

Satisfying season ends for St. Mary's

By MARTY BUDNER

With five seconds left, and his team trailing by nine points, Orchard Lake St. Mary coach Bob Shoemaker called a time out.

He had a message for the Eagles, whose season was about to end in the state Class C semifinals against Three Oaks River Valley Friday night at Ann Arbor's Crisler Arena.

"I wanted to tell the team I was proud of them," said Shoemaker. "I wanted them to finish the season with their heads up. I also wanted them to score another basket."

St. Mary's couldn't score again, and lost 58-49.

The game was decided when River Valley went on a 16-4 fourth-quarter scoring spree. The teams entered the final minutes tied at 37.

St. Mary's, which averaged 48 percent shooting from the floor this season, was cursed by poor shooting against River Valley. The Eagles finished the game at a 40 percent mark (21-53), including an arctic-like 34 percent (10-29) in the frustrating second half.

ST. MARY'S ended the 1980-81 season with a fine 21-4 record, including a district and regional championship.

"I'm not going to complain about this game at all," said Shoemaker, whose team gained the state semifinals with a 55-54 quarterfinal victory over Flint Hamady.

"I'm not ashamed of their effort at all. We just didn't have it today, and when you don't have it in a tournament like this you're going to get knocked out. We had a great tournament run."

"I never thought we'd get this far. I didn't think we could get past the districts. But, we just decided to pull together after the Catholic League tournament and have a successful tournament run."

St. Mary's dynamic duo of Ed Okuniewski and Hiram Harris accounted for most of the Eagles' offense by combining for 39 points. Harris, a 6-foot-5 junior, scored a game-high 20 points and Okuniewski added 19.

The remaining 10 points were spread out among three players.

"WE HAD the good shots, but we just couldn't score. The ball just didn't want

to go in for us," said Shoemaker, whose team employed a full-court press throughout the game.

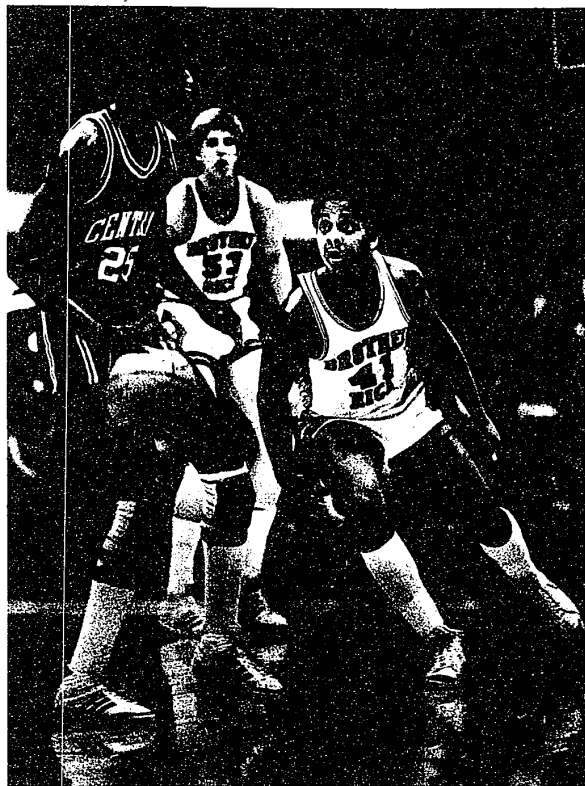
"They (River Valley) just wore us down a little bit defensively," he said. "It wasn't a matter of us being tired in the last quarter because we've pressed all year. We just got knocked out by a good team." It was a close game until the fourth quarter. St. Mary's held the lead throughout the first half, eventually owning a 27-25 halftime lead.

