

# Volleyball from page C1

"The nice thing is how people really stepped up off the bench and picked up," Brankiewicz added.

"Our intensity didn't change no matter who we brought off the bench," Moeller said.

With Miller running the offense and senior Nikki Downing, one of the team's best back row players who missed the entire season (until Saturday) with a back injury, in the lineup again, Mercy seems to be in sync and good shape heading into the regional tournament Saturday.

"We missed her (Miller) leadership and court sense," Moeller said. "Offense is all about switching and passing, and that requires rhythm and timing."

"Our communication and togetherness is totally there now," Miller said.

In the Class A regional at Birmingham Groves, the Marlins play Western Lakes Activities Association champion Walled Lake Central, and the winner faces either Birmingham Seaholm or Troy in the final.

"Anyone who takes us for granted will be in for a big surprise," Moeller said. "This is the first time all season we've been at full strength."

"I think we're going to be a real sleeper in this, because I think people are going to look past us because of our record."

The first Farmington game

went back and forth until Mercy eventually prevailed. The second started the same way and was tied, 7-7, when Jones served out the game and match.

"The team was going wild, because the team knows how hard she has worked to get that serve down," Moeller said.

Farmington had Mercy playing its game for a while, according to Brankiewicz, but then Mercy set up its offense and responded with some big hits.

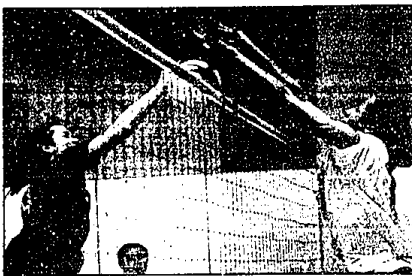
"We're used to hard hits," she said. "We had to adjust our defense to pick up the tips and free balls, and we were able to do that." That's when we started to take charge."

The Falcons (18-20-6) were limited offensively due to an injury to 6-foot-2 junior Lyndsy Howard, who sprained an ankle in practice Thursday and didn't play against Southfield.

"She has more than double the kills of anyone else on the team, and she could hardly move," Farmington coach Alex Porzin said. "She was being a real trooper today; she did her best."

"We jiced it and taped it up, and she gritted her teeth. We do a lot of slides and combination plays with her, and we couldn't do that. She could only tip and Mercy figured that out pretty quickly."

In three WLAAs tournament games, Howard had 12 kills and



District opener: Southfield's Raven Penson (right) tries to block an attack by Farmington's Lauren Kleiman.

only four attacking errors out of 46 total spikes, he added.

Perrin said he thought the Falcons proved they could hang in there and compete with the Marlins.

"We had a 7-5 lead in the second game, so we were there," he said. "But all season we looked to Lyndsy for kills and blocks, and we (effectively) don't have her anymore. We had hardly any time to practice anything different."

"I thought our serve receive was a little stronger, but their blocking and our inability to con-

vert was the difference in the match."

In the Southfield match, Melissa Myty had seven kills and eight digs, Julie Kimmel six kills and three blocks, Meghan O'Rear had 18 assists, Tricia Krause served seven points (three aces) and Kathryn Escott six. Kimmel led with seven kills against Mercy; she also had three digs. Myty had five kills and three digs, Jessi Halliday three and four, respectively. Howard managed five kills and two solo blocks. O'Rear recorded 13 assists and served six points.

## Vikings roll through district into regional

BY CHRIS MAYER  
STAFF WRITER  
cmayer@oc.homedcomm.net

### VOLLEYBALL

The Class A regional at Birmingham Groves figures to be extremely competitive, but that aite Walled Lake Central head coach Mike Lindstrom just fine.

"I think it's going to be a real good regional for us," Lindstrom said Saturday after his Vikings celebrated a district championship win over Farmington Harrison.

"We play better when we feel the team that we're going to play is really going to push us." All through the season these girls have played better in that situation. They come out and they hit, they dig and the other team is doing the same thing."

Saturday's Groves regional features Central (41-8-2), Oak-

land Activities Association league champion Birmingham Seaholm (44-6-3), Troy (35-10-2) and Farmington Hills Mercy. Seaholm and Troy square off at 10 a.m. in one semifinal; the Vikings and Marlins meet in the other at 11 a.m. The regional champion advances to Tuesday's state quarterfinal at Groves.

The Vikings, a state semifinalist last season, made quick work of their opponents to finish the Novi district title. Central defeated the host Wildcats (15-5, 15-3) in the first round, North Farmington (15-2, 15-4) and Harrison (15-7, 15-8) in the final.

Harrison advanced to the championship match with a 15-5, 15-10 victory over Walled Lake Western (8-25).

