

Sparks open cage season

By DOUG FUNKE

The Westland Sparks lost only three of 48 basketball games last season. But one of those defeats came in the semifinals of the National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.

A seventh national championship was on the Sparks' minds when they opened their 1980-81 campaign last weekend in Pittsburgh against the Steelwheelers.

The Sparks' first home games will be played the weekend of Dec. 6-7 against the Cleveland Comets and the Steelwheelers, doubleheaders both dates.

All of the Sparks' home games will be played at the Melvin Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road between Wayne and Newburgh Roads in Westland.

Tickets are \$1. Persons in wheelchairs are admitted without charge.

The Sparks will be further motivated to succeed by the knowledge that they will be hosting the 33rd annual National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament April 3-4 at Westland John Glenn High School.

Two of the 14 players for the Sparks have local ties. Chuck Dillon, a forward, and Denver Brannan, a guard, reside in Canton.

Bud Rumble, the coach who also plays guard, lives in Wayne, as does Leon Sturtz, a forward.

It is not necessary to be confined to a wheelchair in order to play wheelchair basketball.

"Only four guys (on the team) actually stay in it all the time," Rumble said. "The rest can walk by themselves or with the aid of crutches."

"To say it simple, if the guy can't play regular basketball, he can play (wheelchair). He may have a pin in the hip, a pin in the knee or a pin in the ankle," Rumble added.

There are only a few rules changes to accommodate the wheelchairs.

A lane violation occurs in five seconds rather than three.

A player is allowed two pushes of the wheels on the chair when he has possession of the ball. He then must dribble, pass or shoot.

A player must remain seated at all times. "If the butt rises off the seat, it's a technical foul," Rumble said.

Most other rules are the same as used by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

A game consists of two 20-minute halves. The wheelchair is considered to be part of the body for purposes of fouling. The ball must be moved over the midcourt line in 10 seconds.

The Sparks are good, but they work at it. They practice twice a week, three hours at a stretch.

"The league we're in — I'm not bragging — no team in our conference can look up to us," Rumble said. "It's not so much difference in talent than the way we play. If we don't have as much toughness or play as a team, we won't win."

Among the national records compiled by the Sparks over the years are:

'It's not so much difference in talent than the way we play. If we don't have as much toughness or play as a team, we won't win.' — Coach Bud Rumble

- Highest scoring average for a season — 100.9 points.
- Most points in a tournament game — 92.
- Most points in a championship game — 76.
- Highest scoring average in tournament play — 70.

Rumble said that the Sparks do not have a sponsor. "We do some fund-raising and sell ads through our book," he said.

Rumble said that he hoped more people would come out and watch the Sparks play, not out of pity or to view a freak show, but to see a group of athletes do their thing.

"I can't blame the people for not wanting to see a 90-26 game, but we get tired of playing before a few people," he said. "I still would like more support."

Saturday home games begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday home games start at 1 p.m. except where noted.

SCHEDULE

November 8-9, at Pittsburgh Steelwheelers; 15-16, at Grand Rapids Pacers; 22-23, at Cleveland Comets.

December 6-7, Cleveland Comets and Pittsburgh Steelwheelers (2 and 9 p.m. Saturday, 1 and 3 p.m. Sunday); 13-14, Grand Rapids Pacers; 20-21, Toledo Silverstreaks.

January 19-21, at Toledo Silverstreaks; 24-25, Invitational Tournament at Nashville, Tenn.; 31-1, Invitational Tournament, at Lexington, Ky.

February 7-8, Invitational Tournament, at Topka, Kan.; 14-15, Edmonton and Alberta, Canada; 21-22, Westland Sparks Wheelchair Basketball Classic with Music City Wheelers, Topka Chairmen and Chicago Sidewinders.

March 7-8, Regional Playoff; 21-22, at Sectional Playoff.

April 3-4, 33rd annual National Wheelchair Basketball Finals.

Saturday home games begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday home games start at 1 p.m. except where noted.

Monday, November 10, 1980

(F3C)

DO YOU HAVE AN OLD... BROKEN DOWN WATER SOFTENER?

Don't despair!
Call **Culligan**.
the Water Conditioner Man.
He'll take it off your hands as a trade-in!



Yes, We'll take it in on trade for one of our fully automatic Water Conditioners that will give you soft, rust-free water at every tap.
Call today for an appraisal on what your old softener is worth as a trade-in!

Culligan

WATER CONDITIONING
5510 COOLEY LAKE ROAD
Near Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford

WE ARE FACTORY OWNED AND OPERATED
SO WITH US YOU DEAL DIRECT
CALL 681-8000 ANYTIME

OPEN 8-5 Weekdays

8-1 Saturdays

Swimming summaries

STEVENSON 100 — FARMINGTON 12
200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — Livonia Stevenson (Sue Hollman, Polly Adams, Mary Roman, Karen Walter) 1:52, Farmington High, Farmington High.

300-YARD FREESTYLE — Beth Nolan (LS) 2:04, Karen Bierman (LS), Margaret Richards (F).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — Karen Walter (LS) 25.5, Amy Edwards (F), Jo Smith (F).

DIVING — Jenny Ratliff (F) 182.60 points, Jill Bessan (F), Lisa Tenby (LS).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Mary Roman (LS) 1:01.0, Sally Roman (LS), Dawn Stanton (F).

