

Sports

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Sue Zatorski Stevenson



Rocky Cibor Stevenson



Jennifer Slosar Mercy



Kandi Boyle Mercy



Mary Kelley Ladywood



Nancy Wagner Ladywood



Corinne McNamara Ladywood



Sarah Adzima Ladywood



Becky Wilson John Glenn

Blazers earn high profile on '88 team

By Dan O'Meara staff writer

At the conclusion of the 1988 volleyball season, there was no doubt Livonia Ladywood had not only the best team in Observerland but the best in the state.

The Blazers, considered the area's premier ballclub all season, went on to capture the Class A championship with a three-game victory over Sterling Heights Stevenson.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise to see Ladywood so well-represented on the All-Area squad, with players filling four of the 12 first-team positions.

Corinne McNamara, Nancy Wagner, Mary Kelley and Sarah Adzima are the Blazers who most impressed area coaches while taking their team to the Catholic League crown and a 51-2 record.

But the list of area talent and good teams doesn't end with Ladywood. In fact, the past season might have been the best ever for the quality of Observerland volleyball.

Farmington Hills Mercy was runner-up to Ladywood in the Catholic League and was one step short of the Class A semifinals.

Redford Bishop Borgess came on the second half of the season and reached the Class B final, and perennial Western Lakes power Livonia Stevenson had another strong team as did Livonia Churchill, North Farmington and Wayne Memorial.

Familiar faces are a part of this year's team, too. Stevenson's Sue Zatorski and Rocky Cibor and Wayne's JoAnn Kolnitys are first-team repeaters. Adzima and McNamara were second-team players a year ago, and Wagner, Kelley and Mercy's Kandi Boyle made the jump from third team.

Tom Teeters, who took the Blazers to the top in his second year as coach and Ladywood's first in Class A, and

Jerry Abraham, who guided Borgess to its late-season surge after an uncertain beginning, were selected Coaches of the Year.

FIRST-TEAM PLAYERS

Sue Zatorski, senior, Stevenson: Zatorski has been a mainstay with the Spartans for three years, earning all-league honors twice and all-region and all-state status this season.

Stevenson's most valuable player was a dominant middle hitter, having 618 successful spikes out of 716 attempts that resulted in 329 kills. Her hitting percentage was .863 and kill percentage .322.

Zatorski also had 80 ace serves, putting 258 of 300 serves into play for an .860 serving percentage.

"(She) is one of the most dedicated, hard-working players ever to play Spartan volleyball," coach Lee Cagle said. "Sue was always able to help players around her to raise their game during matches."

"Her outstanding, three-year accomplishments have set a high standard for upcoming players," he added.

Rocky Cibor, senior, Stevenson: As the team setter, Cibor was the player supplying Zatorski with the ammunition for her powerful spikes.

Cibor had nearly 400 assists and successfully set the ball to hitters 96 percent of the time. Her assist percentage was .521.

"Her teammates could always depend on her to give them great sets for their individual hitting needs," Cagle said.

"Rocky has been par-excellence as a team leader. Our team effectiveness has been largely in her hands the last two years."

"Plus, her pleasant personality always had a positive effect on team character," he added.

Jennifer Slosar, senior, Mercy: Slosar, who will attend Notre Dame on a volleyball scholarship, was the leader in Mercy's rise to prominence last season.

The 6-foot-1 middle hitter had 123 kills and a .415 hitting percentage. Slosar, who could play the back row equally as well, also averaged five blocks and five digs, and she rated 94 percent on her serving.

"She is an intimidating force at the net both blocking and hitting," said coach Tim DeBeliso of the all-Catholic League selection.

"She displays a poise and confidence that is uncommon for her age. Her potential is unlimited at the collegiate level."

Kandi Boyle, senior, Mercy: Boyle, an adept setter, was to Slosar and Mercy's offense what Cibor was to Zatorski and the Spartan attack.

Another all-league and all-county player like her teammate, Boyle was successful on 95 percent of her setting attempts and 87 percent of her serves.

