

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS BASKETBALL
 Monday, Nov. 3
 Macomb Christian at Ego, 4:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, Nov. 4
 Luth. North at Luth. W. Mid, 6:30 p.m.
 Lacywood at H.D. Prep, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
 Redford Union at Southgate, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Allen Park, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Nov. 5
 (CHS) Genoa/AA Southfield
 Gorges vs. St. Richard
 Marian vs. Bishop Foley
 at Schoolcraft College, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
 Western Lakes playoffs
 Liv. Churchhill at Ply. Canton, 7 p.m.
 Thursday, Nov. 6
 Farmington at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
 Westland Glenn at Liv. Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Clermontville at Uggitt, 6:30 p.m.
 Luth. West at Luth. East, 6:30 p.m.
 Monroe at Garden City, 7 p.m.
 Vinland at Thurston, 7 p.m.
 Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Woodhaven at Warren, 7 p.m.
 CHS East-West semifinals
 at Lacywood, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
 Western Lakes playoffs
 Stevenson at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m.
 N. Farmington at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 7

PCA at Oakland Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Western Lakes playoffs
 W.L. Central at Ply. Salem, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
 Tuesday, Nov. 4
 Madonna at Siena Hills, 7 p.m.
 Nov. 5
 Oakland CC at Region XII tournament
 Saturday, Nov. 6
 Conestoga, Hillsdale
 at Madonna, noon & 3 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 Friday, Nov. 7
 Oakland CC vs. alumni, 7:30 p.m.
 Madonna at St. Francis (Ind.), TBA.
 Saturday, Nov. 8
 Madonna at St. Francis (Ind.), TBA.
MEN'S SOCCER
WHSU playoffs
 Wednesday, Nov. 5
 Siena Heights vs. Madonna, 2 p.m.
 at Schoolcraft College
 Saturday, Nov. 8
 WHAC Championship match, 2 p.m.
 (at Riley MS if Madonna wins Nov. 5)
OHIO HOCKEY
 Sunday, Nov. 2
 Windsor at Ply. Whalers, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, Nov. 7
 Ply. Whalers at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Nov. 8
 Saris at Ply. Whalers, 7:30 p.m.

Mercy topples No. 1 Huron in dual

Farmington Hills Mercy is the new No. 1 in girls swimming after defeating top-ranked Ann Arbor Huron in a dual meet Thursday.

The Marlins, who were ranked second in the statewide coaches poll, won eight events and earned a 99-87 win over the host River Rats.

The victory capped an undefeated dual-meet season for Mercy, which finishes 12-0 after giving Huron its first loss.

"There's been a lot of pressure on the kids," Mercy coach Jim Downs said, adding the pre-meet publicity for the Huron dual seemed to dominate everything.

"They were a little nervous the second it affects the kids and their school work."

"It was almost like it was more important than the league meet. I'm glad to get it over with, so we can go on and get ready for the

SWIMMING

league and state meets."

Mercy's Danielle Clayton made a state cut in the 50-yard freestyle with a winning time of 26.59.

Elizabeth Posvar was a double winner in the individual medley (2:11.92) and the backstroke (1:00.18).

The Marlins had other individual first-place efforts from Becca Gould with 225.90 diving points and Kelly Carlin with a 64.77 time in the 100 freestyle.

Posvar and Carlin combined with Katie Callan and Erin Downs to win the medley relay (1:52.7). They also teamed with Amy McCullough and Elizabeth MacDonald for a first-place and season-best time in the 400 freestyle relay (3:38.82).

Clayton, Jenny MacDonald, Elizabeth MacDonald and McCullough produced a Mercy victory in the 200 freestyle relay (1:42.64).

McKenzie Mayne finished fourth behind a strong Huron contingent but had a best time of 1:13.09 in the backstroke.

Downs and Elizabeth MacDonald also had personal bests and placed second in the butterfly (59.91) and 100 freestyle (55.60), respectively.

McCullough had a pair of second-place swims in the 200 and 500 freestyle races with respective times of 1:56.61 and 6:13.96.

The Marlins had third-place efforts from Carlin, IM (2:14.65); Jenny MacDonald, 50 freestyle (26.07); Katie Braine, diving (201.65); and Callan, backstroke (1:03.74).

Huron's Casey Nicholson won the 200 freestyle (1:53.18) and

600 (5:01.6). Helen Koval was first in the butterfly (68.57).

"The kids dug down and performed well," coach Downs said. "They're on a mission to finish the season strong."

"He added there isn't much difference between the top four teams in the state rankings — Mercy, Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer and Livonia Stevenson.

"We were never able to swim against Stevenson," he said. "They beat Pioneer by 14, and we beat them by 22. All four are probably the best dual-meet teams in state. On a given night, it could switch around."

As far as the state meet, the rankings won't mean a thing, according to Downs.

"That's a whole other ball game, because quality kids like Nicholson will show up for Huron," he said.

Hawks from page E1

12. Ari Ault's three with 1:56 remaining pulled the Hawks within a point; Cassio Jimison added a deuce.

"Offensively, Mahogany and Amy carried us," Mantyla said, "but other players took big shots, too. I think we were a big play or two away from winning the game. We executed well on get shots we considered good shots."

"Canton is a great defensive team, and you're not going to get easy shots against them. You have to work hard; I thought we did and had our opportunities."

Lukaitis scored all of her points in the first six minutes of the game, and they helped a slow-starting Canton team find its feet in the early going.

