Crusaders favorite in district volleyball

Really, the situation could not be more ideal for a coach. Meaning it's just dangerous

iceally, the situation could not be more ideal for a coach.

Meaning it's just dangerous enough.

Madonna University's volley-ball team could surpass its best-ever performance this season. The season. Northwood University is gone, having bowed out of the NAIA District 23 in favor of the NAIA District 23 in favor of the NAIA District 23 in favor of the NAIA That at helter to five or the NAIA That the strength of the NAIA That and the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

With its biggest nemesis missing — Northwood crushed Lady Crusader hopes for a trip to the NAIA Tournament in each of the past four seasons — Madonna has to rate as the district favortic. The Crusaders were ranked 101 in the NAIA at the end of the regular season last year, and they are 14th this pre-season.

So why shouldn't they be the favortic?

There are five very good reasons: Tonia Smith, Melissa Mars. Elena Oparka, Dana Finley and Lating the '92 season, key irgedients in Madonna's 43-11 campaign, and all five are gone.

Finley wend was twice the district of the military and will five the barring in the Panama Canal zone until next fell. Oparka, Smith and Mars each received a measure of all district accolades last season, they be graduated.

Bell, a junior from Livonia Stevenson, has left the team for personal reasons.

Experience is lacking

Which leaves coach Jerry Abra-

Experience is lacking

Experience is lacking
Which leaves coach Jerry Abraham with two players with starting experiences aenior setter Mazie Pilut, a 5-foot-10 Redford Bishop Borgess grad, and junior outside hitter Mo Paulin, 5-9 from Farmington Hills Mercy.
Suddenly, what seemed like a great situation has become extremely tentative.
"We lost 80 percent of our of fense," said Abraham, referring to Smith, Mars, Oparka and Finley.
But all is not lost. Not by a wide margin.

But all is not lost. Not by a wide margin.

Two transfers will add a bit of maturity to a young (two seniors) squad. Both figure to be impact players: Kari Van Deusen, a Granddle hitter from Waterford and a 1992 Schoolcraft. College graduate, and Julie Wood, a 5-9 outside hitter from Harper Woods Lutherna East and a '93 SC alumna. Van Deusen, according to Abrahm, "was a bleasing, to come in and take over when Dana left."

Van Deusen played at NCAA II Florida Southern last season. She'll have one year of eligibility remainings.

remaining. Wood brings in something Ma-

DATES AND **EVENTS**

donna needs badly — versatility.

"She has a good off-speed shot and outside attack," said Abraham. "And she's one of our primary passers on defense and serve reception."

The pair of SC grads also give the Crusaders much-needed collegiate experience.

A solid foundation

A solid foundation
Combined with the four other returnes - 6-0 junior middle hitter Julie Adams, from Temperance Bedford; 5-5 sophomore setter Laura Fisher, from Wayne Memorial; 5-11 sophomore outside hitter Marci Laurencelle, from Davison; and 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Marci Laurencelle, from Davison; and 5-10 sophomore outside hitter Hiffany Joseph, from Lakeland - there is a talented nucleus to build around.
But the team's success will rely on the development of the freshmen: 6-2 middle hitter Julie Martin, from Livonia Stevenson; 5-11 uttifed hitter Kelly McCausland, from Redford Union; 6-0 middle hitter Kate Dunning, from Davison; and 5-11 Tiffany Goodlow, a 1990 Wayne Memorial grad.
Indeed, Abraham figures Martin and McCausland could start. That's because Adams and Laurencelle are both recovering from knews surgery (Adams' season is in doubt), and Goodlow, who played for Madomna in '90 before leaving school in mid-season, is watting for a ruling from the NAIA regarding her eligibility.
Talented recruits

Talented recruits

Talented recruits

And yet, the newcomers could be equal to the task confronting them. Martin "should be a dominant player eventually. She has the ability to be a great player."

And McCausland "is doing a beautiful job. She's fitting into our offensive scheme. She has a lot of offensive qualities."

That latter description could apply to the entire team, which leads to Abraham's greatest concern— defense. "That's going to be our biggest challenge this year," he admitted. "How fast this team picks up and masters the defensive scheme will be a key to our season."

the defensive scheme will be a key to our season.

"We have great offensive firepower, and the overall team size is the best it's over been. But we have so many new pieces to the puzzle . . . We only have four really experienced players, and two of them are transfers from Schoolcraft. So it looks good for the further, but it's a bit scary right now."

Still is suite of the improve-

now."
Still, in spite of the improvement of Aquinas, Tri-State and Concordia, Madonna should rule the district and gain its first NAIA Tournament berth. This probably won't be Abraham's beat team, but it has a good chance to extend its season longer than any of its predecessors.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

E ARCHENY
Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D
ahoot beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday
on its walk-through range in Lake
Orion, 633-997 or 993-1399.
The Terminator 3-D course,
featuring two challenging 30-target courses including one which is
handicapped accessible, is open
for weekend practice. The course,
located 25 miles west of Ann Arbor, features a variety of shots tocated 25 mines west of shots bor, features a variety of shots ranging in distances from 20 to 60 yards. The Terminator is open 8 .m. to 5 p.m. weekends; call (617) 522-8777 weekends or 475-2830

522-6111 weakdays.
The Linden Sportsmens Club will hold a 3-D shoot beginning at noon Saturday 629-6402 or 576-

■ DEADLINES
Sept. 1 is the deadline to apply for Michigan's December elk hunt.

