

Welch records lead Mercy Marian routs Ladywood

Michele Welch set two pool records and host Farmington Hills Mercy made the state cut in the 200-yard medley relay Tuesday while winning a swim dual meet from Madison Heights Blahop 67-19.

Welch set records in the individual medley (21:60) and the 500 freestyle (5:15.25). She won the IM and swim exhibition in the freestyle.

Erika Smith set the previous records a year ago when she swam the IM in 2:16.98 and the 500 freestyle in 5:17.92.

"I know Michele had the ability to get both pool records," Mercy coach Julie Cooper said. "She's swimming extremely well now."

All of her times are personal bests, and every time she swims she swims faster. We're looking for good things from her at the state meet."

The Marlins also set a pool

SWIMMING

record in the 200 freestyle relay, winning the event when Hope Harrison, Caroline Kenna, Katie Scallan and Andrea Hoefflein combined for a 1:46.6 time.

The medley relay team of Harrison, Bethany Budde, Welch and Hoefflein qualified for the state meet with a first-place time of 1:57.33.

Mercy's Kristle Cordis won the 500 freestyle in 5:28.57 but just missed getting under the state-cut time of 5:28.39.

Kenna also won the 200 freestyle (2:20.22), Hoefflein the 100 freestyle (56.18). Harrison the bucketrace (1:10.19) and Sue McClellan the breaststroke (1:18.43).

The Marlins finished the meet with Heather Yagiela, Dana Dziekan, Budde and Cordis winning the 400 freestyle relay (4:09.64).

"We swam a lot of people who normally don't get to swim, and all swam good times," Cooper said. "Since it was an easy meet for us, the times were done on personal motivation, because they didn't have anyone there to push them."

"They're working hard in practice and they're very tired now, so it's nice to see these kind of results."

Mercy is 3-0 in the Catholic League and 6-2 overall. The Marlins will be host to Livonia Ladywood at 4 p.m. Tuesday. Mercy will have its/First Alumni Swim Meet at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

CHURCHILL 112, HARRISON 71; Jenny Domingo won the 200 freestyle (2:12.44) and Dana Olson the breaststroke (1:14.44) for the Hawks in the Western Division dual meet Tuesday.

to go into the regional for his first time back.

Magni said Ann Arbor Plover is the favorite to win the regional but CC has a chance along with Plymouth Canton, Ann Arbor Huron and Livonia Stevenson to finish in the top three and qualify for the state meet.

The Shamrocks on Tuesday won the Operation Friendship Meet at Marshbank Park.

CC gained first with 41 points and DC was second (67). DeLaSalle was third (79) followed by Detroit Cady (202) and Detroit Cass Tech (241).

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Mark Leo was eighth (17:29), Camilleri 13th (17:46), Jeremy Short 16th (17:50), Matt Sroczynski 17th (17:56), Danic 20th (18:17) and Smith 24th (18:59). Smith is normally CC's third runner, according to Magni.

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By STEVE STEIN

It's time to start including Birmingham Marian in the list of the top contenders for the Class A state championship in girls basketball.

The Mustangs are the defending champs, of course. But after losing several members of last year's team to graduation, Marian was expected to be a good club this season, but no powerhouse.

If Tuesday's performance against Livonia Ladywood in the packed Marian gymnasium is any indication, the Mustangs are on the loose once again.

Marian dominated Ladywood 61-43 in a showdown between two of the top-ranked teams in Class A and won the Catholic League Central Division title in the process.

Both squads finished 7-1 in the division, but the Mustangs took the top seed in Thursday's opening-round of the playoffs because of their 18-point margin of victory over Ladywood was bigger than the Blazers' eight-point difference in a 55-47 win over Marian at Ladywood on Oct. 7.

"Yes, I think we're peaking, knock on wood. I just hope it isn't too soon," said a happy Marian coach Mary Lillie-Cicerone, whose team has a 13-2 overall record and is ranked No. 8 in Class A.

"Marian played a near-perfect

BASKETBALL

game," said Ladywood coach Ed Kavanagh. "They made their free throws and they got the loose balls. They wanted the victory more than we did."

"They played their game of the year and we had one of our worst. Of course, Marian had a lot to do with that."

"Can we turn what happened into a positive experience? It depends on the kids. It's all up to them."

The loss left Ladywood, ranked No. 3 in Class A, with a 12-2 overall mark.

Senior forward Judy Stuart led Marian with 19 points. She also had 11 rebounds and five steals. Junior guard Julie Storen added 16 points, 10 rebounds and five steals.