Her two triples and a free throw fueled an 11-0 run to end the first quarter and put the Chiefs in front, 11-5. Canton extended its lead to 19-11 at halftime.

Though the Chiefs committed 12 of their 20 turnovers in the first half, Harrison's game-long pressure wasn't as great a factor as the Hawks would have liked.

Canton was forced to hurry a bit but beat the pressure with its

execution and was never out of sync.

"Blohm's teams are always good pass-and-catch teams," Mantyla said. "They play with poise and composure."

"Where we got in trouble was in the half court, attacking their scrambling zone," Blohm said. "They have a lot of options on that team. Those kids fly around and make it hard to play against them."

The Chiefs led by as many as 11 points early in the third quarter a huge margin in a low-scoring contest — but Fletcher scored the last six points for Harrison to narrow the gap to five at the end, 26-21.

Canton seemed to have a fairly safe lead midway in the finale, 34-27, but Roble made three of four free throws and the Chiefs turned the ball over on consecutive possessions. Then Ault banked in her three to put the outcome in doubt.

The Chiefs committed a third straight turnover, but the Hawks mistimed on their last three shot attempts — two of them threes.

Sandwiched between the Harrison misses were two free throws each by Okwumabua and

Twietmeyer that clinched the Canton victory.

"Twietmeyer's free throws are about as big as they get," Blohm said. "The lead goes from three to five points, and now we have a little breathing room."

"I thought we would start holding the ball (when his team had a comfortable lead early in the fourth quarter) and making five or six passes before we looked to shoot it, but they came back; they closed too much."

"I thought we had to keep playing and see what happens. I didn't want the kids to back off; I wanted them to keep playing and attacking."

Canton was 11-of-28 from the floor, Harrison 11-of-40. Each team made two threes. The Hawks (13-4) sank nine of 12 free throws.

"We have a terrific group of kids who have improved a lot," Blohm said. "It was just a great victory for a great group of kids. We have seven seniors on this team, and we're happy to be division and conference champions."

"I'm also proud of Pete's kids. They came at us. Pete has worked hard to improve girls basketball in Farmington, and they're worthy of being confer-

ence champions, too."

"The girls understand it's a big accomplishment to win seven in a row and have a chance to win the league championship," Mantyla said, adding his players are disappointed. "But I think we put ourselves in a position to win game, and things just didn't go our way."

NORTH FARM, 78, FARMINGTON 40: Tough defense led to solid offensive production for the North Farmington girls basketball team Thursday in a 78-40 defeat of Farmington.

The Raiders exploded for 49 first-half points and led by more than 30 at half-time. North coach Linda Perkins said her squad played "good deny defense" and forced turnovers with pressure.

"The kids got fired up playing their cross-town rivals," she added.

North also broke down the Farmington defense with drives to the basket. The Raiders went to the free throw line 23 times in the first half but converted on just 11 shots.

Katie Vitell led the Raiders, 7-4 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 10-7 overall, with 18 points.

Samantha McComb had 15 points with eight rebounds; Kaitie Fournier added 12 points, including a pair of triples.

Beth Jaeger had 19 points for the Falcons, 0-11 and 0-17.



Calm before the storm: Matt Gregory has a moment to reflect aboard his boat waiting to set sail.

Gregory from page E1

some of the state's top young sailing talent.

"Most kids end up going east," said Gregory, a graduate of North Farmington High School. "We lose a lot of good sailors from our backyard."

"The people who come here from those (Michigan) schools come here for the education more than they do sailing. My year we got lucky; we got five good sailors."

Collegiate sailing is primarily a coed sport with a skipper and one crew per boat. Gregory's regular sailing partner is Caitlin Sweeney, a freshman from Boston.

"The coed aspect has a practical side. The optimum weight of the boat is 180 pounds, according to Gregory. If the guy weighs 160, a smaller crewmate is the logical choice.

The collegiate season lasts the entire school year, from August to June, but slows down during the winter months. For away events, teams use the host school's boats and equipment.

The Inter-Collegiate Yacht Racing Association is the governing body and is divided into six regions. The U-M belongs to the Midwest Collegiate Sailing Association.

Gregory, a former Farmington Observer carrier, has competed in a regatta every weekend this fall and has done 26 in the last year.

The next big event for Gregory will be the Goodwill Regatta in California in which 19 U.S. schools were invited to compete against 19 from Japan.

In the summer, he trains for one-man competition, tours the Michigan-Ontario circuit and has traveled as far as Texas to compete.

"I think I took one weekend off all summer," Gregory said.

In sailing, he relishes the thrill of competition and the physical and mental demands of it.

"It's one of the most difficult sports out there," he said. "With the tactics involved, it becomes a chess game. The wind shifts a lot, so there's a lot of different strategies in terms of where you want to be in relation to it."

"There's also the physical side of it. In (one-man) sailing, you have to be in as good condition as an Olympic swimmer."

"The harder you can hike, the more you can work your boat. If you weigh 160 and the boat weighs 130, you have a lot of control over it by just moving your weight around."

Gregory, who was a swimmer at North Farmington, likened to downhill ski, wind surf and

mountain bikes, and he does additional weight training and conditioning to prepare for sailing.

"I'm a big water person; I like to be on the water," he said. "That part of it I like a lot. If it's really windy, it can be a good adrenaline rush."

"I've gone a lot of places I wouldn't have gone, otherwise, and met a lot of people."

"In Texas, I stayed with a family for a week. There was a guy from New Zealand there, and I talked to him about his perceptions of being in America."

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