

Thursday, May 19, 1983 O&E



Brad Emons

Russian cagers big and physical

You've heard Al McGuire's prediction for months now: "The U.S. is not going to win the gold medal in basketball."

The former Marquette University coach and NBC color analyst may have a good point even though Indiana's Secretary of Defense — Bobby Knight — will coach the 1984 U.S. Olympic squad. The rest of the world is catching up with the United States in basketball, even though America still has the cream of the crop if you rate by individual talent.

Last Sunday, I ran across a team of future Olympians at the Atlanta airport — the Russian Junior National squad. They will be here to take on the Michigan AAU squad at 8 p.m. Sunday at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The Russian juniors started their U.S. tour May 10 in New York and will finish the 11-game swing Wednesday in Boston.

BECAUSE OF A U.S. boycott, the Soviets last visited Schoolcraft in 1980. In 1978, they put on a clinic against a Michigan squad that beat Joe Kopicki, Trent Tucker and Walker D. Russell. Taking advantage of the rough-and-tumble international style of play, the Russian juniors literally beat up the Michigan stars and won handily.

I didn't need a tape measure at the terminal to see how physically imposing these lads are. A roster sent to me earlier this week confirmed what I had already suspected — a pair of 6-11s, two 6-10s, a 5-9, two 5-8s and two 5-6s (small forwards). And don't forget 7-foot alternate Aleksandr Okhotnikov.

But don't fret. Michigan has the Antoine (The Judge) Joubert to launch his 35-foot jumpers. He'll need a 20-for-20 showing to keep the score close.

The problem with this year's Michigan team is that they really can't match up inside against the Soviets.

AFTER WATCHING the Michigan AAU team two weeks ago, it appears Redford Catholic Central's Mike Maleke at 6-7 is the only true post player. But he won't play Sunday because of graduation exercises. That leaves Lansing Everett's Kevin Smith (6-7) and Detroit Cody's Vernon Carr (6-6) to battle the Russians inside. In an emergency, Southfield's 6-4 jumping Jack Mike McCaskill could go down low. The team's two 6-8 threats, Brian Humes of Saginaw and Mark German of Bronson, appear to be perimeter players.

The Michigan squad, which won the six-team Midwest AAU tourney two weeks ago in Indiana, will go with a three-guard offense, said coach Rocky Watkins.

"They (the Russians) play a 2-3 zone match-up defense, but they camouflage it with a 1-3-1," Watkins said. "They fast break very well and play power basketball. They're taught to rebound on the offensive glass better than the defensive."

"I'm not afraid of the Russians. They have to stop our jump shooters, and I think our guys will be 'geeked up' to play. Defense is the key, though."

Watkins, who took eight players to Indiana, will use Garde Thompson (East Grand Rapids) at the point, with Joubert and Flint Central's Darryl Johnson on the wings as shooters.

IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP game of the Midwest AAU tourney, Michigan defeated a team from Gary, 114-90. Thompson and Humes each scored 22 to lead the way. Carr added 20.

But the big win came against Indianapolis in the semifinals, 132-124, as Joubert, Carr and Steve Beck (Detroit Southeastern) combined for 90 points. McCaskill contributed 17 and played well from front, Watkins said.

"Both Antoine and 'DJ' held Johnny Fort from Gary to nine points," said Watkins. "And he's going to Iowa."

"But beating Indianapolis was sweet. Scott Hicks had 43 points, and Tim McCallister, who is joining Waymon Tisdale at Oklahoma next year, scored 33. We had to play a great game to beat them. I was really proud of the guys."

After winning that tourney, Watkins said, "We'll make a good accounting of ourselves against the Russians."

"We'll try to slow their break. We'll go after their outlet rebounder. We may even have to foul him. New York is the only team that has beaten them, but I think we have a good chance."

AS AN ADDED attraction, the Detroit AAU and Suburban AAU squads play in a preliminary game at 6 p.m.

The Detroit team features Stan Heath of Catholic Central, Damon Jones of Detroit Country Day and Ray Keiser of Southfield.

The Suburban team has Lewis Scott of Redford Bishop Borgess, Bob Stebbins of Livonia Franklin and Jim Wain of Redford Thurston.

Basketball junkies can arrive at 4 p.m. to see a Detroit AAU junior women's team play the Suburban AAU squad. Livonia Ladywood coach Ed Mayanough will coach the Suburban team, which included two of his players — Lavetta Willis and Ann Lakens.

The three game-set is going for \$5 per person. Proceeds will go toward sending the Michigan team to the National AAU tourney in July at Jacksonville, Fla.

For more ticket information, call Sid Fox at 591-6400, Ext. 480, 481 or 483.



photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

TOP: Harrison's Andrea Conradi (15) fights for possession with Farmington's Michelle McAakin (18). BELOW: Harrison's Sue Ferguson (11) makes a quick pass up the field.



Farmington teams struggle in soccer

It's been a rough year for the local high school girls' soccer squads.

The three Farmington-area schools own a combined 6-23-1 record, none of them have a winning record. Harrison, with a 3-6-1 mark, has the best record. Farmington is next at 2-7 and North Farmington has one win in 11 games.

Part of the problem, says Farmington coach Ed Bartram, is that the youth programs in the city are still in their infant stages.

"We have a very young team, mostly sophomores and freshmen," said Bartram, who has coached the Falcon team for three years of its five year existence. "Farmington is behind Livonia and some of the other areas and it will take some time before we come around. Livonia, Northville and Plymouth have the nucleus of some of the best teams in the state."

"Our team is improving, but we still have a long way to go," he said. "From the first game of the season I've been a long and strenuous training period."