Speedy sophomore forward Brandt Bentley, who was inserted into the Mustangs' starting lineup a few weeks ago to shore up the defense, scored five points and wrecked havoc all over the floor.

Besides doing a fine job defensively on Ladywood star Tara Overallis, Marian junior forward Alysa Bussey had five points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Overallis, a junior forward, had

to work hard for her team-high 18 points. Junior guard Becky Blyskal added 13 and sophomore guard Kerry Duggan had seven.

Marian led from wire-to-wire. The Mustangs hit their first free shots and when Storen sank a bucket to put Marian in front 15-4 with 3:55 left in the opening quarter, it gave the Mustangs a double-digit lead for the first time.

It was 24-8 at the end of the period. Stuart (12) and Storen (eight) combined for 20 of Marian's 24 points and Overallis had all eight Ladywood points.

The Mustangs enjoyed their biggest lead (33-13) in the second quarter and they took a 40-22 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

Marian scored just five points in the third period. Storen teamed in a rebound of her own miss with 3:44 remaining and Bentley had a three-point play with 27 seconds to go.

But Ladywood could climb no closer than 12 points during the quarter and the Mustangs led 46-30 heading into the final stanza.

The Blazers never got any closer than 14 the rest of the way.

"We missed a lot of layups and free throws in the third period," Kavanagh said. "If we had made a few of those, it might have been a different game."

Harrison wins district opener

Redford Catholic Central, the Central Division regular-season champion, placed third in the Catholic League meet Saturday at Marshbank Park.

Dearborn Divine Child was first (44), followed by Warren DeLaSalle (50) and CC (56).

The finish didn't disappoint coach Tony Magni because DC is expected to fare well in Class B and the Shamrocks were coming off a week in which several runners were ill.

Magni said Phil Camilleri and Brian Smith missed school during the week because of colds and Mike Danic was ill the night before. This also was senior Mark Leo's first race since spraining an ankle more than a month ago.

"Divine Child could win the state in Class B and DeLaSalle

ran a real nice race," Magni said. "The big thing for us right now is to regroup and get ready for the regional (Saturday at Marshbank)."

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Clarencville trailed only 28-25 at halftime Tuesday, but was outscored 17-11 in the third quarter and 24-8 in the fourth quarter as visiting Rochester Lutheran Northwest let with a Metro Conference victory.

The Trojans are 1-13 overall, 2-8 in the Metro Lutheran Northwest. Improved to 12-3 overall, 8-2 in the Metro.

Junior center Wendy Roy led Clarencville with 16 points. Senior forward Lisa Cowdin scored 32 for Lutheran Northwest and teammate Allison Guetzkow added 20.

"It might have been our best 24 quarters of the season," Clarencville coach Bob Wolf said. "We're seeing a lot of improvement."

■ FRANKLIN 24, FARMINGTON 28: Both teams struggled from the field and free throw line Tuesday at Livonia Franklin and the host Patriots held on to a Western Lakes Activities Association victory over Farmington.

The Patriots are 3-9 overall, 3-7 in the W.L.A.A. Farmington is 4-12 overall, 1-9

in the W.L.A.A. Franklin led 6-3 after one quarter and 12-7 at halftime. Farmington finally broke into double figures in the third quarter with a 6-3 advantage, but the Falcons were outscored in the fourth

quarter, 9-7, to go home with the loss. Sophomore guard Tracy Rynkiewicz led Franklin with 12 points, six rebounds, five steals and three assists. Freshman guard Amanda Porter scored eight points for Farmington.

Spartans down Hawks, gain soccer final

Livonia Stevenson coach Walt Barrett had a simple strategy for the Class A district semifinal game Wednesday, which the Spartans won 6-0 over visiting Farmington Harrison: "Get 'em in, get the game out of reach, get 'em out, and no cards."

That plan worked to perfection. Nick Deren got Stevenson the only goal it needed, and it took

just 98 seconds for him to score it. Deren was assisted by Craig Wimmer.

Five other Spartans netted goals, four coming in the first half. Jeff Urbats made it 5-0 on an assist from Joe Bruch; Shannon Lamb got a goal, assisted by Chris Grodzicki; Grodzicki scored next, Wimmer assisting; and Billy Hensley pushed it to 5-0, with

Dave Moore getting an assist. Joe Dapkus accounted for the only goal of the second half. Justin Walker drew the assist.

Aaron Racey went all the way in goal for Stevenson, 14-1-3 overall.

The Spartans play Livonia Franklin in the district final at 7 p.m. Friday at Southfield High School.

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