

Marlins stay perfect in league duals

Farmington Hills Mercy won its third straight dual meet and remained unbeaten in Catholic League girls cross country Tuesday with a 23-33 defeat of Dearborn Divine Child.

Just 19 seconds separated Mercy's top four runners at Cass Benton Park.

Senior Betty Gignac was second (21:21), junior Jackie Segue third (21:23), junior Hilary Harris fourth (21:31) and sophomore Christina Andriola fifth (21:40).

Junior Danielle Wroblewski rounded out the Mercy scoring in ninth place (22:41), and freshman Alyssa Burnisky and Katie Mason finished 10th (22:45) and 12th (23:10), respectively.

Divine Child's Jenny Yavella won the race with a 20:50 time.

"The Marlins had a 26-31 lead midway through the race when Divine Child's No. 2 runner

dropped out due to illness.

"They're going to be our main competition at the league meet," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "Gignac and Segue have run 30 seconds faster than the winning time, and that would have put them in front of the Divine Child girl."

The Marlins didn't have sophomore Erin Thomas, who was resting a sore hip. She's another good runner who could make a difference in a rematch with the Falcons.

Mercy was sixth out of 14 teams Saturday at the Shamrock Invitational.

The top 40 girls got medals, and the Marlins had three medal winners. Segue was 16th (20:49), Gignac 20th (21:26) and Andriola 24th (21:38).

Wroblewski was 46th (22:42) among nearly a hundred run-

ners, Burnisky 57th (23:05).

FALCONS 8TH AT JACKSON

Farmington's girls cross country team had two medal winners and placed eighth Saturday in the 15-school Jackson Invitational.

Kate Adams and Theresa Derwinski ran their best times and has respective finishes of fourth (19:24) and ninth (19:47) places.

Almee Cameron was 44th (20:53), Britany Dixon 85th (21:44) and Becky Lidgen 86th (21:46).

Ellen Adams withdrew from the race just before the start because of illness and was replaced by Betty Luckscheiter, who ran 22:34.

"On seconds notice, she jumps in there and runs her best race this year," Farmington coach Liz Zynda said.

Ann Arbor Pioneer won the race.

Plymouth Salem, Saline and Ann Arbor Huron also finished ahead of the Falcons and air teams Farmington will run against in a Class A regional later in the season.

"I'm not concerned about that now, because I know what we need to do to be ahead of them and I know we can do it," Zynda said.

Cameron ran despite sore knees Saturday and Ellen Adams didn't run, she added.

"When Almee's knees got better, she'll be right up there. She's one of my top runners and so is Ellen."

"We're just focusing on week to week and the race we have to run that week. The girls are working on getting better, and that's what we're doing."

The Falcons lost a dual meet Sept. 19 to Livonia Stevenson, 15-50.

Zynda chose not to run any of her varsity runners, because the race was on the hilly course at Cass Benton.

She said she wanted to rest Cameron, Ellen Adams, Dixon and Kate Adams.

The Spartans filled the first 11

places. Luckscheiter was Farmington's top runner in 12th place with a 23:22 time, her best until Saturday.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Farmington Harrison was fourth overall in the boys competition Saturday at the Walled Lake Western Invitational.

The meet consisted of junior-senior and freshman-sophomore races, and the results were combined to determine overall standings.

The host Warriors won the 11-team event with 61 points. Novi was second (64), Walled Lake Central third (83) and Harrison fourth (146).

"Walled Lake Western and Novi are ranked in the state, and Walled Lake Central was our conference champion last year," Harrison coach John Reed said.

"So we feel we're up there in good company, and we'll take some of these teams by the end of the season, if the kids keep getting better. I think we can do it."

Harrison's Jared Roth was second (17:41), Jack Ardisia seventh (17:44), Ryan Maloney 22nd (18:45), Tony Quatro 33rd (19:11) and Ben Ilmer 38th (19:59).

RAIDERS 3RD AT WESTERN

Northville had its best invitational finish Saturday, taking third place in the junior-senior girls race at Walled Lake Western.

Monica Czerwinski was seventh (21:41), Becky Naglik eighth (21:45), Erika Anderson 13th (22:39), Ava Lela 14th (22:49) and Dana Ruskin 29th (25:06).

The Raiders didn't have enough runners to enter the freshman-sophomore race.

"We didn't have any personal records, but it was a tough course," North coach Bill Pinnell said. "All the girls ran well. For the most part, they were close to the times they run at OCC."

Rocks whip Hawks

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

After losing two straight, the Plymouth Salem girls basketball team was in no mood to make it three Tuesday.

Unfortunately for visiting Farmington Harrison, the Hawks were on the schedule as the Rocks returned to form with a 69-34 rout.

Salem played solid basketball, committing only 10 turnovers, dominating under the glass and shooting 49 percent from the floor (24-of-49).

"We wanted to get back to having a workman-like effort," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "The defense was solid and didn't give Harrison much space to play. And we had good balance offensively."

Salem improved to 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. The Hawks dropped to 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

Things didn't get easier for Harrison, which plays Northville today. The Mustangs handed Salem a 42-39 loss last week. To avoid a repeat of Tuesday, the Hawks can't commit 25 turnovers and shoot only 27 percent from the floor (9-of-34).

"Salem is too good of a team to come out flat against and we

were very flat," Harrison coach Pete Mantyn said. "We pride ourselves on being ready to play, and tonight we weren't ready and didn't play hard enough."

Sophomore Angie Sillmon took it upon herself early to make sure Salem would get back to winning. The 5-foot-10 forward scored all nine of her points in the first quarter to help Salem build an 18-8 lead.

"Angie did a great job giving us the jump start our offense needed," Thomann said. "She set the tone, and from there, the rest of the team picked it up."

Sillmon was one of six Rocks to score eight points or more. Heather Guerlin netted a game-high 12 points off the bench.

The Rocks also received 11 points each from Andrea Pruett and Merritt Walker and eight apiece from Laurel Weisman and Nikki Nauman.

Not to be left out is junior Amanda Abraham, who scored only two points but recorded 10 assists and three steals.

Mahogany Fletcher and Ari Ault led Harrison with 10 and eight points, respectively.

Salem led 30-17 at halftime. The Rocks made 20 of 30 foul shots, and Harrison was 14-of-21 at the line.



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Marlins from page 1C

the Marlins were embarrassed at the same sight a year ago by about 50 points.

"I don't think the layoff helped, but part of the problem was the kids were anxious to get off to a good start in the league and maybe felt a little pressure," Baker said. "We wanted to create pressure on the court, so we came at them with different presses. But the catch is, if we want to do that, we have to also do some scoring."

"We kind of got paralyzed on offense, were standing around waiting for someone else to cut. I was really pleased with the third quarter, and I'm hoping to impose four quarters like that on them."

Burgess enjoyed a 25-17 rebounding edge led by Finley with eight. No Marlin finished with more than three.

It wasn't for lack of effort by Valinde, who had to leave the game briefly in the first half to get a wound on her shooting arm bandaged. She also hit the floor a couple times in the second half after battling for rebound position.

"I had her back in the U-M camp (University of Michigan) when she was in seventh grade, and she was very coachable then," Burgess coach Dave Mann said. "She's one of the hardest working kids I've ever coached against."

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