Ironically, two of the three schools are still alive in the Michigan State High School Athletic girls' soccer tournament.

North Farmington went winless for first-year coach Debbie Pacheco during the regular season, but they won their opening state tournament game over Bishop Borgess, 2-1. Harrison, coached by Harry Swytson, defeated Southfield, 6-2, on Saturday.

The Raiders will play at Lahser tomorrow in their second-round game, and the Hawks' second game will be played at Bloomfield Hills Andover tomorrow.

Farmington lost to state-ranked Bloomfield Hills Lahser Saturday, 2-1.

Last week, Harrison defeated city rival Farmington, 5-2.

The Hawk goals were scored by Sue Ferguson, who has scored 23 goals in 10 games this season, and Michele Wise. Farmington's goals were scored by freshman Laurie Dingle and leading scorer Katie MacIntosh, who has five goals for the season.

Hawk girls let Milford off hook

Harrison let a two-run lead slip away as Milford scored three runs in the last of the seventh to take a 10-9 victory Tuesday afternoon.

Michelle Vogl was the losing pitcher, and, according to coach Mike Teachman, "seven or eight of the 13 hits she gave up were seeing-eye hits."

Karen Sklar had three hits, two runs and one RBI. Linda Hawk had two hits, two RBIs and two stolen bases, and Dawn Lukomski had two hits and two stolen bases.

Harrison (2-12) hosts Plymouth Canton Friday.

HARRISON HIGH School had a 10-run lead and let it get away in a 12-11 loss to Walled Lake Western on Monday.

The Hawk girls allowed Western to score the winning run on a seventh-inning error. Karen Sklar took the loss, but was hurt by errors and walks.

Harrison outbatted Western, 16-12. Dawn Lukomski, Kris Wittie and Sklar each had three hits, and Chris Ambrose had two hits and two RBIs.

On Saturday, Harrison dropped a twin bill to Brighton, 9-4 and 10-2.

Lukomski had two hits and stole two bases in the first loss. Ambrose, Harrison's most consistent hitter recently, had a hit and RBI in the second game.

LATHRUP MADE it three straight Metro Suburban Activities Association (MSAA) wins in a row on Monday with a 10-5 victory over Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Against Lahser, winning pitcher Kim Kersten raised her personal record to 11-4. She walked three and struck out three and allowed nine hits.

Sophomore outfielders Cindy Paul and Marni Bartlett combined for half of Lathrup's 10 total hits to lead the offense. Junior first baseman Amy Cornwell had two hits and three RBIs.

Lathrup and Southfield high schools host the first city invitational tournament on Saturday, The 10 a.m. first-round games of the double-elimination tournament will feature Dearborn Edsel Ford against Southfield and Lathrup against Farmington Harrison.

LATHRUP defeated Groves on Friday by scores of 2-0 and 5-2 as Kersten was the winning pitcher in each game.

The senior right-hander allowed five hits and had four walks and four strike outs in the first game. Teammate Andrea Zuger had three hits and stole home plate.

In the second game, Karen Hunt and Kim Taylor had key hits for the Chargers.

Zang zaps Vikings; Wenson belts 3 hits

Farmington pitcher Dan Zang threw a one-hitter, struck out 11 and walked one as the Falcons topped Walled Lake Central, 6-0, in action Friday.

Paul Wenson had three hits — including a triple and home run — and drove in three runs. Joe Wenson had two hits and scored two runs, while Sam Dutala had one RBI.

WEST BLOOMFIELD upped its Greater Oakland Activities League record to 7-2 Monday with a 14-run, 14-hit performance against Waterford Mott.

The Lakers, led by the five-hit pitching of Todd Krumm topped Mott, 14-3. Krumm struck out seven and walked one in five innings of work.

Jeff George had a big day at the plate with two hits and five runs batted in. Dave Austin had a two-run double.



Correction

The hurdler in this picture is junior Greg Koppl of Farmington High School. He was misidentified in Thursday's Observer.

Bob Fish collected three hits, and Zac Childress and Bob Butler each had two hits.

BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM swept two from city rival Groves Saturday with a 6-5 win in the opener and a 9-0 victory in the six-inning nightcap.

The Maple scored the winning run in the fifth inning of the first game when Mark Sackett executed the suicide squeeze which scored Scott Shumaker.

Brett Bohatuk, who hit a two-run homer, was the winning pitcher with seven innings of work. He allowed nine hits and struck out six.

Cloutier and Husband had two hits for Groves.

Shumaker threw a one-hitter in the second game. Sackett had three doubles and two RBIs and Bohatuk drove home three runs. Dickson picked up Groves' lone hit, which was an infield grounder which struck a baserunner.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP pitcher Scott Shafer logged his first win of the season Monday as the Chargers blanked Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 9-0.

Shafer fired a two-hitter past the Knights, struck out 13 and walked three.

Jeff Tabelling had the big hit in a seven-run second inning when he tripled with the bases loaded.

Ron Rechter hit a double and had two RBIs, and Pete Ammon had one hit and scored three runs.

Dave Pramuk and Matt Lewry collected Lahser's hits.

In action later under the lights, the Chargers defeated neighborhood rival Southfield, 4-2.

Scott Elise was the winning pitcher, as he out-duelled Craig Mathews for seven innings. Elise allowed six hits, walked four and fanned four, while Mathews gave up nine hits, one walk and struck out three.

Jeff Tabelling led Lathrup with three hits in three trips, and Rob Goldstein had two hits and two runs batted in. Harvey Friedenberg scored what proved to be the winning run in the sixth inning.

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