

Thursday, April 28, 1983 O&E

All-Star cage games on tap at Calihan

The stars will come out this weekend for the AAU's Operation Kindness Basketball Tournament at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Play begins at 4 p.m. Friday with a pair of girls' All-Star teams facing off.

Boys' play begins at 6 p.m. with the Suburban AAU squad meeting the Detroit AAU squad. That will be followed by the Ontario Provincial team vs. Michigan's top prep players at 8 p.m.

The tournament will conclude Saturday. The starting times that day are 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 general admission. When you buy a ticket for \$3, you will receive a second admission ticket in exchange for three canned goods valued at approximately \$2. The canned goods will be donated to the Brewster Old Timers for distribution to the needy in the Detroit area.

The Michigan team, which will face Ontario's best, features All-Americans Antoinette Joubert of Detroit Southwestern and Kevin Smith of Lansing Everett. They will be joined by Redford Catholic Central's Mike Maleske, Southfield's Mike McCaskill, Darryl Johnson of Flint Central, Garde Thompson of East Grand Rapids, Quincy Turner and Bryan Doss of Benton Harbor.

THE ONTARIO team, which lost to Michigan last year 105-99, features 6-7 standout David Kipfer, bound for Providence.

The Suburban AAU squad features All-Observer performers Lewis Scott of Redford Bishop Borgess, Bob Stebbins of Livonia Franklin and Jim Weiss of Redford Thurston.

The Detroit AAU squad includes Catholic Central's Stan Heath, Detroit Country Day's Damon Jones and Bloomfield Hills' Lahser's Tim Haynes.

At 8 p.m. May 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan's top players take on the Russian Junior National team. The preliminary game pits the Suburban and Detroit AAU teams, beginning at 6 p.m.

International rules will apply for both events. A 30-second shot clock will be put into effect.

For more information about the Operation Kindness Tournament, call the U-D Sports Information Office at 927-1444.

For ticket information on the Michigan-Russian game, call Dick Fox at 591-6400 Ext. 480 or 481.

Jim Boyce's recruiting season is over, but his work is never done.

The Eastern Michigan University basketball coach is without a doubt the most visible coach in his business.

If there's an AAU all-star practice on a Monday afternoon — he's there. If it's the Catholic League's four-game-in-one-day extravaganza — he watches every game.

"I try to work harder at being around than any coach in the state," Boyce said. "The greatest impact on me as a coach was Dick Vitale (at U-D). He was a go-getter, a big-time recruiter and fierce competitor.

"I've learned most things from him."

It appears the hard-working coach has everything going for him, but he's had his highs and lows.

He was highly successful at Northwestern High School and later jumped to the University of Detroit as an assistant under Vitale. But the two had a disagreement over philosophy and Boyce left to go to Michigan where he worked under Johnny Orr as an assistant during the Wolverine heyday.

But as head coach at Eastern, Boyce's success has been mild at best.

He's been over the .500 mark twice and has been to the Mid-American Conference playoffs a couple of times.

THERE WERE great expectations last season. The team, however, struggled. Three players left the program. It wasn't until the end of the season before the Hurons found themselves and squeaked into the MAC playoffs.

"I let them enjoy the last seven games," Boyce said. "We won five of six and turned around what could have been a disastrous season."

"I think I learned something. The main thing is that player-coach relationship is very important. At the high school level you can take things for granted, but at the college level, they question everything. You have to learn where they're coming from. And that's finally what I'm learning."

Because of his Detroit background, Boyce has a built-in pipeline to the inner-city. But this season he branched out.

Boyce's most significant recruit is 6-foot-4 swingman Mike McCaskill from Southfield, who appeared signed, sealed and delivered for Michigan State. The EMU coach followed by signing 6-6 Paul Granville of Westland, John Glenn, 6-5 David Davick of Flushing and 6-5 Lewis Scott of Redford Bishop Borgess.

EMU filled its final scholarship last Wednesday by signing 6-1 point-guard Stan Heath of Redford Catholic Central.

"YOU STILL need the inter-city athlete," Boyce



An exhausted Liz Watch of Royal Oak recollects her thoughts after winning the women's division.

