

Orchard Lake St. Mary makes quarterfinals

By JOHN BOZZO

"OLSM Number One in Michigan!" That's the cheer Egleet fans have been chanting since the fall football season.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's football lived up to the billing by winning the Class C state football championship.

As the Eaglets wind their way through the Class D basketball tournaments (they dropped to Class D because their enrollment declined) they gather more believers to their claim for the top spot.

Flint Holy Rosary, last fall's Class D football title winner, is the latest convert.

Evaristo Perez's 22 points and

James Paciorek's 18 points lifted Orchard Lake to an overwhelming 76-57 victory in the regional championship game, Friday at Davison High School.

David Kay and Barry Bugaj contributed 12 and 11 points respectively to the Orchard Lake effort.

"In my seven years of coaching basketball," said Orchard Lake's Bob Shoemaker, "I've been to the regional finals two other times. My St. Andrew teams lost twice. Both times the best team won. Tonight's game was won by the better team."

ORCHARD LAKE advances to quarter-final play 7:30 p.m., Wednesday at Cornuna against Saranac.

The best performance by Orchard Lake in basketball tournament play goes back to 1972 when St. Mary's reached the semi-finals. James Paciorek and Dave Kay each had a brother on that team, according to Shoemaker. This year's regional title was only in doubt for the first few minutes of the opening quarter.

Flint Holy Rosary traded basket for basket with St. Mary's early in the first quarter with Paciorek shooting 10 of Orchard Lake's 19 in the period.

Despite Paciorek's efforts, the Eaglets could only gain a four-point lead until 1:34 of the period when Evaristo Perez put together a three-point play and Kay hit tossed in a lay-up. Paciorek had an assist on both field goals.

He finished the game with six assists.

St. Mary's began the second quarter with a nine-point, 19-10, lead. They took the wind from Holy Rosary's sails in the opening seconds of the period when Perez blocked a Holy Rosary shot. Kay grabbed the loose basketball. He tossed a pass to Gregory Williamson at half-court. Williamson hit Bugaj with a pass right under the Holy Rosary basket for an easy two points.

EAGLET PLAYERS kept building their lead the next two quarters. Midway through the third period, Orchard Lake gained its biggest advantage of the game, a 25-point lead, 51-26.

Orchard Lake players were 59 percent from the floor, making 34 of 57

shots. They were 61 percent from the free throw line, canning 21 of 34 attempts.

Holy Rosary players made only 21 of 60 field goal attempts for 35 percent. They were 15 of 21 from the charity stripe for 71 percent.

Orchard Lake had a big 39-26 edge in rebounding. Perez and Paciorek each had 10. Bugaj grabbed nine caroms off the backboard for Orchard Lake.

Flint Holy Rosary made one final charge. They came within 17 in the early moments of the fourth quarter. Eaglet coach Shoemaker called time out after 53 seconds of the final period.

"I've seen Flint Holy Rosary play twice," Shoemaker said. "They really spurt in the fourth quarter. I told my kids that Flint was going to come at

us, that we had to be patient and look for the lay-up. We were in our lay-up offense. We work the ball and shoot only lay-ups."

Orchard Lake's victory preserved its unbeaten record at 24 consecutive games. Flint Holy Rosary fell to 17-8 with the loss.

ST. MARY'S 76—HOLY ROSARY 57

St. Mary's (18): David Kay 5, 23, 12; Tom Sikora 8, 12, 1; Gregory Williamson 8, 8; Evaristo Perez 7, 4, 11; James Paciorek 2, 25, 18; Barry Bugaj 5, 13, 11; Bob Carroll 0, 5, 3; Phil Osmolowski 0, 3, 2; Matt Martin 0, 2, 0; Alan Kay 0, 0, 0; Trevis 3, 2, 0, 3.

Holy Rosary (21): Joe Ames 0, 0, 1, 0; John Masewer 2, 2, 2, 0; John Candy 0, 0, 0; Mike Benjamin 0, 0, 1, 0; Mike Ayre 4, 2, 3, 10; Ron Fry 0, 2, 1, 0; Dan Labous 1, 5, 7; Jeff Fry 0, 0, 0; Tony Kroka 0, 0, 0; Mike McFarland 3, 3, 13; Toash 21, 15, 21, 57.

