

# Volleyball

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Schleicher and Eva Chavez helped Harrison move in front, 11-8, but there was still a lot of fight in the Falcons.

Kills by Villemonte and Melissa Myty kept Farmington within point, 11-10. Following an ace by Harrison's Megan Wild, the Falcons rallied to take the lead, 13-12, on Myty's serve.

Vonier stopped the rally with a Harrison kill and Schleicher's kill tied the score. There were three sideouts before Patty Maloney served the final two points.

"It doesn't feel like we lost," Farmington coach Lisa Walega said. "We really rose to the occasion today; we really wanted to win. The girls were fired up as soon as they got on the court."

"We're finally blocking the ball; we're serving the ball. We get the momentum and keep the momentum now."

Walega hopes that means the Falcons have climbed the hill and are on the road to consistent play.

"I'm hoping we're at the point in the season it's going to take us to a positive finish," she said. "We're past the point people are nervous or apprehensive about hitting. If they mess up, they don't get down. And they're having fun!"

In addition to Eva Chavez and Vosler, Schrevo cited the play of Schleicher, "a senior who has matured a lot. She knows when to go up and is trying hard to stay off the net and keep some-

distance," she said.

DePotter had six kills, five digs, two solo blocks and four assists for Farmington. Villemonte had four kills in seven attacks, two digs and 11 serve receptions.

Sophomore setter Meghan O'Reilly set the ball 44 times, had eight kill assists and four block assists.

"Kristen Brown is our spark-plug right now," Walega said. "I put her in the game and she keeps everyone riled up and motivated."

The victory improved Harrison's overall record to 8-7-1 but dropped Farmington 2-12.

**Sisters pace Clarenceville**

The Berry sisters, the 6-foot tandem of Michelle and Melissa, combined for 11 kills Saturday and two solo blocks as Livonia Clarenceville pounded out a 16-4, 15-10 Metro Conference win at Harper Woods Lutheran East.

Clarenceville is 9-5-1 overall and 2-0 in the Metro.

Jackie Kilbik, who was a defensive standout with 22 digs, continued her fine all-around play with some well-place hits.

Setter Christina Skrela had 13 assists, while Joanna Skrela was the team's top server with three aces. Kristin Jaber and Agnieszka Palusz added two and one ace, respectively.

"The talent is there, we just have to develop that attitude to perfect our performance," Clarenceville coach Alisha Love

said.

### Chargers stop Raiders

Livonia Churchill opened Western Lakes Activities Association play with a 15-8, 15-13 win Monday over visiting North Farmington.

Right-side hitter Jessica Sherman had four kills in the second game to help propel Churchill (4-4) back from a 13-6 deficit. Setter Jessica Mackay also served four points during the rally.

North setter Diana Gustkey served five points and had seven kill assists in the first game. Katie Callahan and Melinda DiVita had three kills apiece for the Raiders, Rita Hindo and Lori Schehr on each.

"Our passing was great in each game," North coach Christine Diebold said. "We needed to work on passing, and we worked so hard now our passing is making the setter's job easier, although Diana will hustle for every second ball."

The Raiders served five aces in the second game, two each by Lynn Livernois and Callahan. Gisella Moses had the other ace. Callahan also had five kills.

In the Plymouth Salem Invitational on Saturday, North split with Romulus and lost to Garden City, Chelsea and Salem.

"One of the officials said to me, if they gave a Justice award, it should go to Diana Gustkey," Diebold said. "She hustles all the time, and she showed that again Monday."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Team leader: Kelly DePotter helped to keep Farmington in both games with a solid all-round performance.

# Marlins win first ski meet

The Farmington Hills Mercy ski team didn't have the look of a rusty bunch Tuesday at the Merchant Brighton ski slopes.

After two weeks of postponements due to unseasonably warm weather, the Marlins opened with a giant slalom performance that had them looking in mid-season form.

Mercy turned in the second, fourth, fifth and sixth best times in finishing with a first-place total of 17 points. Brighton, led by individual champion Devin Harrison, had 39 points for second place and East Lansing was third (76).

In the boys race, Brighton placed first (29), followed by Birmingham Seaholm (33) and Detroit Catholic Central (40).

Harrison was the only girl to break 37 seconds, finishing two runs in 36.84. Mercy's Christie Dubringhaus earned second place in a time of 37.087.

The next three Mercy skiers were less than a second off the pace of Harrison.

Senior Kristen Smith was fourth (37.35), senior Denise Hartsack fifth (37.46) and senior Krystin Salls sixth (37.69).

The Marlins added another skier to the top 10 as junior Renee Burek turned in a ninth-place finish (38.26). Jamie Borowice finished 21st (40.60).

Mercy coach Tom Gable was pleased with what he saw and predicted more success.

"We're looking for that 1-2-3-4 finish," he said. "We'll get there."

In the boys race, Asa Sherwood of Seaholm and Matt Hickley of Brighton tied for first place (32.29).

Senior Matt Kessler was fifth (34.44), leading the CC contingent. Senior Jason Anderson was sixth (34.54), freshman Matt Gable ninth (35.16). Junior Brad Tucki finished 20th (35.73).

"My kids did good and will get better," Gable said. "It was first-meet jitters. There is a lot of competition this year, and my boys look forward to it."

## Blazers down Marlins to stay on track for CL crown

By NEAL ZIPER

STAFF WRITER

The Livonia Ladywood athletic administration may want to consider hiring an interior decorator for the lobby outside of its gym.

The trophy case, already packed with volleyball trophies, might need an addition.

The Blazers took another step Tuesday to winning their seventh straight Catholic League title and claiming yet another trophy with a 16-10, 15-4 sweep over Farmington Hills Mercy.

Ladywood, 7-0 in the league and 26-5 overall, demonstrated why it is the team to beat — a

position Mercy coach Ed Moeller dreams about for the Marlins, who are 2-2 in the league.

"We're a very young team and we have to learn how to win," he said. "My goal is to make this a program like Ladywood's. We know the steps we have to take, and we know it will take a lot of determination and intensity."

In the first game, the Blazers took command behind the serving of Katie Brogan. Ladywood jumped to a 6-0 lead, but the Marlins wouldn't fold.

Back-to-back kills by Mary Gignac and Kaitlyn Jarzembowski got Mercy on the board.

The Blazers were quick to respond as Jenny Lachapelle and Mary Lu Hemme sparked a rally that extended the lead, 9-3.

The Marlins were able to get the serve back and reeled off four straight points — two coming on Gignac kills.

Mercy took a 10-9 lead after a block and kill by Krista Kelly.

Ladywood called a timeout and regrouped. Behind the powerful hitting of senior Sarah Pogits and junior Jenny Young, the Blazers put away Mercy with six unanswered points.

"Mercy was serving extremely tough and we had to make some

adjustments with our service reception," Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said.

Young had five of her six kills in the first game. Pogits, the team's leading hitter with a .857 average, also had six kills.

The second game was all Ladywood as the Blazers took command with a 9-1 lead. Teeters inserted the second string who were able to put the game away.

The turning point was Ladywood's first point when Hemme made the dig of the night to set up a monster spike by Pogits.

Gignac had five kills and Kelly four to lead Mercy.

"We're stressing being scrappy, being competitive and leaving nothing on the floor," Moeller said. "I was pleased with our intensity in the first game, but we have to learn to sustain that intensity and determination."

"We just don't have the horses they have. I thought we were flat in the second game and lost the eye of the tiger."

"Krista was a big factor in the middle up front early, but we stopped getting her the ball. I thought our setters, Amy Miller and Shayla O'Mara, played great and Erin (Fitzgerald) played outstanding defense."

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