"I was a little concerned today, because it's hard to keep that focus sometimes," Lindstrom said. "The girls are a little more relaxed right now, but they were a little uptight earlier. But we served well today and we passed well today, and that's the biggest thing that counts in district and regional play."

Christina Tudor posted 19 digs and four blocks to go along with 29 kills on 41-of-45 attacking. Senior outside hitter Kelly Henzlo had 21 digs, 21 kills on 35-of-45 attacking, and six aces on 41-of-44 serving, and senior setter Colleen Saldana had 51 assists and seven digs, plus two aces on 17-of-17 serving.

Noteworthy performances

were also turned in by junior middle blocker Heather Lippert (19-of-23 attacking, 12 kills, seven blocks), senior Nicole Lanthier (20-of-23 serving, 10 digs, two aces) and senior Jennifer Crutchfield (19-of-21 serving, 10 digs, two aces).

Seaholm, a 7-15, 15-7, 15-13 winner over Central in the finals of the Walled Lake Central Invitational in January, hosted a district tournament Friday. The Marlins knocked off rivals Bloomfield Hills Laher and Birmingham Marian, before dawning West Bloomfield, 15-8, 15-9, in the title match.

Troy dominated the district at Troy Athens. The Colts won their first title in seven years, hammering Rochester in the final match, 15-6, 15-4.

**Back-to-Back Weekend Celebration**

**JOE DUMARS NIGHT**

**Tomorrow, March 10**

**7:15 PM**

**VS. VANCOUVER**

*... will retire #4 in a ceremony.*

**10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**His Sat., March 11**

**7:15 PM**

**VS. PORTLAND**

*The Pistons will honor the 10th Anniversary of the Back-to-Back NBA World Champions of 1990 in a program ceremony.*

248-377-0100

**Observer & Eccentric** **HOME TOWN** Newspapers

# Job Fair 2000

**Burton Manor Livonia Wednesday March 29 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

Here is a great opportunity to check out a new job. You'll be able to talk to recruiters from all over the metropolitan area who are eager to discuss a new career or a career change with you.

You'll have access to a wide range of jobs—from retail to the professions—and you'll meet a lot of friendly people who are interested in you and your career goals.

**JobFair 2000 is absolutely FREE.**

Larry Goldsmith, The Job Coach, will be on hand to help you with your resume and give you valuable interview advice.

Mark your calendar and plan to be in Burton Manor on the 29th!

**There's a new career waiting for you at one of these area businesses:**

Absopure Water Co. Accountants Connection, Inc. Airtouch Cellular Alterra Healthcare American Blind and Wallpaper Factory American Express Financial Advisors Anamark Educational Resources ASK Healthcare Services, Inc. Avis Rent A Car The Berioch Group The Begley Organization, L.L.C. Belanger, Inc. Broder Bros. Co. Circuit City Comarica CorPay Solutions DADC Delta Dental Plan of Michigan Detroit Medical Center Dorothy Day Edward Jones	EJIH Construction, Inc. Eldercare Home Care Group Employment & Training Designs English Gardens Entech Personnel, Inc. Enterprise Rent-A-Car Envision, Inc. Ethan Allen FCI, USA, Inc. Federal Reserve Bank First Federal of Michigan First Investors Corp. Flagstar Bank Frito-Lay, Inc. Frommer & Associates G-Tech Professional Gage Marketing Services Gordon Food Service Graybar Electric Co. HCR Manor Care Hemette	Home Depot Special Order Center HomeTown Newspapers Huntington Management Jabli Circuit Jewish Vocational Services Kinko's Kroger Company of Michigan Lease Acceptance Corp. LSG Sky Chefs Master Automatic Mattress & Futon Shoppe Next Communications Oakwood Healthcare Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Office Matez 5 Old Kent Bank Old West Properties Oldie Discount Corporation Olean Staffing Services Option One/Aerotek, Inc. Overnight Transportation BSB	Parleian Paychex Payroll I Permanent Staff Company Personnel Systems Personnel Unlimited Phillips Service Industries, Inc. Pinkster Security The Phoenix Group Plastik Packaging, Inc. Premium Protection Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Providence Hospital & Medical Centers Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers Real Estate One Republic Bancorp Mortgage, Inc. Ricoh Business Systems Roas Moving & Storage Rus Industries RS Electronics Sav-On Drugs	Seare Skyway Precision, Inc. Snelling Personnel Services Staffing Services of Michigan StaffPro America, Inc. Sylvan Learning Center TCF Bank Tempo, Inc. T.J. Maxx Total Armored Car Trans Inns Management, Inc. United Parcel Service University of Michigan Health System U.S. Vision Vigilante Security, Inc. Village Green Visiting Nurse Association of S.E. Michigan Virginia Tile Westland Convalescent Center
---	--	--	--	--

Visit our website: [observer-eccentric.com](http://observer-eccentric.com)