

FARMINGTON — FARMINGTON HILLS SPORTS SCENE

Coach can't fault effort

Farmington was on the short end of a volleyball score Monday, but coach Lisa Walega wasn't disappointed by her team's effort.

In fact, she was quite pleased with it despite a 16-14, 15-9 loss to host Walled Lake Western.

"It was one of those losses you didn't feel like you lost, because you played so well," she said. "The girls weren't hanging their heads. It was a very positive night overall."

Meghan O'Rear served three aces, made five good passes off serve receive, had one block and three blocks assists while doing most of the setting for the Falcons, 0-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association. Emilie Villemonte had five kills, three aces and four digs; Jamie Jikacki had three kills, two aces, 11 good passes and three block assists; and Kelly DePotter had three kills, five service points in a row and four block assists.

Sophomore Melissa Mytty also played well as an outside hitter, according to Walega.

Farmington trailed 12-6 in the first game but rallied to tie at 14 before Western closed it out.

"That was the best game I've seen my girls play, and Western is a good attacking team," Walega said.

"We have a lot of hard workers. I have 12 players I can put out on the court anytime and not diminish our performance."

Mustangs down Raiders

No matter how hard you try sometimes, things just don't work out.

Such was the case for North Farmington's volleyball squad Monday in a two-game home loss to Northville. The Raiders played hard but couldn't put it together, according to North coach Christine Diebold.

"We had a piece of every ball," she said, "but it would go out of bounds or we weren't able to get a good set."

Northville took the best-of-three match 15-5, 15-6. The loss dropped the Raiders to 0-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

North was at a height disadvantage, but Northville's talent wasn't overwhelming.

"We couldn't finish what we started," Diebold said. "Once our confidence went down, our game went with it."

Jessica Giovak was one bright spot for the Raiders. She replaced injured Collette Burcar in the lineup and did a solid job blocking, Diebold said.

Whitfield Invitational

The Seventh Annual Jason Whitfield Gymnastics Invitational will be Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 24-25, at the University of Michigan's Cliff Keen Arena in Ann Arbor.

The meet is in memory of former Westland gymnast Jason Whitfield, a U.S. National Team member who was killed in a motorcycle mishap in 1991.

Approximately 465 gymnasts from the U.S. and Canada will compete.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students (ages 5-18). Children under-5 and U-M students (with ID) will be admitted free.

Class II and IV starts at 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, followed by Class I, III and elites at 1 p.m. After the second session on Saturday, Michigan will host Penn State and the University of Iowa in a collegiate tri-meet at 7 p.m.

The third session opens at 8 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25, followed by the Class VI and Capital Cup rotation.

Baseball team tryouts

The 13- and 14-year-old North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras travel baseball team will have tryouts on Saturdays, Jan. 17, 24 and 31. Interested parties should call Tony Agosta at (248) 648-7127 during the day or (248) 737-2007 in the evening.

Tryouts for the 10-year-old North Farmington-West Bloomfield Cobras travel baseball team will be 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. For more details call the South Farmington Information Hotline at (474-3925).

SFB registration

South Farmington Baseball will register players for T-ball, girls softball and baseball at the Heritage Park Day Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17. For more details call the South Farmington Information Hotline at (474-3925).

Floor routine wins it

■ Farmington's combined gymnastics team trailed Walled Lake until the final event Monday but ended up winning the high school competition by 1.35 points.

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Farmington rallied on its last event Monday to overcome visiting Walled Lake and score a close victory in girls gymnastics, 133.45 to 132.10.

Walled Lake held the lead through three of the four events and was ahead by two points going into the last rotation.

GYMNASTICS

Farmington's final event was floor exercise in which it scored 34.95; Walled Lake scored 33.3 on the balance beam, its final event. Farmington had earlier scored 33.35 on beam.

"That was the difference," Farmington coach Jeff Dwyer said. "I didn't know if we could do it or not, but the girls hung tough and did it. I told them to 'throw your best routines and see what happens,' and fortunately it worked out."

Dwyer had some doubts about the outcome, because his gymnasts seemed "kinda down," he added. "Walled Lake caught us by surprise. They didn't post that score (132.1) at the (Plymouth) invitational (Saturday). I think that was their first time in the 130s."

"It was one of those meets we weren't real sharp and were fortunate to win, because Walled Lake is a very good team. We're two dead-even teams, and I think we'll be battling with them at the league meet."

Farmington is 2-0 in Western Lakes Activities Association dual meets and 3-0 overall, but it has some big meets ahead against Brighton and Hartland, both of which will compete in the same regional.

"Our goal is to make it to state as a team, and we have our work cut out for us," Dwyer said.

Walled Lake had the top two all-arounders in Megan Thayer (34.90) and Tonya McCarty (34.35), but Farmington had more depth and was helped by the return of senior Marie Law, who missed the last two meets with an ankle injury.

Law competed in just two events but tied with teammate Brook Rubin for first place on beam (8.65) and placed second on the uneven bars (8.65).

"We had a strong meet from Marie Law, coming off the injury," Dwyer said. "She's tough; it's her senior year and she has the mindset to go out swinging."

McCarty won the vault competition (8.65); Thayer was first on bars (8.6) and floor exercise (9.45).

The top five on vault were Farmington's Anna Clark (8.45), Walled Lake's Amber Fine (8.4), Farmington's Liz Stigler (8.2) and Thayer (8.15).

Following Thayer and Law on bars, it was McCarty (8.5), Farmington freshman Lauren Ouellette (8.46), Clark (7.7) and Fine (7.7).