Total Points: St. Mary's 76; Holy Rosary 57.

Fielded Out: Mike Ayre (HR), Ron Fry (HR).

ST. MARY'S 19 14 11 32 —57
HOLY ROSARY 18 11 11 32 —57

In hockey tournament

Cranbrook eliminates Lahser

By CHARLES RISAK

Cranbrook's hockey team depth proved too much for Bloomfield Hills Lahser Friday night, as they defeated the Knights 4-3 to win the Tier I regional hockey championship at the Bloomfield Expo.

Cranbrook advances to the quarter-final game, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, at St. Clair shores.

"The key was our three forward lines against their two," said Cranbrook coach Ted Kelley. "We felt we could tire them out with the strategy and we did."

Lahser coach Don Bessolo agreed. "They had more skaters, and it had a definite effect, but I wouldn't trade any of my players for any others in the league. We gave them all they could handle," said Bessolo.

The first half of the opening period

belonged to Cranbrook as they skated past the Lahser ice men. But it was while a Cranbrook player was in the penalty box that the first two goals were scored.

Cranbrook co-captain Bob Zdanowski scored a short-handed goal at 11:31 of the opening period, to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead. However, it was a short-lived lead. One minute later, Lahser's Dave Luton took a pass from Govan Durge and beat Crane goalie Tim Hildebrand, knotting the score 1-1.

MOMENTS LATER, Cranbrook took advantage of a Lahser penalty to regain the lead. Senior forward Greg Black scored the power-play goal on a pass from Durge and beat Crane goalie Tim Hildebrand, knotting the score 1-1.

Lahser started the second period as if they were not to be outdone. Battling

the faster, fresher Cranbrook forwards, the Knights took control of play in the next six minutes of the second period.

The hustle paid off as Lahser's Jay Vanderster scored the tying goal, shooting the puck out of a scramble in front of the Cranbrook net.

Mike Miller was credited with an assist on the goal, which came with both teams playing one man short.

That seemed to wake up Cranbrook. One minute and 30 seconds later Norm Jacobs beat Lahser goalie Will Daines to give Cranbrook a 2-2 lead.

Lahser continued to pound away throughout the second period. The Knights had several scoring opportunities. But the play of Cranbrook's senior defenseman Rick Loewenstein proved to be the difference.

Time after time, Loewenstein checked Lahser players off the ice and kept them away from the Cranbrook goal. Loewenstein played nearly the entire night, taking just one 30-second break in the first period.

THE LAST PERIOD was played very fast. Again it was the fresher Cranbrook forwards, combined with the play of Crane co-captains Zdanowski and Loewenstein that proved the difference.

Zdanowski scored his second goal of the night at the 5:30 mark, upping Cranbrook's lead to 4-2. But Lahser didn't give up. At 3:24 of the period, Durge seemed to bring the Knights within one, 4-3.

Cranbrook kept control of play during the final minutes, doing Lahser a chance at the tying goal.

"I've been scouting Lahser since early in the season," said Cranbrook coach Kelley. "Thinking we might meet them in the regional finals. We wanted to play our three lines to their two and wanted to keep their wings from winding up and taking the big slap shot."

"I think we could have played better offensively, but they were a very good team," Kelley said.

Soccer, lacrosse clinics planned

The Official Sports Center will sponsor a free clinic for soccer and lacrosse coaches from 8:30 a.m. to noon on March 18 at the center's Southfield offices.

Featured speakers include Mick Lakatos, head soccer coach at Macomb Community College; Larry Christoff, head soccer coach at Schoolcraft College; Van Dimitriu, head

soccer coach at the University of Michigan-Dearborn; and Gene Reilly, head lacrosse coach at Detroit Country Day School.

Interested coaches may register at 8:30 a.m. Saturday The Official Sports Center is located at 26900 Bridge, one block west of Telegraph and one-half block north of Eight Mile Road.

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