

Girls' basketball preview

Ladywood hopes to continue cage success

By DOUG FUNKE

Tom Lang, girls' basketball coach at Livonia Bentley, and Ed Kavanaugh, basketball coach at Ladywood, have compiled two of the more impressive records in the area during the past five seasons.

Both expect big things from their squads when the 1980 campaign begins next week, too.

Lang enters his fourth season as coach of the Bulldogs with a 58-15

record. During his three-year tenure, Bentley has won the Suburban Eight League championship once (last season with a 10-0 record) and finished second the other two seasons.

The Bulldogs have won three district titles and two regional championships in the Class A state tournament.

Lang seems to have a knack for shuffling people in and out of the lineup to get the most from all of his players. He has had some good talent to work with, also.

Four letter winners return this season from last year's squad which compiled a ledger of 22-2.

Carla Campbell, a 5-7 guard who was voted to the all-Observer team last season, will captain the Bulldogs this year. She averaged 13 points per game.

The other starter back is Ann Roy, a 5-7 forward. Jeannette Bartle, a 5-8 center, and Lisa Parsons, a 5-4 guard, also earned letters last fall and figure to see action this season.

Three girls who played with the JV

last season also figure in Lang's plans — Tina Ostach, Kim Archer and Lori Swanson. Both Swanson and Archer have good size, 6-foot and 5-10, respectively.

"Our first goal is to win the league," Lang said. "We're young due to inexperience but I still think we're going to be the team to beat."

LADYWOOD will not be especially tall this season. However, there can be no denying the speed and experience.

Kavanaugh's record is as impressive as Lang's. The Blazers have put together a ledger of 73-21 the past four years, 19-5 last season. They were Catholic League champs last fall.

The Blazers' two big goals this year are to win its division and win a regional title, something they have never done. Thoughts of a state Class B championship are also dancing through their heads.

Leslie Nadeau, a 5-10 forward who averaged 17 points per game, is back for her final season. The senior earned all-state, all-Observer and all-Catholic accolades last year.

Roma Greenberg, a 5-10 center, averaged 12 points per contest last year. Geri Petrik, 5-10 forward averaged nine points and Meg White, 5-7 guard, eight points and five assists per game.

All are back as is Colleen Schwalm, a guard. Roseanne Oldford, a 5-8 guard who played with the JV last year, will be expected to contribute with the varsity.

"We're not exceptionally tall," said Kavanaugh. "We're going to run a lot and press a lot. We have 11 players and we're looking for a lot of contributions from the bench."

Chris Stelberger, a 5-9 forward, and Sue Anderson, a 5-9 center.

Other players back with varsity experience are Lisa Rose and Sharon Laird, both guards, and Mary DeWolff, a forward.

"Our emphasis this year is on speed," said Stasiak. "We won't be as big as most teams. We will have to try to outdo other teams by hustling."

The Trojans have been working hard on the fast break, Stasiak added.

"The attitude on the team is great," she said. "They have desire, dedication and, most of all, determination to do well."

Brother Rice gridders gear up

By M.B. DILLON

Birmingham Brother Rice football coach Al Fracassa can't see making a prediction about his Warriors' prowess this season.

"Ask me in the middle of the season," said Fracassa.

"I'll say this — we have three good goals," the Warrior coach said. "No. 1, to win the championship, No. 2, to play as many boys as we can; and No. 3, to play as best we can."

The Warriors, who finished last year's season with records of 6-3 overall and 3-2 in their league, took third place in the Central Division of the Catholic League.

"I'm not ashamed of last year," stated Fracassa. "We lost to a team from Cincinnati that's the best football team I've ever seen on the high school level, but we held our own."

"We held our own against Catholic Central, too. It took a last-minute field goal for them to beat us. It was a good game, and I'm proud of my kids even though they lost."

NAN and running back Jim Browne left huge holes in the Rice backfield by graduating to Boston College and Northwestern University, respectively.

"We lost a fine athlete in Brian, and Jim will be missed a lot. He's a fine runner," said Fracassa.

That's no exaggeration. Browne led the team in rushing last year with 1,015 yards. He was also the team's leading punter with 1,049 yards and happens to hold the state record in the shot put.

Brown and Brennan were elected to last year's Observer and Eccentric All-Area squad.

Fortunately for Fracassa, 11 starters are returning and he's got his pick of 185 prospective players to fill the vacancies.

"We had about 178 come out last year, but this year we've got more balance," said the 11-year veteran head coach.

"Last season we had about the same number of players in the varsity, junior varsity and freshman team."

"When the JV's arrived before an away game, they'd never quit coming out of the bus. There were so many of

them they scared the heck out of their opponents."

TRI-CAPTAINS Tim MacLean, Steve Allen and Jim Ostrowski should prove to be Rice's key performers.

"They're the leaders — the three giving the encouragement and slaps on the back," said Fracassa.

"The rest haven't done anything yet; they have to prove themselves," said Fracassa.

CATHOLIC CENTRAL, as usual, has Rice reved up.

"They're sky high after winning the state championship," said Fracassa. "They can beat us anytime. You don't bet on this game. It's like the Michigan-Michigan State game. CC pours its

heart out when they play us — we will, too."

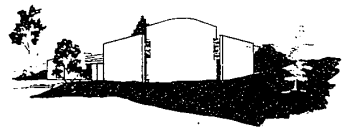
"They won on the freshman level, all the games on the JV and the varsity level. That tells me they've got a lot of athletes over there who are very, very good."

Rice will use a multiple offense and defense this year. Quarterback Dave Yarema will be at the helm on offense and his coach is "very confident in Yarema's ability. He's a great thrower and can gain a yard or two if he has to."

If the Warriors are weak anywhere, it's in the speed department.

"I wish I had a kid that could run 100 yards in 9.2, but I don't," lamented Fracassa.

QUARTERBACK BRIAN BRENNAN



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