

Despite recent setback

Lahser tops O&E cage poll

By C.J. RISAK
 Despite early-season setbacks, the top teams in the Observer & Eccentric basketball poll should still enjoy banner seasons.
 Bloomfield Hills Lahser, with a 4-1 record, fell from the ranks of the unbeaten when it was surprised by Class D powerhouse Detroit East Catholic, 77-64, last Friday. But the Knights are still considered the top squad in the area, in the opinion of O&E sports editors.
 Birmingham Brother Rice (No. 2 in the poll) was ambushed in its first two contests of the season, losing to Warren and River Rouge. But the Warriors

have rebounded to win their last four games.
 In third place in the O&E poll is Southfield, the defending Southeastern Michigan Association champions. The Blue Jays sport a mediocre 3-2 record, but their losses have come against tough teams, Detroit Catholic Central and Ferndale.
 Orchard Lake St. Mary, the fourth-rated squad, is distinguished from the other six teams in the rankings for two reasons. OISM is the only non-Class A squad (the Eagles are Class D) and is also the only undefeated member.
 In the fifth spot is Rochester Adams, which has a 4-1 record. The Highlan-

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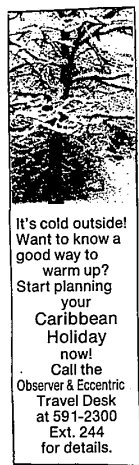
ders only loss was to Lahser.
 Rochester finished sixth in the first O&E poll of the season, collecting one more point than seventh-ranked Southfield-Lathrup.
OTHER TEAMS that received votes were Birmingham Groves (with a 2-2 season record), Southfield Christian (5-1) and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (4-1).
 Lahser's loss to East Catholic did not upset coach Nick Conti, who noted that his team was playing without its top outside shooting threat, 6-foot-4 guard Tim Wau. Wau, a senior, was sidelined with the flu.
 Wau's absence allowed East Catholic to concentrate on stopping the Knights' inside scoring game with a collapsing zone defense.
 "It was very clear from the onset that their intention was to shut down everything inside and make us hit the perimeter shot, and our best perimeter shooter (Wau) was sitting next to me

O&E CAGE RANKINGS
 (Records as of Jan. 7)

1. B. H. Lahser (27 points) . . . 4-1
2. Birmingham Brother Rice (21) . . . 4-2
3. Southfield (14) . . . 3-2
4. Orchard Lake St. Mary (12) . . . 6-0
5. Rochester Adams (7) . . . 4-1
6. Rochester (4) . . . 4-1
7. Southfield-Lathrup (3) . . . 3-2

Cage standings

AREA PREP CAGE STANDINGS (As of Jan. 7)	Troy 0 1 1 Uica 0 1 1 M.H. Lamphere 0 1 1	NORTHWEST SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION Redford Union 2 0 x Theriot 1 1 1 N Farmington 1 1 1 Liv Frankin 1 1 1 G.C. East 1 1 1 Westland Glenn 0 2 3
GREATER OAKLAND ACTIVITIES LEAGUE W L GB	Rochester 3 0 x Clarkston 3 0 x Andover 2 1 1 W Bloomfield 1 2 2 Wat Kettering 0 3 3 Milford 0 3 3	SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION Ferndale 2 0 x Berkeley 2 0 x Southfield 1 1 1 Birm Seaholm 0 2 2 R.O. Kimball 0 2 2 Hazel Park 0 2 2
METRO CONFERENCE Hantamack 3 0 x Harper Woods 1 0 1 Lathrup North 2 1 1 Lathrup West 1 1 1 Cranbrook 0 1 2 Country Day 0 2 2 Lutheran East 0 2 2	CATHOLIC LEAGUE A-B DIVISION CENTRAL BRACKET Brother Rice 1 0 x Catholic Central 1 0 x DeLaSalle 1 0 x Notre Dame 0 1 1 Bishop Borgess 0 1 1 U.D. 0 1 1	WESTERN SIX LEAGUE Waterford Mott 2 0 x Farm Harrison 1 0 1 Plymouth Canton 1 1 1 Northville 1 1 1 Liv Churchhill 0 1 1 W.L. Western 0 2 2
METRO SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION Lahser 2 0 x Rochester Adams 1 1 1 Birmingham Groves 1 1 1	C.D. DIVISION WEST BRACKET O.L. St. Mary's 2 0 x Mt. Carmel 2 0 x St. Agatha 1 1 1 St. Andrew 1 1 1 A.A. Gab. Richard 0 2 2 St. Florian 0 2 2	OVERALL STANDINGS O.L. St. Mary's 4 0 x S. Christian 5 1 x Rochester 5 1 x Lahser 4 1 x Cranbrook 4 1 x Rochester Adams 4 1 x
OAKLAND A LEAGUE Clawson 1 0 x Lake Orion 1 0 x Oxford 1 0 x Romeo 1 0 x U. Eichenbawser 1 0 x U. Ford 1 0 x Madison Hts. 0 1 1 Chippewa Valley 0 1 1 Avalonide 0 1 1	INTER-LAKES LEAGUE Waterford 2 0 x M.H. Lakeland 1 1 1 Wall Lake Central 1 1 1 Farmington 1 1 1 Liv Stevenson 0 1 1 Pontiac Northern 0 1 1	Country Day 1 0 x Birm Seaholm 1 0 x North Farmington 1 0 x West Bloomfield 2 0 x Farmington 1 0 x Troy 1 0 x Avalonide 1 0 x Roper 0 0 x Troy Athens 0 0 x



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