

Crusaders lose 2

If Madonna University could just overcome this slow-start malady, it might add a few more W's to its total.

Last weekend's trip to the Kalamazoo College Tournament provides a perfect example. In the first half of both their games, the Fighting Crusaders fell behind by substantial margins — they trailed Kalamazoo by 17 at halftime Friday and Huntington by 11 at the half on Saturday.

Madonna rallied in the second half both times, but couldn't make up the deficit. The Crusaders lost to Kalamazoo 88-80 and to Huntington 88-87.

The two losses dropped Madonna to 2-14 overall. Again, the team was without Mike Massey, who is under suspension for disciplinary reasons until Jan. 2.

Massey, a sophomore guard, led Madonna in scoring last season. It was the third-straight game he has missed.

Against Kalamazoo, the Crusaders trailed 39-22 at the half — in part due to the Hornets' pinpoint shooting from the perimeter. They made 8-of-17 three-point shots in the first half compared to Madonna's 1-of-8.

Dan Kurtinaitis had a solid offensive game, connecting on 5-of-6 from the field and 6-of-7 from the free-throw line to score

COLLEGE HOOPS

16 points. He also had five assists and two steals, but he committed eight turnovers.

Chad Putnam (from Redford Thurston) contributed 12 points, and Josh Jensen and Jordan Garrison added nine apiece.

Kalamazoo got 16 points from Brad Phillips, 13 from B.J. Ford and 11 apiece from Dirk Rheinhardt and Steve Thwaites.

Poor shooting, particularly from three-point range, plagued Madonna again. Huntington hit 4-of-13 triples in the first half, while the Crusaders made just 1-of-7.

Rebounding and turnovers also hurt Madonna. The Foresters enjoyed a 40-30 edge on the boards and had 15 turnovers compared to 20 for the Crusaders.

Kurtinaitis' 15 points topped Madonna; he also had six assists, three steals — and eight turnovers. Aaron Cox added 13 points and six rebounds, Garrison had 12 points and Jensen scored 11.

Huntington got 16 points from Gabe LaGrange, 15 points from Joe Gaff, 14 from David Porter, 12 from Brett Snodgrass and 10 from Andy Kurzen.

CC has new swim coach

Redford Catholic Central's new swim coach is Jeff Baker, who is just as impressed with the Shamrocks' swimmers as the CC administration is with him.

Baker has a bachelor's and masters degree from Miami (Ohio) University. He has previously coached in Ohio and Illinois and he just finished his second season coaching the girls swim team at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

"He teaches science at Notre Dame Prep. Jeff Baker is a very organized individual with a knowledgeable background in swimming and will be a great asset to our swimming and diving program," CC athletic director Bob Santello said.

The 32-year old Baker likes the Shamrocks' chances to finish among the top 20 teams at the Class A state meet and to close the gap between state power Birmingham Brother Rice and themselves in the Catholic League.

Senior captains include diver Greg Brazzilunas, Nick Markou and Chris LaFond.

LaFond swims the 100 yard breaststroke and 50 freestyle. Markou is a 200 freestyler and 100 breaststroke.

"It's been very enjoyable," Baker said. "This is a group of highly competitive, motivated and extremely dedicated athletes. They do everything high class around here."

Three of the four swimmers on last year's state qualifying 400 freestyle relay team return: Junior Ed Lesnau and sophomores Bryant Steele and Brett Meconis.

Lesnau is a distance freestyle swimmer while Steele is a sprint freestyler and backstroke and Meconis participates in the 100 butterfly and 200 individual medley.

Baker sees the 400 freestyle relay making it back to the state meet.

"I'm expecting them to improve on their time," Baker said.

Individual state qualifiers included Meconis in the 100 yard butterfly and Brazzilunas in diving.

Brazzilunas was 25th at the state meet with 148.7 points. Meconis' best time in the fly was 54.38, which didn't place at the state meet.

Meconis has a shot at placing in the top six at the state meet in the butterfly, Baker said.

