

St. Clement topples OLSM in overtime

By C.J. RISAK

The odds finally caught up with Orchard Lake St. Mary's basketball team.

The Eagles lost their bid for a Class C district championship to Center Line St. Clement 57-51 in overtime Friday at Harper Woods Lutheran East.

Greg Muchnj was the clutch performer for St. Clement. The 6-foot-5 senior center earned a short turnaround jumper with 58 seconds left in regulation time to tie the game at 51-51 and eventually force the overtime.

Muchnj continued his heroics in the extra period, connecting on four straight free throws to ice the victory for St. Clement. He finished the game with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

It was a disappointing loss for the Eagles, who finished the season with an 18-4 record. Fate finally caught up with OLSM, a team that had no seniors, had just one player with previous tournament experience and that played in the districts without their starting center and one forward.

Ed Okuniewski, the Eagles' 6-5 pivotman, injured his ankle in a game last week against Southgate Aquinas. Carl Pellegata, a 6-1 sophomore forward, hurt his shoulder, aggravating a collarbone injury originally suffered last football season.

BOTH INJURIES cost OLSM heavily on the boards. St. Clement enjoyed a 40-23 rebounding advantage.

But it wasn't the rebounding that Eaglet coach Bob Shoemaker thought cost his team a victory — it was the officiating.

St. Clement went to the free throw line 24 times (making 17) to only seven chances for OLSM (three made). The Eagles outshot St. Clement from the

floor, converting 24 of 49 field goal attempts (49 percent) to 20 of 55 for the Crusaders (36 percent). "I can't believe why they missed," Shoemaker said of the officials. "Violations, players crawling on each other backs — I think they must have been watching the ball, not the game."

"I think they took it lightly because it wasn't a Class A game. They (St. Clement) were the fouling team, the pressing team. And how many free throws did they shoot?"

OLSM led most of the way during regulation time. After a tight first quarter, the Eagles opened up a 10-point advantage (27-17) midway through the second period. Sophomore guard Don Butcher provided the spark with 10 points in the quarter.

OLSM led by eight at the half (33-25), but the Crusaders charged back to within three after three quarters. Bob Gassman led the assault with nine points in the quarter.

The final quarter was close throughout. Dave Montgomery, who replaced Okuniewski at center for OLSM, scored two straight baskets, the second with 2:10 remaining to give the Eagles a 51-49 lead.

OLSM had the ball and the lead with 1:18 left when Butcher threw a pass out of bounds. Muchnj hit the tying bucket and Butcher took the Eagles' last shot with eight seconds left and missed.

Muchnj's four free throws were sandwiched around Butcher's missed first foul shot in a one-and-one situation.

Butcher and Hiram Harris each had 16 points for OLSM. Harris also had 11 rebounds and Butcher passed off for five assists and notched three steals.

Gassman had 19 points and 11 rebounds for St. Clement. Guard Paul Wouters had eight points, five assists and four steals.

Brother Rice cagers capture district crown

By DENNIS O'CONNOR

There was 4:53 left in the game. Bloomfield Hills Andover was ahead by one point, 37-36.

Baron coach John Maloney had visions of another upset over Bill Norton, his mentor at Birmingham Brother Rice.

But, ah, the teacher would have none of that. He remembered vividly the 58-53 outcome two years ago when his former student-player and assistant coach knocked him out of the state tournament.

So Norton, the teacher, raised his mighty fist, calling for the backdoor play. His squad worked it beautifully — twice — once from the right side and then from the left side. Judd Hart scored both baskets to put Rice back in control.

The Warriors never trailed after that, winning the Birmingham Seaholm Class A District title, 49-43, Friday night. The teams was the third of eight games Norton hopes his squad can win in the quest for the state title. Game No. 4 comes Wednesday night when the Warriors battle the winner of last Saturday's Detroit Henry Ford-Royal Oak Dundero game in the first round of the Southfield-Lathrup Regional.

"The 'FIST' play, as it turned out, helped Hart to his game-high 19 points and, in Maloney's opinion, the difference in the game."

"We prepared for it," Maloney said of the backdoor play. "I saw them run it against East Catholic. We just didn't react to it."

Another key to the Warriors' hard-earned district title was their overall team defense which kept Andover outside most of the night. Sophomore Paul Jokisch, in particular, received praise from Norton for his defense on Tim Meter. The Barons' leading scorer was held to only 10 points, making a mere three of 11 field goal attempts.

"The job Paul Jokisch did on Tim Meter was fantastic," the Rice coach said. Jokisch also added 14 points, pulled down eight rebounds and registered three assists and three steals.