100-YARD FREESTYLE — Karen Walter (LS) 29.2, Karen Bierman (LS), Amy Edwards (F).

500-YARD FREESTYLE — Kim Pogue (F) 5:32, Beth Nolan (LS), Denise DeCarle (LS).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — Dawn Stanton (F) 1:07.3, Karen Taligian (LS), Sue Hollman (LS).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — Cindy Melli (F) 1:14.0, Laura Schoenle (LS), Stephanie McAtee (LS).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — Livonia Stevenson (Sally Roman, Mary Roman, Karen Bierman, Beth Nolan) 3:51.5, Farmington High, Livonia Stevenson.

N. FARMINGTON 89 — G.C. EAST 75

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — North Farmington (Kirsten Kinman, Mary Manderfield, Katy Harnden, Michele Lister) 2:01, Garden City East, Garden City East.

200-YARD FREESTYLE — Mary Shuey (NF) 2:16.2, V. Woonce (GCE), Deanne Miller (NF).

300-YARD FREESTYLE — Michele Lister (NF) 2:27.2, Mary Manderfield (NF), Laura Greife (GCE).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — Helen Sue Howard (NF) 27.2, Annette Gillingham (GCE), Kim Walquist (NF).

DIVING — Diana Smolar (GCE) 108.70 points, Suzie Moore (NF), no third place.

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — Monique Look (NF) 1:12.1, Sandra Pawelek (GCE), Heather MacKenzie (NF).

100-YARD FREESTYLE — Mary Manderfield (NF) 1:01.1, Sacey Greenberg (NF), Judy Kettner (NF).

500-YARD FREESTYLE — Deanna Miller (NF) 6:31.7, Diane Hillard (GCE), Kim Thompson (GCE).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — Sandra Pawelek (GCE) 1:11.4, Helen Sue Howard (NF), Kerrie Pridemore (NF).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — Katy Harnden (NF) 1:04.1, Eira Williams (GCE), Mary Divitto (GCE).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — North Farmington (Judy Kettner, Sacey Greenberg, Deanna Miller, Helen Sue Howard) 4:35.5, Garden City East, Garden City East.

STARK HICKEY WEST Since 1926

You Come First
That's Why...

We've
Been Michigan's
#1 FORD
Dealer
For 13
Consecutive Years

STOP IN AND SAVE!!
CARS • TRUCKS • LEASING • USED CARS
**STARK HICKEY
WEST FORD**

24760 W. SEVEN MILE RD.
AT GRAND RIVER

538-6600

EXCITING, FUN TIMES ON WHEELS

Tues., Thurs., Adult*
Session 10 AM-NOON
\$2 Admission 75¢ Skate Rental

18 Years & Older

* FREE COFFEE *

Adult* Class Lesson
Available 9:15-10 a.m. Tuesday
Only \$175 plus skate rental
Doors Open 9 a.m.

Tiny Tots Session (6 yrs. & Under)
Fridays 10-11:30 a.m.

\$1.50
includes
Skate Rental

Call for information

bonaventure roller skating center

24505 HALSTEAD ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48018
476-2200

Without "The Big Oh", Detroit Just Wouldn't Be Detroit!



It'd be Detrit! And really, now . . . can you imagine cheering for the Detrit Lions? Or listening to the beautiful sounds of the Detrit Symphony.

Ah . . . but there is an "Oh"! It's WOMC FM 104 . . . "Detroit's Big Oh", and it has the oh-so-popular music and personalities you love.

Like Marc Avery to get you going every morning from 6 to 10. And Tom Dean to cheer you up from 10 am to 2 p.m. Plus Nick Arama to brighten your afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m.

Oh-Oh! We almost forgot to mention the other Detroit favorites on "The Big Oh"—Bob Charlton,

Greg Russell and Steve Peck. They'll lighten up and live on your life like nobody's business!

So turn on "The Big Oh" today—WOMC FM 104. It's the only "oh" in Detrit . . . er . . . Detroit!

DETROIT'S BIG OH!

**WOMC
FM 104**

M.I. DETROIT, INC.

GAME 1 ACME NIGHT

Detroit EXPRESS vs. TORONTO BLIZZARD
Sat., Nov. 15, 7:30 P.M.
FREE POSTERS From an original painting of Pat Margic. David McGill and Jim Brown to every fan 16 and under, compliments of ACME Sporting Goods.

GAME 3 ELIAS BROTHERS NIGHT

Detroit EXPRESS vs. TAMPA BAY ROWDIES
Sun., Nov. 30, 7:30 P.M.
FREE Express West Bands to every fan 16 and under 10¢. Packs given away too, at compliments of Elias Brothers Restaurants.

Remainder of Indoor Schedule

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|------------------|
| 4 | Minnesota Klippers | 7 | Toronto Blizzard |
| 5 | Chicago King | 8 | Atlanta Chiefs |
| 6 | New England Tea Men | 9 | Memphis Rogues |

GAME 2 YOUTH SOCCER COACHES NIGHT

Detroit EXPRESS vs. FT. LAUDERDALE STRIKERS
Wed., Nov. 19, 7:00 P.M.
The biggest of the Express is exciting Open Goal Center for youth soccer coaches. Organized in cooperation with the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association.

Ticket Information:

Tickets available at the Silverdome or any CTC office.