"We've got some pretty high goals set for him," Baker said. "I'd like him to go top six and give our (school) record a run for the money."

Freshman Andrew Carlin has been impressive in the individual medley and distance freestyle, Baker said.

Sophomores Mike Kruszewski and Tim Ryan should be contributors in the individual medley and breaststroke.

Junior Dan Zielinski also will contribute in the breaststroke.

Baker said his practice routine is different than most coaches. His swimmers might not swim as many yards each practice but



STAFF PHOTO BY SHANE JACOBS

Deep breath: Mike Batkie of the Farmington/Farmington Harrison team shows swimming to eighth place in the 400 medley in Saturday's WLAA Relays at Salem.

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themselves, according to Olson. "We didn't load up on anything," he said. "We just swam real solid."

Olson marks performances by Salem swimmers that are impressive with stars, and in this meet he gave out a bunch. "I gave a lot of stars away, probably more than I ever gave out in a relay meet before," he said.

"Some of the kids had a significant improvement (from last Thursday's dual meet against Ann Arbor Huron), which showed me something."

The Rocks won two relays, while Stevenson finished first in four. Salem's wins came from Eric Lynn, Aaron Shelton, Ben Dzinio and Brian Mertens in the 400-yard medley relay (3:56.11), and from Dave Woodard, Ryan Kappler, Dan Jones and Mike Johnson in the 200 freestyle relay (1:35.40).

The Spartans were first in the 400 free relay, with Jeff Darby, Brad Buckler, Justin Ketterer and Joe Bublitz (3:29.89); in the 200 breaststroke relay, with Kevin D'Alessandro, Mike

Nemer, Kevin VanTiem and Eric Daskowski (2:04.52); in the 200 butterfly relay, with Pate Rodemeyer, Geoff Lewis, Rob Cambridge and Brandon Truscott (1:47.47); and in the 200 medley relay, with Bublitz, Nemer, Truscott and Buckler (1:43.60).

Northville also had two wins, from Derek Ohlgron, Dave Whitbeck, Anthony Sergio and Scott Whitbeck in the 200 backstroke relay (1:48.73), and from Kevin Stuart, John Moors, Scott Whitbeck and Dave Whitbeck in the 500 free relay (4:31.27).

North Farmington's Craig Paske, John Horn, Adam Farber and Jim Gabriel were winners in the 400 medley relay (4:04.11), and Walled Lake's Chris Gawronski and Steve Zerber were first in the diving relay (3:20.65 points).

The difference, of course, was that Salem finished second five times and third twice. Only in the diving relay were the Rocks out of the top three.

Salem is now idle until Jan. 6, when it hosts Novi and Dearborn in a double-dual meet.

WLAA RELAYS RESULTS

WLAA 2000 RELAYS
Dec. 19 at Plymouth Salem

Final scores (standings): 1. Plymouth (200); 2. Livonia (180); 3. Farmington (150); 4. North Farmington (120); 5. Farmington (100); 6. Farmington (80); 7. Walled Lake (60); 8. Livonia (40); 9. Farmington (20); 10. Westland (10).

400 medley relay: 1. Salem (Eric Olson, Aaron Shelton, Ben Dzinio, Brian Mertens), 3:56.11; 2. North Farmington (Jim Gabriel, Ann Tied, Adam Farber, Brandon Digne), 3:57.05; 3. Canton, 3:58.33; 4. Farmington, 4:00.47; 5. Northville, 4:01.94; 6. John Glenn, 4:02.59; 7. Walled Lake, 4:08.28; 8. Farmington, 4:11.00; 9. Franklin, Church Hill, 4:11.00; 10. Franklin, Church Hill, 4:11.00.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (Jeff Darby, Brad Buckler, Justin Ketterer, Joe Bublitz), 1:35.40; 2. Salem (Dan Jones, Mark Wittorf, Ann Ross, Ryan Kappler), 1:36.07; 3. North Farmington, 1:37.20; 4. Church Hill, 1:38.83; 5. Canton, 1:40.87; 6. Farmington, 1:40.44; 7. Walled Lake, 1:40.48; 8. Franklin, 1:41.48; 9. Northville, 1:41.84; 10. John Glenn, 1:43.54.