RIVER VALLEY (58) — ST. MARY (49)

THREE OAKS RIVER VALLEY (58) — Andrew Montgomery 4, 6-8, 14; Fred Lange 7, 4-7, 18; Scott Konkey 4, 5-4, 11; David Schaffer 4, 6-0, 8; Bobby Lewis 3, 1-3, 7; Dave Dudek 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS — 22, 14-22, 53

ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY (49) — Phil Kericki 1, 1-2, 5; Christopher Sass 0, 0-0, 0; Edward Okuniewski 5, 3-4, 19; Brent Green 0, 0-0, 0; Hiram Harris 10, 6-0, 20; Martin Vorisak 8, 2-2, 2; Carl Pellegata 2, 1-2, 5; Edward Bonk 0, 0-0, 0. TOTALS — 21, 7-10, 49

TOTAL FOULS — River Valley, 7; St. Mary 20. POULED OUT — Koncki (st. Mary). RIVER VALLEY 14 11 12 21 — 58. ST. MARY 18 9 10 12 — 49



Rice's Rodney Brown (41) harrasses Flint Central All-Stater Eric Turner during semifinal action at East Lansing's Jenison Fieldhouse. Turner wasn't bothered that much, however, as he led the Indians to a 68-58 basketball tournament victory Friday afternoon. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

THE END

Rice bumped from tourney

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

The end finally came Friday afternoon. Birmingham Brother Rice's three-week quest for the state basketball championship ended one game sooner than Warrior fans wished.

But when the Rice faithful, part of a capacity crowd of 10,004, left Jenison Fieldhouse in East Lansing, it knew why Flint Central's Eric Turner was featured on the cover of this year's tournament program.

Turner and his teammates never trailed against the Warriors, easily defeating Brother Rice, 68-58, in semifinal action.

The Warriors (22-4) kept things interesting — pulling within three points (37-34) early in the third quarter and within five points three times in the fourth period — but the Indians always stayed in control.

It was like an old-fashioned basketball clinic, and many times the Warriors stood in amazement as Turner dished off pass after pass to teammates Keith Grey and Marty Embry.

"I THINK THE only thing that kept things close was our poor free-throw shooting," said Central coach Stan Gooch, who admitted this wasn't his team's best performance.

Central, which averages 88 points per game, was led by Grey's 22 points. Turner added 20 points — hitting nine of 12 from the floor and seven in a row during the second and third quarters — and eight assists, while Embry had 11 points and 15 rebounds. Mark Harris chipped in with 12 points, six from the foul line.

Central (26-0), the only unbeaten team in Michigan going into Saturday's Class A championship game against undefeated Detroit Murray-Wright, hit only 14 of 24 foul shots and converted only five of 12 in the first half, when it had a chance to blow Rice away.

The Warriors never quit, however, cutting a 12-point second-quarter deficit (25-13) to only three points three minutes into the second half.

But Rice couldn't get its offense to produce at this critical time, much to the dismay of coach Bill Norton, who truly felt his squad could pull off the upset.

"WE HAD A CHANCE to break it open when we cut it to three," Norton said. "We just couldn't seem to sense the offensive opportunities — we've had that problem all year."

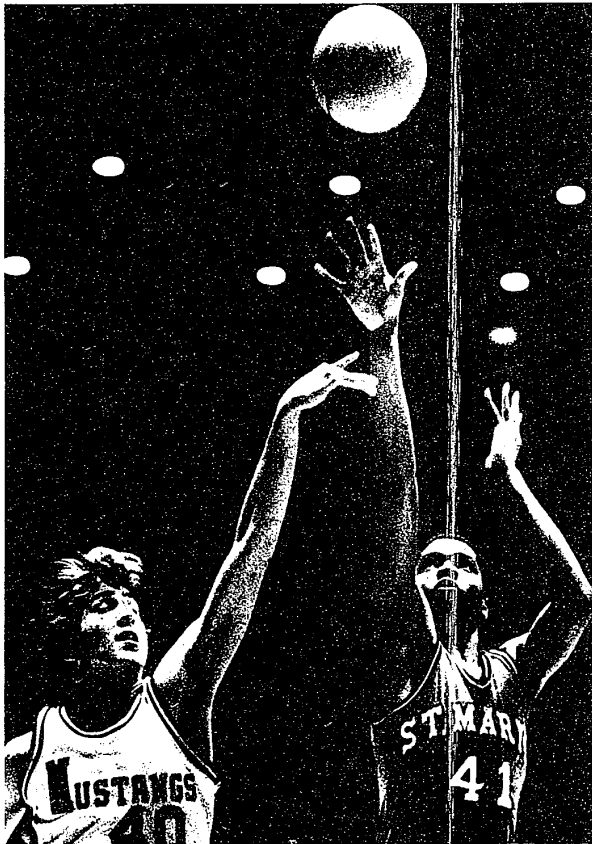
"I really thought we had them, but we couldn't get the offensive surge, especially against their pressure."