"She has excellent hands and a good presence of mind," DeBeliso said. "She

had the ability to bring the team to another level of play."

Sarah Adzima, junior, Ladywood: Adzima was one of several talented hitters who gave the Blazers a strong, balanced attack.

She averaged three kills per game as well as one serving ace. She was among the best at serve reception and, when on the service line, had an efficiency rating of 94 percent.

Adzima went from being the team's most improved player last year to an all-Catholic selection this year.

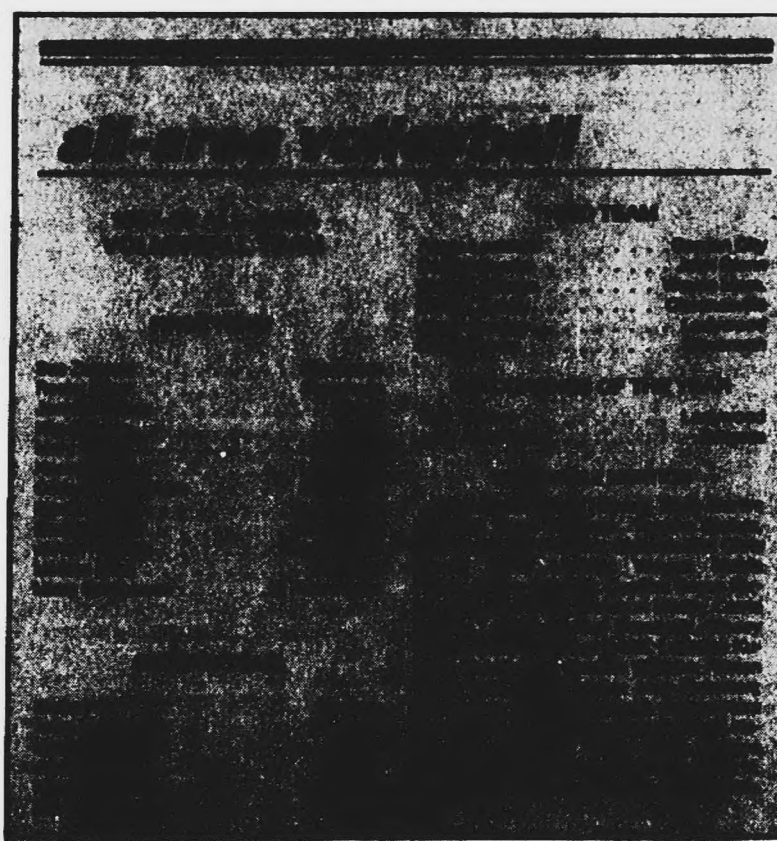
"Sarah has been our strongest outside hitter for the past two years," Teeters said. "She adjusted well to the shuttle set; her strength lies in a very consistent arm swing."

Corinne McNamara, senior, Ladywood: McNamara was Ladywood's top server with an average of three aces per game, but she also excelled in the front row where she averaged five kills and 3½ blocks.

Like Adzima, she made the Blazers a strong defensive team with her serve reception. In addition to all-league honors, she was all-region and a member of the all-state first team.

"She made the difference in the state finals by coming off the bench and playing on a sprained ankle in the second and third games," Teeters said. "She was still

