

Raiders roll to 7th league win

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North Farmington came from behind in both games Monday night to defeat visiting Plymouth Canton in girls volleyball, 15-10, 15-13.

The Raiders improved their record in the Western Lakes Activities Association to 7-2 — their best in more than a decade. North faced a 9-4 deficit in the first game and was down 13-9 in the second, but it managed to hold Canton in check and rally each time.

"We played sidestep volleyball a little longer than we wanted, but we kept our heads in the game," coach Deb Calanchi said. "It was Senior Night and a big opportunity to end their home career on a positive note."

"Once we turned things around, there was a fire there. We held them on 13 (in the second game). It was an exciting game to watch, because we were loud and fired up."

Elina Pilnits was 10-of-12 serving with three aces, Meghan Callahan 13-of-14 with four aces and Melissa Traczky 8-of-9 digging.

Pilnits had nine kills, Callahan six and Michele Boothroyd four. Callahan also was 8-of-9 digging.

"I told (the North girls) a year ago we would've lost these games," Calanchi said. "In the past we always thought, if we were down, there was no coming back."

"But now we have this confidence, and we know on any given day if we show up we can compete."

In a tournament Saturday at Williamston using the rally-score system, North lost to Ovid-Elsie, 15-21, 18-21; and split with Lansing Catholic Central, 20-22, 23-22; Williamston, 17-21, 21-14; and Dansville, 21-18, 15-21.

"We had five girls who were under the weather," Calanchi said. "There's a lot of flu going around, and it showed in our level of play."

"We used the tournament more as a chance, rather than running a practice, as day for us to scrimmage. We used different lineups and tried some other things."

"Other than the one we lost, 21-13, we were right in the thick of things. The rallies were extremely long, and that helped us get ready for Canton."

Traczky was 23-of-25 serving with one ace Saturday and Amy Berke 22-of-24 with two aces.

Callahan had 16 kills, Traczky 13, Pilnits 10 and Boothroyd nine. Lisa St. Charles had 21 assists and Brittany Pajewski 16

digs.

Stevenson Harrison defeats

Playing without one of its top hitters, Maggie Condeni, Farmington Harrison defeated a top game match to visiting Livonia Stevenson Monday, 8-15, 17-15, 9-15.

The Hawks, who are 1-8 in the WLA and 9-24 overall, were down 14-8 in the second game but rallied to win.

"The girls played super hard," Harrison coach Kevin Lashbrook said. "It's just a bummer that we didn't win."

"We left so much emotion on the floor in second game it just took everything out of us."

"We went at it with a do-or-die attitude. We needed just a little more, and we didn't have it."

The Hawks were without Condeni, who is recovering from an ankle injury, Janelle Lalonde led the team with six kills; Jessica Condeni, Merrill DeRose and Latoya Burrell had four kills each.

Diana Platt had 17 assists out of 52 sets. DeRose served three aces and Jamila Fair two. Alex Cicci had four digs and Meghan Cooper three.

Harrison earned its first WLA victory Jan. 30 by defeating host Walled Lake Western, 15-11, 15-12.

Jessica Condeni, a freshman up from the JV, had seven kills and Platt 12 assists. Cicci played a good game defensively, according to Lashbrook, and had six digs.

"It was a big win with Maggie out," Lashbrook said. "She's been pretty much most of our offense. The rest of the girls stepped up and played well."

"They saw we had a chance to win, and it didn't matter that Maggie wasn't playing. They played hard."

"It was hard for her to sit on the sideline. She'll be back for the end of the season. It's a minor sprain but enough to keep her out a couple weeks."

Volleyball

from page D1

almost flawless match," Perrin said of the Vikings. "Almost everything they did was golden. I didn't think they could duplicate that effort."

"Maybe they got a little complacent after beating us Saturday. I can't speak to that, but that's the impression I had."

The Falcons, who are 5-2 in the league and 27-12-4 overall, were runners-up in the consolation Silver Division playoffs Saturday at Schoolcraft.

In pool play, Farmington lost to Dearborn Hills, 13-15, 10-15; defeated Grand Blanc, 15-

2, 15-2; and lost to Central, 6-15, 8-15.

But the Falcons got hot in the playoffs and beat Westland John Glenn, 15-12, 15-10; Northville, 15-8, 15-7; and Livonia Ladywood in a semifinal, 15-6, 15-4.

Two years ago, if you had mentioned Farmington beating Ladywood and Walled Lake Central in a three-day period, nobody would have believed you, and we just accomplished that," Perrin said.

Farmington lost to Fenton in the Silver Division championship match, 9-15, 15-11, 13-15.

The rally-score method was used in the third game.

Perrin said Chelsea Kresky was outstanding on defense with 26 digs on the day. Kimmel had 15 kills, 37 digs, six blocks and 19 points; Atkins had 32 kills, nine digs, 14 blocks and 15 points; Brown had 14 kills, 94 assists, 21 digs and 30 points; Young had 25 kills, 35 digs, five blocks and 38 points, and Gauer had 22 kills, nine digs, seven blocks and 22 points.