"We knew we would have to set screens to have Tim come up and shoot, but we didn't do it," Maloney said. "But that's Brother Rice's strength. I'm alone"

surprised they held Tim Meter to 10 points. I thought we'd get better shots for him."

RICE HELD the upstart most of the game, but the scappy Barons wouldn't quit, thanks, in part, to Mike Donaldson who scored 11 first-half points and 17 for the night. Rice led 9-6 after the first quarter, and maintained that three-point edge at halftime (24-21) and after three quarters (34-31).

Although it was Rice which maintained control of the game in the final minutes, Norton had some kind words for the Barons.

"I thought it would be a close, hard game," Norton said as his 18-5 squad celebrated the victory over the 10-12 Barons. "To me, Andover is like Divine Child or DeLaSalle."

John Maloney has coached in the Catholic League. His teams play tough man-to-man defense. They play a lot like my teams.

"Andover will always be hard to beat with John Maloney there."

Maloney, also, was full of praise for Norton, "one of the most important people in his life," with the Rice squad. In fact, Maloney felt his lack of coaching experience played a role in the outcome.

"I guess it comes down to 15 (actually 18 for Norton) years versus three years of coaching experience," the Barons coach said. "It's not that I don't try hard... I've never shortchanged anyone on hours."

"Some teams always seem to win the close games — and that's Brother Rice — that's good coaching — that's excellent coaching."

NOW, WITH THE district trophy in his hands, Norton eyes a regional title and even said "I think we have a chance at the state title." — with one qualification.

"We have to keep playing like this. We have to hustle and scrap and play with intensity. We aren't an awesome team, but we do things well."

And what about the competition ahead.

"There is no one, in the immediate future, that is a threat to us in the regionals, quarterfinals or the semifinals."

That should make for an interesting week ahead.

in the pocket/W.W. Edgar

The national team match game championships that in years gone by were the feature of the bowling season are about to be revived.

A movement started in the middle west is gaining interest and if present plans go through, there is a chance that the outstanding combinations in the country will be at it next season.

When they were popular, Detroit was the center of many a royal struggle. With such teams as Stroh, E&B, Pfeiffers that boasted such stars as Don Carter, Tom Hennessy and Lee Jouglat, along with Joe Norris and Lou Siefert and George Young, interest was always at a high pitch.

The backers of the movement think interest could be brought back. It's worth trying.

BECAUSE OF THE last minute rush, entries for the men's city tournament which opens at Hartford Lanes in Berkeley April 12 have been extended to March 15. Tom Mc Kay, executive secretary of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, stated that the extension was granted in the hope of a record above last year's entry.

IF JOHN HURLEY was upset because he wasn't credited with an ABC record for consecutive 600 games last week, he didn't show it on the lanes at Westland Bowl last Wednesday.

Bowling in the Men's league, he linked games of 209, 264 and 187 for a 660. It was his 49th series in the 600 category. The record has been established at 52.

SCORING SLUMPED in the Wondaland Classic and, for the first time in weeks, no one broke the 400 barrier.

The closest anyone came was Don Foster who fired a 696 with games of 222, 241 and 233.

Next in line came the veteran Dick Preston with 675 that included a 235 finishing. John Hay with a 268 in 666 and Ralph Westphal with 655.

THE LADIES turned in some fine performances in the classic at Westland. When the firing ceased, Mary Ann Foster was out in front with a 244 in 660. Five pins behind her came Kim Jones with 655, Betty New with 606 and Jane Martin with 604. Sherry Bevis rolled a 249 game to post her first 600 series.

JIM WALSH had an unusual experience at Plymouth Bowl in his regular league session. He was going along as usual and then left up the "impossible" 4-6-7-10 split.

Most bowlers faced with such a problem usually throw a ball and turn their back. But Jim didn't. He watched his ball and what he saw he won't forget. The ball rolled to left side, knocked over 4-7 and they careened across the lane and toppled the other two. It happens maybe once in a lifetime.

A MOTHER-DAUGHTER combination stole the show in the Thursday Flyers league at Woodland Lanes. While daughter Linda Woodstock took high series with 573, her mother, Minnie, won high single with 217.

In the other leagues John Teslak paced the St. Theodore loop with a 244 in 695 and Ralph Starkey was high in the senior house league with games of 210 and 214.

AT MERRI-BOWL the high score turned in was a 256 game in a 640 series that enabled Carl Hampton to pace the senior house league. In the bowlerettes Cindy Wright, with a 133 average, was tops with games of 232 and 235 in 611.

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