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all-area volleyball



JoAnn Kolnitys Wayne Memorial



Melissa Mars Bishop Borgess



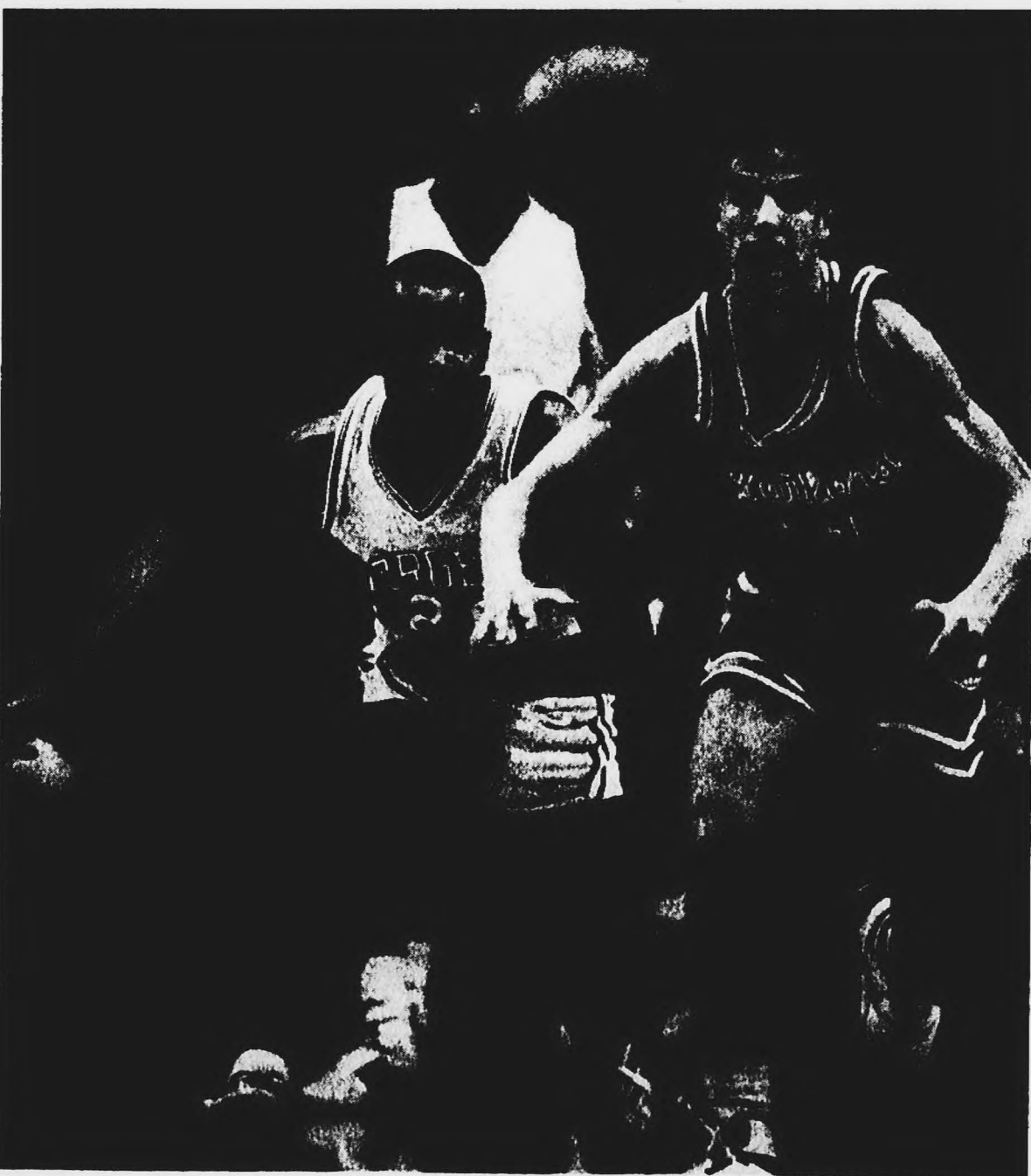
Missy Bosscawen N. Farmington



Tom Teeters Ladywood



Jerry Abraham Bishop Borgess



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Charles North (left) of Redford Bishop Borgess and Mark Wierenga of Grand Rapids South Christian chase down the loose ball during

second-half action in Saturday's Class B state basketball final.

Borgess 'B' title drive dashed in championship

By Brad Emons staff writer

Mr. Basketballs often do extraordinary things.

Matt Steigenga was no exception Saturday, leading Grand Rapids South Christian to the state Class B championship, a 69-66 victory over Redford Bishop Borgess before a packed house of 13,609 at the University of Michigan's Crisler Arena.