Track coach wins WB Half-Marathon

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Conquering snow delays, 30 m.p.h. blasts of arctic winds, daylight-savings time and 13.1 miles of rolling hills that seemed able to change themselves into mountains, 714 runners finished Sunday's grueling West Bloomfield Half-Marathon.

Leading them across the finish line was Larry Fisher of Pontiac, whose time of 1:10:54 was good for a 23-second win over Donnie Anderson of Wayne. The time, despite the stiff wind and glaring sun, was nearly a minute and a half faster than last year's top effort, by Dennis Kurts of Livonia.

Liz Watch, 21, of Royal Oak, breezed, on a day when breezes were rare, to the women's championship with a time of 1:24:23.

"The wind was terrible," said Watch, a top-notch runner with a marathon best of 2:50 and a personal record in the half-marathon of 78:20. "And the course was the toughest I've ever run. I started out wanting to do a good time. But at five miles, I knew I had to just go for the win. Forget the p.r. (personal record)."

"It's the biggest race I've ever won," said Fisher, 27, who comes by his running expertise as varsity high school track coach at Orchard Lake St. Mary. "I didn't expect to win it."

FISHER, Anderson and two others ran as a pack for the first 10 miles, each taking turns in the lead, breaking the wind for the others who drafted behind, much like stock cars.

"After 10 miles, it came down to me and Larry," said Anderson, 30, a former All-American in cross country at Hillsdale. "Later on, I asked him how he was doing. He said good. I told him to go ahead and take it. He beat me out in a kick in a race in Milford last summer, so I knew he had more leg strength than me. I think that psyched me out, too."

Curiously, the wind, which broke a lot of spirits and a few minds, was an aid to Anderson, who had run 10 miles Saturday and wasn't planning to contend Sunday, using the race as a training run for the Old Kent Riverbank race in Grand Rapids in two weeks. "I'm not a smooth, efficient runner. I'm more of a powerful runner. I like winds and hills."

He had a lot to like.

"The last three miles were straight into the wind," said Fisher. "It was incredible to have to push that hard. It's disheartening because you have to work so hard to stay on your pace. And when the wind was with you, it didn't seem to push you, it just overheated you."

DESPITE THE WIND, not many of the roughly 800 starters were complaining. Still fresh in their minds was last week's snowstorm, which forced a one-week delay of the race. Though the wind was numbing, the brilliant sunshine and clear blue sky brought more than a hint of spring to the run.

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Larry Fisher appears surprised to win the men's division.

Experience, recruits give Boyce optimism



Brad Emons

said. "I think our problem is that we've had too many players much alike in skill, athletic ability and habits."

This year we've got some quality kids and all are good students. I'll be recruiting more different types of kids from now on."

The EMU coach reflected on this year's recruiting class: "In our league, I believe a kid 6-4 or 6-5 like McCaskill or Scott can play guard and forward."

Both Granville and Davick are good athletes. They both need the same thing — they need strength and stamina.

"Heath played in a great program and he likes to compete. He has great quickness, but he's not a great outside shooter. He will have to come in and learn to play a support role for us."

Boyce believes that next year he'll be able to put a team on the floor that is more talented than the previous four.

Frontliners Vince Giles (6-8), Phil Blevins (6-8) and Ricky Buttrick (6-7) return for starters. Blevins, who played two years at Schoolcraft College, was the team's second leading scorer and rebounder. Michigan transfer Joe James is also ready to provide instant help on the front-line after sitting out a year.

The keys, however, are guards Percy Cooper and Fred Coffield.

Cooper was highly recruited out of Highland Park. He started at South Alabama and shortly after transferred to EMU.

COFFIELD, from Vpsallant, is a proven player — a starter for two years at Oregon. But the 6-3 point-guard had discipline problems there and left the far west for more familiar territory.

"Fred can do some things that we haven't had in the past," said the EMU coach. "He can run the team. With Fred, Percy and James — if that doesn't put me up — I don't know what will."

Boyce, a strict disciplinarian, seems to be loosening the reins. He predicts the Hurons will be more of a running team next season.

"His philosophy will not change much," he said. "We'll play tough defense. We'll run some continuity (an offensive scheme), but we want to break."

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