Thayer was third on beam (8.5),

Please see GYMNASTICS, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Back in action: Senior Marie Law was back on the balance beam and competing for the Farmington Public Schools gymnastics team Monday after missing two meets with an ankle injury.

Hawks outduel Falcons

Farmington's decade-long domination of Farmington Harrison in boys swimming is over.

Harrison outswam Farmington, 98-85, Tuesday in the North Farmington pool with Matt Walker winning two events and the Hawks taking two of three relays.

"The boys swam outstanding," Harrison coach Lisa Collins said after her team raised its record to 2-1. "It was a really great meet."

Pete Bosler was a double winner for Farmington (1-2), but coach Ross Bandy was left to wonder what might have been for the Falcons.

SWIMMING

"First of all, I'd like to offer my congratulations to the Harrison High School swim team," Bandy said.

"This is the first time in 10-plus years they've beaten us. Harrison deserved to win. They won the clutch events and did what they had to do to win."

"I'd also like to congratulate my team. They did better than I expected. They swam with a lot of heart and put everything they had into this meet."

"But it would have been a much better meet if seven people had returned to the Farmington team this year, and it's very disappointing to me and a letdown to the team."

"That's not to take anything away from Harrison. But what it takes away from is a (Farmington) program that's been very successful over the last 14 years."

Six of the seven swimmers were varsity members last season who opted not to return to the 1997-98 team, with one dropout during this season.

Harrison's 200-yard medley relay quartet of Josh Duffy, Walker, Steve Schwedt and J.T. Syvok was victorious with a time of 1:57.27. Its 200 freestyle relay team of Syvok, Max Suttles, Dan Price and Schwedt swam 1:45.51 to take first place.

Walker won the 50 freestyle in 24 seconds flat, then came back to take the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.77.

Duffy won the individual medley 2:17.98 while Syvok and Farmington's John Lowry shared the diving title with scores of 186.05.

Farmington's Bosler captured the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:57.73 and doubled in the butterfly, winning in 1:01.04.

Teammate Matt Beuckelaere took the 100 freestyle in 56.38, Ryan Scheides won the 500 freestyle, clocking 5:38.55; and Devon Hopper won the backstroke with a time of 58.85.

Farmington's 400 freestyle relay foursome of Bosler, Beuckelaere, Hopper and Ryan Scheides bested Harrison's team with a time of 3:47.15.

Collins reported season bests for three of her swimmers. Kris Wong swam a 2:12.71 in the 200 freestyle; Schwedt went 1:01.69 in the butterfly; and Duffy's 58.91 was his top time in the backstroke.

The Falcons had personal bests from Hopper in the backstroke, Scheides in the 500 freestyle, Mike McCormick in

Please see SWIMMING, C2

Groves halts Farmington win streak

Birmingham Groves stopped Farmington's winning streak at five games and gave the visiting Falcons their first loss in boys basketball Tuesday, 50-45.

Farmington senior center Trevor Gaines scored a game-high 13 points but had just three in the second half and none in the third quarter when Groves limited the Falcons to four points.

"(Groves) played a sugging defense on Trevor and kept us out of the transition game we like to play," Farmington JV coach Greg Ambrose said.

"We average 10 to 12 transition baskets, and we had six the whole game. We've had that many in one quarter sometimes."

Groves led at the end of every quarter, 12-10 following the first, 27-20 at halftime and 35-24 with one remaining. The only quarter in which Farmington outscored Groves was the fourth, 21-15.

"We had a hard time getting the ball inside," Ambrose said of the third quarter. "They took away the middle and played good defense on Trevor."

Senior guard Ron Freeman added 11 points for the Falcons (5-1). Senior Matt Orr added eight points (six in the fourth quarter); senior Bryant Bronner and

BOYS BASKETBALL

sophomore Justin Milus tossed in five each.

Jamal Lamb scored 11 points to pace a balanced attack for Groves (4-2). Eric Easter added nine; Brian Schaffer, Marlon Burt and Josh Pfennig chipped in eight apiece.

Farmington has a key Western Lakes Activities Association game Friday at defending league champion Plymouth Canton.

Maples rally for victory over Raiders

The fourth quarter is proving to be the Achilles Heel for the North Farmington basketball team. The Raiders were outscored 30-20 in the final eight minutes Tuesday as North dropped a non-league game at Birmingham Seaholm, 70-58.

It was the second consecutive game in which the fourth quarter doomed North. The Raiders were outscored 18-10 in the final quarter Friday and lost on a last-second shot to Livonia Churchill, 52-50. Against Seaholm, North led 30-24 at halftime but

allowed the Maples to rally and take a 40-38 lead into the fourth quarter. Seaholm dominated the final quarter, sending the Raiders (3-3) to their second straight loss.

"I'm disappointed because this was a team we were hoping to beat and should have beaten," North coach Brian Swinehart said.

"It just wasn't our second half tonight. They came out in the third quarter and scored the first eight points. We just didn't respond well."

The Raiders received 15 points from Dan Singer and 11 from Al Pennala. Mat Ishbin netted a game-high 26 points for Seaholm (4-3).

DEPORRES 72, COUNTRY DAY 61: A 14-7 first-quarter lead

paved the way for visiting Detroit St. Martin DePorres Tuesday. Country Day senior Javin Hunter sank five three-pointers en route to a game-high 32 points for the Yellow Jackets (5-3). Mike Knight contributed 15 points, all in the second half.

T.J. Johnson led DePorres (6-1) with 20 points while Calvin Hughes added 15.

DCD was without starters David Webber and Mike Maciel, who sat out the game for disciplinary reasons, according to Country Day head coach Kurt Keneer.