The 6-foot-7 forward scored 21 points, yanked down 15 rebounds and passed off for five assists, carrying the Sailors (27-1) to the coveted title.

But more importantly he managed to stay in the game after picking up his fourth personal foul near the end of the first half.

Borgess was on the verge of winning its first-ever crown, taking a 53-45 lead after three quarters on a driving layup by Dwayne Kelley.

But the Sailors roared back to the delight of the partisan South Christian crowd, taking the lead for good, 63-61, on two free throws by guard Mark Wierenga with 2:27 to play.

Steigenga then scored four straight points to widen the margin to six, 67-61, before Borgess made one last-ditch rally.

AFTER THE TWO teams exchanged two-pointers, Borgess's Shawn Respert drilled a three-point shot with eight seconds to go, cutting the deficit to three.

The Spartans then got the ball back, almost instantly, when 6-9 center Jeff Baker was called for traveling.

But with only two seconds left, no timeouts and the ball nearly 80 feet away from the basket, the odds were stacked against the Spartans, who couldn't convert a desperation attempt just inside the mid-court line as time expired.

"I said before the game that you have to play the entire 32 minutes to win it and unfortunately we didn't play all 32 minutes," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco, whose team bowed out with a 24-4 record.

South Christian's Jim Dykema, who captured his first state crown in 16 years of coaching, said there was no thought of leaving his star player on the bench to start the second half.

"WE WOULDN'T be here if it wasn't for him (Steigenga)," he said. "We can't win without him. We sat him out with three fouls against Flint Beecher (in Friday's semifinal) for one minute and we couldn't get the ball up court."

"It seems he had four fouls the last four or five games, but he plays smart basketball and we had to have him on the floor."

Steigenga's presence on the floor rubbed off on his teammates, particularly 6-foot, 140-pound guard Mark Wierenga, who squirmed his way to 21 points. Baker, the hero in Friday's 68-64 overtime win over Beecher, added 13.

Wierenga was a particular thorn in the Spartans' side, sneaking behind them for several layups.

"We were trying to press, but they broke it a couple of times so we had to be concerned about their transition points," Fusco said. "We were getting caught and we may have lost our intensity."

"Our guards got caught up penetrating the gaps. It's a Catch-22. On one hand you tell them to penetrate the gaps and go to the basket (on South Christian's zone defense), but on the other you're telling them to rotate back on defense."

BORGESS, ALONG WITH its star player, 6-7 Parish Hickman (Steigenga's future teammate at Michigan State), joined forces for an ice-cold start.

The Spartans fell behind 17-9 after one quarter as Hickman missed his first seven shots.

But things quickly changed in the second quarter, thanks to the play of Da Juan Smith, Eric Emanuel and Kelley.

The senior trio dogged the Sailors into a number of turnovers, converting steals into quick points. Hickman came alive as well offensively as the Spartans outscored South Christian 25-14 during the period to take a 34-31 halftime lead.

Borgess carried that momentum into the third quarter, but couldn't get that much sought-after fifth foul on Steigenga, the man who helped turn the tide.

"I was surprised he (Steigenga) started the second half," said Fusco. "Our team never had a specific offense to go at him. We were geared toward continuity and not toward any one situation."

"IN THE FIRST HALF our ball movement was not all that good. We weren't patient and we weren't getting the ball inside. In the second half we did a much better job of getting the ball inside."

The Spartans also got a lift off junior guard Charles North, who came off the bench to score nine points.

He scored a couple of key baskets during the third quarter. Smith also stole the ball and converted it into a three-point play, while Hickman added an impressive slam dunk on an alley-oop play from Kelley.

But the tide began to change when Steigenga opened the fourth quarter with a rebound slam-jam of his own.

"They're one of the best teams we've played," said Hickman, who led the Spartans with 21 points and 15 rebounds of his own. "They were ready to play today and they executed their game plan well."