"We missed too many serves; that cost us against Divine Child," Perrin said. "That's what

knocked us out of the Gold (playoffs). After that we played well."

"We haven't played Glenn and Northville in the league, so that's a good omen for us. Beating Ladywood is a very good accomplishment. For years Ladywood has had the premier program in the metro area."

"We left it on the floor against Fenton. It was one of those matches where a different play here or there could have won it. Neither team was clearly better than the other."

E. Kentwood wins Schoolcraft title

BY BRAD EMONS
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It was a virtually another

run. Three area teams reached the elimination round of the 29th annual Schoolcraft College Invitational High School Girls Volleyball Tournament, but two familiar foes battled for the championship Saturday with No. 3-ranked (Class A) East Kentwood getting the best of defending champion Temperance Bedford, 15-13, 15-8.

East Kentwood, a member of the Ottawa-Kent Conference (Red Division), improved to 47-10 overall. The Falcons also captured Schoolcraft titles in 2000 and 1998.

The Falcons, a talented squad led by Miami of Ohio signee Natalie Kopsky, did not lose a match on the day.

In the finals, they were sparked by senior outside hitter Breanna Eveland (nine kills, six digs) and senior setter Carley Horvath (eight kills, 15 assists). Junior Courtney Ardis came off the bench to serve two aces and had two digs.

In the elimination round, East Kentwood ousted Walled Lake Central (15-7, 15-6) and Birmingham Marian (16-1, 15-10).

"We played with a lot of guts and won some long rallies," said East Kentwood coach Roxanne Steinhilber of the final match.

"We have a class where our girls do a lot of conditioning and weight lifting. We take pride in being physically fit. We small, but we're athletic. We try to wear teams down."

Bedford (33-14), the defending state Class A champion, was upset by Farmington Hills Mercy in pool play, so the Kicking

Mules had to go through three opponents to reach the finals — Monroe (15-7, 15-11), along with Western Lakes teams Livonia Churchill (15-10, 15-7) and Plymouth Salem (15-10, 15-2).

"Even though we're down this year, people still know we're Bedford and they're coming after us," said coach Jodi Manore, who lost five of six starters from a year ago. "The Mercy match was typical of what we've been doing all year. They got on a roll and we didn't react."

"I thought we played well for the most part, but we're still looking to put things together."

Rachel Fellhank, a 5-10 junior outside hitter, was Bedford's most consistent player on the day. The only two players with considerable experience from a year ago are Jennifer Sulewski and Erica Kaczorowski.

"There's not one team in the state that is dominant right now," Manore said. "There are quite a few teams that can win it. We hope we can stay close. We're also still looking at the fact that we're still state champions at least until mid-march."

Salem upended Midland, coached by former Livonia Bentley and Schoolcraft College player Angela Porter-McMann, in the quarterfinals, 15-8, 4-15, 16-9.

Salem, 30-4-1 overall, lost Katie Good to a knee injury earlier in the day in pool play.

The Racers played Bedford tough in the first game of the semifinal, but the Kicking Mules dominated the second game.

Top attackers for Salem on the day included Mary Lou Liebau (40 kills), Kelly Jaskot (26) and



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBELLI

Tournament play: Mercy's Tessa Kuykendall spikes the ball at the Bedford opposition as teammate Deidre Jones (5) follows the action.

Mandy Bradley (16).

Jaskot, a senior, also finished with a team-high 52 digs and 10 aces. Setter Jordan Falousan had 100 assists. Nicole Genrich had 43 digs, while Liebau added 37.

Churchill captured its pool with victories over Novi (15-6, 15-10), Livonia Ladywood (14-15, 15-5) and Dearborn (15-8, 15-4) before falling to Bedford.

Sheila Gillies, back from a fractured ankle, led the Chargers with 26 kills. Beth Bushey added 21.

The Chargers also received outstanding defense and perfect passing (28 of 28) from Sarah Phillips.

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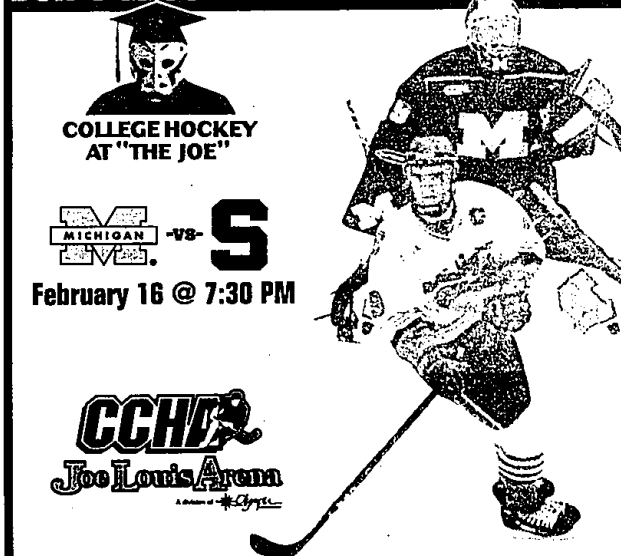
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