

Prep basketball poll

Lahser cagers keep top spot

By C.J. RISAK

Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Birmingham Brother Rice remained atop the Observer & Eccentric area basketball poll...

DeLaSalle Friday. Senior guard Brian Brennan was the hero, stealing a DeLaSalle inbound pass with five seconds left...

Despite the odds, the Eaglets keep making believers out of opposing coaches.

SOUTHFIELD HAS won only five of eight games this year, but the Blue Jays losses have come against some worthy opponents...

Southfield won last Friday, burying Berkley, 81-67. Southfield-Lathrup held onto the No. 5 spot in the poll.

Southfield Christian became the second Class D team to crack the O&E rating, moving into sixth position.

Rochester Adams dropped to seventh in the rating after losing to a weak Royal Oak Dondero squad, 63-62.

Rochester, rated seventh last week, fell from the rankings after losing twice. The Falcons were edged by North Farmington Tuesday (62-54) and were drubbed by highly-touted Clarkston Friday, 43-22.

Ed Okuniewski, a 6-foot-6 pivotman, is the sole junior starter. Hiram Harris, 6-4, Don Smeznik, 6-0, and Don Butcher, 5-11, are all sophomores and Scott Adubato, 5-11, is a freshman.

But age isn't the only odd trait of the OLSM squad. Before the Christmas break, the starting five was connecting on over 58 percent of its floor shots.

OLSM also has two familiar names in its lineup - Adubato and Butcher, both sons of Detroit Piston basketball coaches.

Lahser held on to its two-point advantage over Rice, holding a 2-1 margin in first-place votes from the O&E sports staff. Despite their lofty ranking, the Knights haven't played up to par thus far this season.

Moving up to third in the ranking was Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Rated four a week ago, the Eaglets improved their record to 9-0 - the only undefeated team in the poll - with a pair of wins last week.

OLSIM, a Class D school that plays in

Cage standings

Table with columns for AREA PREP CAGE STANDINGS, SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION, GREATER OAKLAND ATHLETIC LEAGUE, METRO CONFERENCE, METRO SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION, OAKLAND-A LEAGUE, NORTHWEST SUBURBAN LEAGUE, WESTERN SIX LEAGUE, CATHOLIC LEAGUE, MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, WESTERN LAKES LEAGUE, and OVERALL STANDINGS.

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OCC cagers log another loss The hard times continue for Oakland Community College's basketball team, once the leader of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference, lost its third-straight league game last Saturday, a 76-65 decision to Highland Park Community College.

A bad second half was OCC's downfall. The losers posted a 39-27 halftime lead, and then scored the first six points of the second stanza to go up by 18 (45-27). But Highland Park, led by 6-foot-5 forward Keith Cook, came back with a 12-point spurt of its own. Cook led all scorers with 33 points. Anthony Bernard and Darryl Alicenti scored 22 and 17 points, respectively, for OCC.

OCC, now 7-5 in the Eastern Conference and 9-9 overall, plays next on Saturday (Jan. 26) at Schoolcraft College. Game time is 8 p.m.

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