Volleyball

from page C1

"She had only four kills but kept making good play after good play," he said. "She ran the middle a lot, pulling the middle blocker with her. That way the outside hitters have one-on-one blocking."

Kimmel's strong play was essential since Farmington's 6-foot-1 Lyndsy Howard wasn't back to 100 percent after battling illness last week.

"She's still not up to her standard," Perrin said. "We couldn't go to her as much, because her timing was off on her hitting. She didn't practice a whole lot."

Howard, who didn't miss any matches, played a key role with her serve in the first game due to a small oversight on Perrin's part.

Perrin frequently substitutes Jessica Brown into the lineup in place of Howard when the latter rotates to the back row.

But Howard took a turn serving before Perrin thought to make a change, and it was just as well for Farmington.

With the Falcons trailing 3-0, Howard served six straight points to put her team on top. Jessi Halliday had two kills, Lauren Kleiman and Kimmel one each during the run.

"(Howard) got back to serve, and I wasn't going to say anything when she started serving," Perrin said. "She made me look good.

"It's like a flip of the coin with (Howard and Brown). We usually play it by ear, and I just forgot."

DeDomenico's ace and another Kimmel kill added two points to Farmington's lead, which reached 10-7 at which point North rallied.

The Raiders scored four straight points on an Emily Whitten dink kill, a Kelly Hogan ace and two Farmington errors to edge ahead of the Falcons, 11-10. Another Kimmel kill tied the score, but North moved in front again on a Farmington attacking error.

The Falcons rallied to win the game with Escott serving the final four points, including an ace for the 15th.

It was her defensive play that turned the tide in favor of Farmington, too, according to Perrin.

With the score tied at 12, Escott received a hard spike in the back row. Her pass had enough on it to sail back over the net and fall in for the go-ahead point.

"That had an effect on (the Raiders)," Perrin said. "They hit it real hard; you could see they were ready to celebrate, and then their confidence went down. It had to be the biggest play of the match.

"Rudy Tomjanovich always talked about four-point plays. That was a two-point play for us. It went from an easy kill to a point for our team. It was a momentum changer."

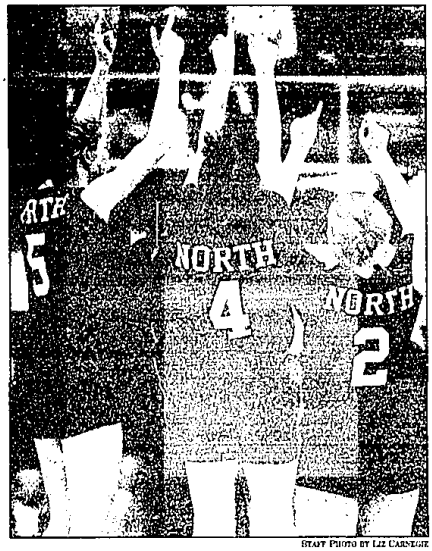
The Raiders won an exhibition third game, 15-9. Farmington improved to 2-1 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 11-6-3 overall.

North is 0-2 in the WLAA. Meredith Reilly, Jennifer Timpner and Kelly Downey, who served five points (three aces), played well for the Raiders, according to Diebold.

"I think we're playing well," Perrin said, adding a 10-15, 15-13, 15-3 loss to Livonia Churchill Jan. 12 was disappointing, however. "We felt we outplayed them in the second game and pulled defeat from the jaws of victory."

The Falcons have a challenging stretch of matches coming up against WLAA powers Plymouth Salem, Walled Lake Central, Livonia Franklin and Northville.

"We run the gauntlet in the next few weeks," Perrin said. "That will tell us where we're at. If we don't win one, we want to at least go toe-to-toe with them. If we can do that, we can feel pretty good."



STAFF PHOTO BY LIZ CARNEGIE

Motivational moment: *The Raiders gather for a team cheer Monday in their match with Farmington High.*

Mustangs down Marlins

Birmingham Marian defeated visiting Farmington Hills Mercy, which was minus senior setter Amy Miller, who is out with a broken hand, in a Catholic League match Tuesday, 15-6, 15-9. Miller suffered the injury in the Macomb Community College Invitational Saturday in the team's second pool-play match against Troy.

