at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek.

A pair of seniors will try to complete undefeated seasons by winning state titles: Mike Reeves (88-0) of Westland John Glenn and Nick Spano (40-0) of Plymouth Canton.

Reeves won a championship last year at 152 pounds but is competing at 160 this year. Spano wrestles in the 135 division.

Also winning regional championships were Garden City senior Jason Peterson (heavyweight), Redford Catholic Central seniors Jason Krueger (171) and Phill Bachs (135), CC sophomore Dan Krueger (160) and Redford Thurston sophomore Lukey Haddad (119), the lone area wrestler in the Class B finals.

Others who qualified for state are North Farmington senior Jared Lawrence (160), Farmington Hills Harrison senior Dave Gloetzner (189), Livonia Stevenson sophomores Chris Mullett (145) and Craig Martin (189), Redford Union senior Garry Aral (130), CC sophomore Bill Lamb (103) and CC senior Mike Madden (140).

Peterson, Lawrence, Spano and Jason Krueger are making return trips to the finals. Krueger was third (160), Lawrence (160) and Spano (180) sixth. Jason Krueger boasts a 42-1 record this year. Peterson is 39-2, Lawrence 25-5, Gloetzner 13-6, Mullett 31-13, Martin 34-2, Aral 36-4, Lamb 30-4, Bachs 19-3, Madden 25-16, Dan Krueger 22-12 and Haddad 23-9.

The two-day tournament begins at 9:30 a.m. Friday, with a second session slated for 9:30 a.m. Competition resumes at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. The finals get under way at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$4 per session.

Falcons win cheer title

The Farmington High School varsity cheerleading squad won its third consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association competition, earning the title of grand champions.

The Falcons took first place in team cheer, crowd response cheer and dance routine. They also received the trophy for overall competition.

The squad includes Cori McLaughlin, Amy Davidson, Christine Alonso, Tammy Hason, Liz Mombianco, Kelly Myles, Jennal Rickard, Erica Stehling, Angie Stevens, Missi Surma, Jenny Wisna and Andrea Will.

In the JV competition, Farmington took first in team chant, second in crowd response and third in dance routine.

The squad consists of Ashley Nelson, Angie Jacobs, Laura Perry, Diane Domas, Jenny Fringle, Jessica Uribel, Jenny Soera, Alyssa Menke, Beth Comal and Jenny Rotenbahr.

Falcons edge Raiders to reach final

By NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

BASKETBALL

The only thing longer than Farmington's disappointing regular season in boys basketball was the final five seconds of Wednesday's district game against North Farmington at West Bloomfield.

After falling behind 51-49 with :05 remaining, the Raiders called time out to design a play that worked to perfection — almost. North got the ball down court for a good shot but missed a wide-open layup as the buzzer sounded.

That gave the Falcons (8-13) their first district title since 1977. They will play West Bloomfield Friday for the championship. The Lakers were 51-46 winners over Farmington Hills Harrison in the second game Wednesday.

"Both teams were right there and whoever got the last break was going to win," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said. "Evan" Ellis is going to make that shot 99 times out of 100."

North coach Tom Negoshian believed the game's decisive moment was the turn of events that gave Farmington the lead.

After a see-saw fourth quarter, Ellis gave North a 46-44 lead on a short turn-around jumper.

The Falcons tied it on two Jason

Jackson free throws and took the lead on a Jackson banker off a steal by Brian Farr. A free throw by North's Chris Ward cut the Farmington lead to one, 48-47.

The Raiders regained the lead when Ellis grabbed an offensive rebound and scored on the putback with :19 left. Farmington's Stanley Lewis drove back down court and found Farr under the basket. As Farr tried his shot, he was fouled hard from behind by Todd Anderson. Referee Dave Mattingly called it a flagrant foul.

Farr nailed the second foul shot to tie the game. On the ensuing play, Lewis again found Farr under the basket for an easy layup.

"It was a very hard-fought game and we executed down to the end," Negoshian said. "But that's a tough call to make. To call it intentional makes the call bigger than the game itself. There was no question it was a foul, but he blocked the ball also. He wasn't going to give him an uncalled layup."

"But you still have to give Farmington credit and I hope they win the district."

Farr led all scorers with 20 points,

while Lewis added 16 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists. North (8-13) got 12 points from Ellis and nine apiece from John Pennala and Ward.

"This doesn't make up for our season unless we win Friday," Lewis said. "If we win the district, then I think the season will be complete."

"We were hungry for revenge tonight," said Mikel, whose team lost at home to North 68-62 earlier this season. "If we win Friday, it will be the icing on the cake. We would like to hang another banner in our gym."

Farmington jumped to a quick 14-7 lead and led 29-22 at halftime. The Falcons scored all their points on free throws or layups, except for one Scott Menser three-pointer.

"We worked on that," Mikel said. "We figured they'd play zone against us and concentrate on our shots from the wing. We wanted to get the ball inside and we did that in the first half."

North rallied several times behind the play off the bench of Ward and 6-foot-4 guard Paul Simpson. Simpson created numerous Farmington turnovers and supplied the spark North needed to come back and regain a 40-35 lead entering the fourth quarter.

"Inch for inch, Paul may be the best varsity basketball player in the state," Negoshian said. "Ward and

Simpson are two seniors who rise to the occasion."

Harrison took the floor wearing each other's warmups — the brainchild of seniors Keye Smith and Jeremy Teachman. The idea was that it didn't matter who was who on the floor as long as the Hawks played like a team.

The idea worked for a while, as Harrison jumped to a 8-3 lead, but from then on it was all West Bloomfield.

Despite having several players in foul trouble throughout the game, the Lakers were able to control the tempo and keep the score low.

The trio of Matt Domke, Ryan Jarecki and Shannon Polk scored all the Lakers' second-quarter points and gave West Bloomfield a 25-16 halftime lead.

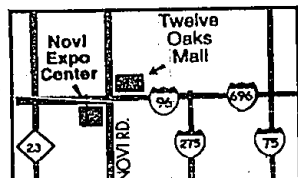
Harrison rallied in the third quarter behind the hot shooting of senior Ryan Cahill (18 points). After beginning the game with two baseline three-pointers, Cahill was kept scoreless until swishing a triple to start the second half. Cahill added two more triples in the quarter, but Harrison trailed 39-32 entering the final period.

The Lakers extended their lead af-

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Show Hours

Friday 4 pm - 9 pm
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Sunday 10 am - 6 pm



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