Although it wasn't Flint Central's sharpest game of the year, Gooch was impressed with Rice's defense and its three-quarter zone press which helped force Turner commit nine turnovers.

"When Eric saw that zone press, he slowed it down a bit," Gooch said of his 6-foot-3 All-State playmaker. "We were worried about it (the press)."

"They (Rice) rate one of the top three or four (teams) we've played," said Gooch, whose team is a member of the tough Saginaw Valley Conference. "They're not the outside shooting team that we see in the valley like Saginaw or (Flint) Northwestern."

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Hiram Harris (41) of St. Mary's shoots over River Valley's Fred Lange (40) in semifinal action Friday night at Ann Arbor. (Staff photo by John Stano)

Spikers sport savvy

By M.B. DILLON and DENNIS O'CONNOR

Experience is one key to most successful prep sports programs. And this theory holds true for this year's All-Observer & Eccentric volleyball team.

Six talented seniors comprise the first team, recently picked by a panel of area coaches.

First-team accolades go to Nancy Hughes of North Farmington, the only returning selection, Stacey Young of Bloomfield Hills Andover, Chris Dichting of Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Karen Klezek of Birmingham Groves, Monique Mansoura of Southfield-Lathrup and Shelley Kefgen of Andover.

Andover's Bob Hurdle is this year's coach-of-the-year.

"Nancy Hughes is an all-around player in all skills in volleyball," said North Farmington coach Sandy Lubienicki.

"Lots of tall girls in the state are good hitters but are ineffective in other areas."

"On our team, Nancy is the strongest hitter and blocker and has the best hands for setting. She's a tremendous digger — and her serve reception is outstanding. She's mastered all the fundamentals."

"I've coached her since eighth grade, and she's missed one practice."

YOUNG, A THREE-YEAR start-

er on Andover's varsity, was called "one of the dominant hitters in Oakland County" by Baron coach Hurdle.

"Stacey is an all-around player, plays well around the net and is a good blocker. She was our captain this year and led the team to a very good season record."

Lahser coach Fred Youngman, likewise, believes Dichting is one of the best players in Oakland County.

"She plays all around the court, sets at a 92 percent rate and is a very smart defensive player," the Knights' coach said.

"Chris was one of the few players to play 100 percent of the time in all our games. Without her, we couldn't" (Continued on Page 3C)



BOB HURDLE Andover-coach

All-Area volleyball

FIRST TEAM

PLAYER	SCHOOL	YEAR
Nancy Hughes	North Farmington	Senior
Stacey Young	Bloomfield Hills Andover	Senior
Chris Dichting	Bloomfield Hills Lahser	Senior
Karen Klezek	Birmingham Groves	Senior
Monique Mansoura	Lathrup	Senior
Shelley Kefgen	Bloomfield Hills Andover	Senior
Bob Hurdle	Bloomfield Hills Andover	Coach

SECOND TEAM — Jodi Fedor, Bloomfield Hills Lahser; Ericka Bauer, Rochester High School; Jackie Bryant, Southfield-Lathrup; Fran Varley, Birmingham Marian; Julie Sharkey, Troy Athens; Tami O'Dell, North Carolina.

THIRD TEAM — Julie Graham, Southfield High School; Jill Goets, Bloomfield Hills Andover; Lori Russell, Birmingham Groves; Cindy Evans, Troy Athens; Chris Lossler, Farmington High School; Amy Minzaff, North Farmington.