To compensate for the loss of Miller, the Marlins switched from a 5-1 offense to a 6-2. Meghan O'Connor took Miller's place, and senior Kelly Blunden moved from outside hitter to be the second setter Tuesday.

Sophomore Kristin Loridas, who moved up from the JV to play outside hitter, and senior Carrie Brankiewicz had four kills each to lead Mercy's attack.

Both teams are 1-1 in the Catholic League Central Division. Mercy is 18-6-1 overall.

In the MCC Invite Saturday, Mercy defeated St. Clair Shores Lakeshore (0-2), Troy (4-7) and Lutheran Westland (0-6) before losing to Detroit Country Day in the quarterfinals, 12-15, 15-3, 14-16.

Mercy plays host to Pontiac Notre Dame Prep tonight.

LABARONS
Arcade Games
Party Rentals
BILLIARDS & GAME ROOM SUPPLY
FOOSBALL from $349.95 Made in U.S.A.
AIR HOCKEY from $359.95
DOMED HOCKEY TABLES from $519.99
30% OFF all stock including Hippo Solid Oak Game Room Furniture Made in U.S.A.
Ed CONNELLY BILLIARDS from $1195 Includes Equipment
MADE IN MICHIGAN
SLATE TABLES from $819.95
The Only Place Where You Can • TRY IT BEFORE YOU BUY IT "IT PAYS TO SHOP"
37730 Van Dyke, Sterling Hts. • (810) 268-3800
HOURS: Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-8 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Closed Sunday

Franklin rally topples N'ville

There was no letdown for the Livonia Franklin girls volleyball team.

The Patriots, who captured Saturday's Midland Dow Invitational, opened Western Lakes Activities Association play Monday with a 9-15, 15-10, 15-2 triumph over a formidable Northville squad.

It was Parents Night for the host Patriots, who improved to 13-4-1 overall.

■ VOLLEYBALL

"Northville is strong this year — great size, well prepared with a great attack," Franklin coach Mary Helen Diegel said. "It was an exciting match."

Franklin was up to the task as senior outside-hitter Tera Morrill had 12 kills on 26 of 28 attacks.

Junior middle-hitter Kerstin Marshall came through with 10 kills (17 of 18) as did senior outside-hitter Andrea Kmet (16 of 19).

Senior Lyndsay Sopko recorded 33 assist-to-kills on 69 of 70 good sets, while Alexis Bowman contributed 12 digs.

On Saturday, Franklin defeated St. Louis, one of the top-ranked teams in Class C, 15-9, 15-12, in the Dow Invitational championship final.

The Patriots reached the finals with a 15-8, 15-10 victory over Class B state-ranked Pinconning.

In pool play, Franklin split with St. Louis (2-15, 15-4) and scored wins over host Dow (15-3, 15-9) and Midland (15-2, 15-12).

"We had some hard-fought matches against some quality opponents and the trip was well worth it," Diegel said. "It gave us a good opportunity to play different teams who are strong and helped prepare us for our league."

Spartans rule at Wayne

Livonia Stevenson took Saturday's Wayne Invitational title by defeating Belleville in the championship final, 8-15, 15-2, 17-15.

The Spartans reached the title match with a 15-3, 15-12 semifinal victory over Edsel Ford after defeating Crestwood in the quarterfinals, 15-2, 15-8.

In pool play, Stevenson turned back John Glenn (5-8) and Thurston (6-7) and split with Belleville, 13-15, 15-8 (after it couldn't hold a 13-1 lead).

SILVERADO
THE TRUCK
THE MOST APPEALING FULL-SIZE PICKUP TRUCK
BIGGEST EXTENDED CAB OF ANY HALF-TON
Ford F-150. Bigger than Dodge Ram. Bigger than any import. Bigger. Nothing but a big on comfort, too.
MOST POWERFUL V8 OF ANY 4x4
When it comes to power, The Truck offers you a choice of horsepower. Nothing but a big one. Nothing but a big one.
Test drive Silverado today at your local Chevy Dealer. Silverado. It's The Truck. From Chevy.
The most dependable, longest-lasting trucks on the road.
SILVERADO
LIKE A ROCK
SEE YOUR LOCAL CHEVY DEALER TODAY!
Toll Free 1-877-THE TRUCK or www.chevrolet.com/silverado