

OLSM 3rd in O&E poll

Close contests highlight prep cage week

By C.J. RISAK

Last week was expected to be a big one for the teams rated in the Observer & Eccentric cage poll. It turned out to be more exciting than anyone could have predicted.

OCC falls to Monroe in OT

Missed opportunities proved costly for Oakland Community College's basketball team last Saturday, as the Raiders bumbled in overtime to Monroe Community College, 100-97, at Monroe. OCC rallied from a 10-point deficit with four minutes left in regulation time to knot the score at 89-89 in the final minute. The Raiders' Mike Golinick had a breakthrough with 21 seconds left, which would have given OCC the lead. But the ball was knocked from his grasp.

With seven seconds left, Golinick again had an opportunity to give OCC the lead with a one-and-one free throw situation. He missed the first shot, how-

ed his best game as a Raider, netting 22 markers.

OCC trailed, 41-36, with a minute left in the first half. But the Raiders scored the next six points to take a 42-41 lead. The Raiders had the ball and were playing for the last shot of the half when Monroe's Don Wintzler stole it from DeYoung and scored on a layup for a 43-42 Monroe halftime advantage.

Wintzler led all scorers with 29 points. Teammate Gary Hatter scored 22, with Brad Roll adding 16 and Calvin Allison 15.

Joining Clausell and DeYoung in double figures for OCC were Stan Ruffin with 17 and Golinick with 14.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 45-43, last Tuesday.

Southfield-Lathrup passed city-rival Blue Jays, 66-65, last Tuesday.

On Friday, Lathrup went up against

ference of four points. But other contests of equal importance and with equally close results were also played last Friday.

Rice faced Detroit Catholic Central for the second time this season. The Warriors were three-point winners in the first meeting, but this time it was CC that emerged the victor by a 49-44 score.

The five-point win gave CC a two-point edge in the point spread between the two games, allowing them to assume first place in the Catholic A-B League. Both Rice and CC have lost once in the conference.

SOUTHFIELD ALSO faced a must-win situation last Friday. The Blue Jays went up against Ferndale, a team that had defeated the Jays earlier in the season.

This time, it was Southfield that came out on top by a 77-75 margin in overtime. The win put Southfield in a first-place tie with Ferndale for the SMA title.

As the league seasons enter the stretch run, five of the O&E's top seven teams are either leading their respective leagues or still in the title chase.

Lathrup, tied for third place with Orchard Lake St. Mary's in the poll, has a slim shot at the MSA crown. The Chargers trail Lahser by two games.

Rice is in a virtual tie for first in the Catholic A-B League, Southfield is tied with Ferndale in the SMA, and St. Mary's leads the Catholic C-D League with a 12-0 record.

Filling out the poll is Southfield fifth, Rochester sixth and Bloomfield Hills Andover seventh.

OLSM kept its record perfect with a pair of easy wins last week. The Eagles dumped Redford St. Agatha, 96-63, last Tuesday and beat Hamtramck St. Florian, 69-43, on Friday.

Rochester got 61 points from forward Chris Ribant in defeating Birmingham Groves, 78-64, Tuesday, and West Bloomfield, 58-49, Friday. Ribant's 31 points against Groves was his career best.

Andover was beaten by Ferndale, 54-40, last Tuesday but whipped Milford, 55-47, on Friday behind guard Tim Meter's 34 points.

O&E GATE RATING
(Records as of Feb. 4, 1980)

- 1. Brother Rice (27 points) . . . 10-3
- 2. B.H. Lahser (21) . . . 10-2
- 3. (tie) Southfield-Lathrup (13) . . . 9-4
- 4. O.L. St. Mary's (13) . . . 9-4
- 5. Southfield (10) . . . 8-4
- 6. Rochester (5) . . . 8-5
- 7. B.H. Andover (4) . . . 7-5

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