200 breaststroke relay: 1. Stevenson (Kevin D'Alessandro, Mike Nemer, Kevin VanTiem, Eric Daskowski), 2:04.52; 2. Canton (Jon Hees, Matt Schacht, Ed Lipson, Dennis Speck), 2:05.82; 3. Salem, 2:06.83; 4. Northville, 2:10.46; 5. Walled Lake, 2:11.08; 6. North Farmington, 2:13.81; 7. Church Hill, 2:16.95; 8. Farmington, 2:28.52; 9. Franklin, Church Hill, 2:28.52; 10. John Glenn, 2:28.52.

200 backstroke relay: 1. Northville (Derek Ohlgron, Dave Whitbeck, Anthony Sergio, Scott Whitbeck), 1:48.73; 2. Farmington (Derek Ohlgron, Adam Farber, Jim Gabriel, Dan Price, Devin Hopper), 1:52.95; 3. Salem, 1:55.88; 4. North Farmington, 2:01.48; 5. John Glenn, 2:05.18; 6. Church Hill, 2:06.83; 7. Canton, 2:07.00; 8. Stevenson, 2:10.95; 9. Walled Lake, 2:20.70; 10. Franklin, Church Hill, 2:28.52.

500 free relay: 1. Stevenson (Pat Rodemeyer, Geoff Lewis, Rob Cambridge, Brandon Truscott), 1:47.47; 2. Salem

(Mike Johnson, Mike Horgan, Kevin Schepley, Dave Carson), 1:50.43; 3. North Farmington, 1:50.22; 4. Canton, 1:50.70; 5. Farmington, 1:57.01; 6. Walled Lake, 1:57.79; 7. Church Hill, 2:00.20; 8. Northville, 2:00.80; 9. Ann Glenn, 2:12.39; 10. Franklin, Church Hill, 2:12.39.

Diving relay: 1. Walled Lake (Chris Gawronski, Steve Zerber), 3:20.65; 2. Salem (Blake Brunner, Gerald Barnett), 3:11.00; 3. John Glenn, 3:11.00; 4. Stevenson, 3:20.20; 5. Franklin, Church Hill, 3:20.20; 6. Stevenson, 3:20.70; 7. Salem, 3:43.65; 8. North Farmington, 3:46.75.

400 medley relay: 1. North Farmington (Craig Paske, John Horn, Adam Farber, Jim Gabriel), 4:04.11; 2. Salem (Chris Larson, Mark Whitbeck, Jon Ross, Markou), 4:08.04; 3. Northville, 4:10.68; 4. Farmington, 4:10.84; 5. Walled Lake, 4:12.18; 6. Canton, 4:08.89; 7. Church Hill, 4:12.18; 8. Church Hill, 4:12.18; 9. Farmington, 4:12.18; 10. John Glenn, 4:12.18.

200 medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Duzant, Nemer, Truscott, Brad Buckler), 1:43.60; 2. Salem (Brian Doraj, Jason Reberich, Horgan, Carson), 1:52.64; 3. Canton, 1:55.85; 4. Farmington, 1:56.39; 5. Franklin, 2:10.70; 6. North Farmington, 2:17.59; 7. Northville, 2:10.08; 8. Walled Lake, 2:18.58; 9. Church Hill, John Glenn, 2:18.58.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Dave Woodard, Ryan Kappler, Dan Jones, Jeff Woodard), 1:35.40; 2. Farmington (Hopper, Price, Good, Max Bettles), 1:36.50; 3. Walled Lake, 1:38.54; 4. Northville, 1:41.63; 5. Stevenson, 1:46.01; 6. Canton, 1:48.11; 7. North Farmington, 2:00.32; 8. Church Hill, 2:05.12; 9. Franklin, 2:17.85; 10. John Glenn, 2:17.85.

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