FISHING CLUB MEETINGS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednes-day of each month at the Maple-wood Center in Garden City, 477-

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club

The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 pm. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, 420-2233. Romeo B.A.S. Busters meet 7 pm. the first Tuesday of each month at the Romeo Community Youth and Civic Center, 286-6469.

B SHOWS

The Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Weekend, featuring exhibitor booths, seminars, speakers, Camp Chill Cook Off, deer and turkey ceiling contests, a fishing pond stocked with trout, a replica world-record whitetail deer display, a celebrity muzzleloader akeet aboot, a Puppy Mark for petting and selling puppies, and much more will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 10.

12, at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds in Imlay City (M-53 north of I-69). Admission is \$5, or \$7 for a three-day pass. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Show hours are 5-9 p.m. Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 11 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 12.

Charity softball

A benefit softball game between the Red Wings Old Timers team and the Landing Strip Girls will be played 4 p.m. Saturday at the Knights of Columbus field on Middlebelt Road. The proceeds will go to Special Olympics, Ad-mission is \$2.

OAKLAND **COUNTY PARKS**

MARVELOUS MEADOW

Participants will explore the meadows in the park in this program which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28, at Independence Oaks.

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS Advanced registration and a mo-tor vehicle permit are required for all Oakland County Parks pro-grams, 625-6473.

METROPARKS

M INSECTS OF SUMMER
Participants will learn about
crickets and grasshoppers and listen to an evening symphony during this program which begins at
8:30 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

M DOLL WORKSHOP

Learn to make corn husk dolls in an afternoon workshop which be-gins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.

M MEDICINAL AND

MEDICIAL AND
MEDICAL PLANTS

A walk exploring the real and
imaginary healing properties of
local wild plants begins at 1:30
p.m. Saturday at Kensington.

M METPODADK DEGUIREMENTS ■ METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are
free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and
a motor vehicle permit are required, 1-800-47-PARKS.

Bowling leagues still need teams



Bowling is very much alley and well.

The fall season is ready to go and many selegues are forming.

There or openings in many of the leagues around town and it's with the local lanes in your area. There are leagues for everyone from bantams to seniors, beginners to expense to the leagues of everyone from bantams to seniors, beginners to expense to the leagues of everyone from bantams to seniors, beginners beginners to a real challenge — traveling leagues.

Speaking of seniors, the newly-organized "Seniors Classic" will begin its inaugural season at 10. am. Wednesday, Sept. 15. It still has openings for senior men (55 and up) with a minimum average of 170. For further details on the league, call Ozzie Hovsepi-an at 277-1249.

Among other openings: The Greenfield Mixed League

(Country Lanes, 6:30 p.m. Fridays) atill needs couples or individuals. Call Mildred Weed at

348-2096.
Inter-Lodge can use a few good men (Sunday 9:30 a.m. at Country Lanes). Call Dan Topper at 471-

Lanes). Call Dan Topper at 4716487.
Westland Bowl has openings in
the newly-formed Theselay Nith
Ladies Trio, for individuals and
teams, starting at 9:30 p.m. The
Wednesday Night Men's league
at 9:30 and the Thursday Night
Men's, also at 9:30 have openings;
Sunday night mixed leagues both
overy week and every other week
need players, as de every-other
Mixed on Sunday afternons and
the Monday 3:30 Mixed Fun
League. Every-other Saturday
Nite Mixed at 8:45 p.m. also has
openings.

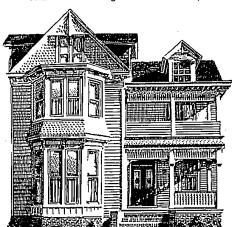
openings.
Thunderbird Lanes in Troy has openings in the Thursday Night Men's League at 6 p.m. for 10 more teams, with plans to expand the league to 20 teams.

■ During sommer league play at Woodland Lanes in the Senior's No-Tap league, Olga Kwasniuk of Livonia rolled a 300 game, using her trusty old reliable "Black Beauty" ball. Her series was 163-203-300/666.



Here's an easy way to house-hunt.

You'll find a lot of Open Houses listed right in our Classified Real Estate Section. There are also dozens of Open Houses listed on our electronic HomeLine directory. Be sure to check both. When using HomeLine, call 953-2020. You can listen to all sorts of recorded listings for houses that are open to view.



All you need is a touch tone telephone, a little time, and the following directions for using our voice telephone directory:

- 1. Call 953-2020
- 2. Press the number of the city you are interested in (see directory at right).
- 3. Choose your price range and listen to the listings for the city
- 4. Additional information:
 - •To back up, press 1
 - To pause, press 2 To jump ahead, press 3
 - To exit at any time, press 🛪

Observer 🖔 Eccentric

4286 4285 Royal Oak Southfield 4287 South Lyon 4288 Troy Walled Lake

For Wayne cour nty Listings, Press 2

1

3

ì, Ċ

3 1.

4261 4264 4260 4263 4262 4265