

Former Rice star stalks starting spot

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

It's an old story: big high school star packs up his press clippings and scholarship and heads to the big state university where he plans to continue his athletic career uninterrupted.

Only it doesn't happen that way. The big fish from the high school pond nearly drowns in the ocean of talent at the collegiate level.

That scenario has been played and replayed dozens of times at every college in the land. But knowing that didn't make it any easier for Paul Jokisch in his first year as a member of the University of Michigan basketball team.

"It was very frustrating for a person coming out of high school with all the media attention like I got," Jokisch said. "It was definitely a learning experience. I wouldn't want to go through that again."

THE 6-8 SOPHOMORE forward, a standout at Birmingham Brother Rice, clutched a basketball as he spoke with members of the media mendinger from player to player on the Crisler Arena hardwood. A white gauze bandage covered half of his left hand, protecting a dislocated finger that required surgery.

Out for 10 more days, according to doctors. Another setback, just when it

people in sports

seemed Jokisch had his basketball career on a roll again.

A year ago he had high aspirations in joining a young, inexperienced Michigan team. But he was one of four freshmen forwards recruited by coach Bill Frieder and ended up splitting time on the court and on the bench. That left him disappointed. He averaged just 4.5 points and 2.2 rebounds per game.

"I wasn't really satisfied, but I guess you can't expect too much your first year," the sophomore said. "You have to face facts that there are a lot of good players at this level. You grow up a little bit."

LIKE OTHER ATHLETES disappointed with their progress, Jokisch thought about changing. Going to another school to play basketball. Or perhaps playing football at U-M. He was a standout receiver for Brother Rice.

He decided against both. And in early practices this season his decision seemed like a sound one as he battled for a starting berth — until he injured his finger in practice Oct. 30.

"I had a great opportunity to break

into the starting lineup until the injury," he said, adding, "and I still have that opportunity. The lineup won't be set until the Big Ten season begins (in January)."

Frieder was impressed with Jokisch's early performances.

"He was playing very well, no question about it," the U-M coach, now in his fourth season, said. "Now we'll have to see when he can get back."

WHAT FRIEDER LIKES about Jokisch is that "he plays with such competitiveness and desire, he makes things happen out there. He's capable of being a scorer, filling the fast break and being a good rebounder."

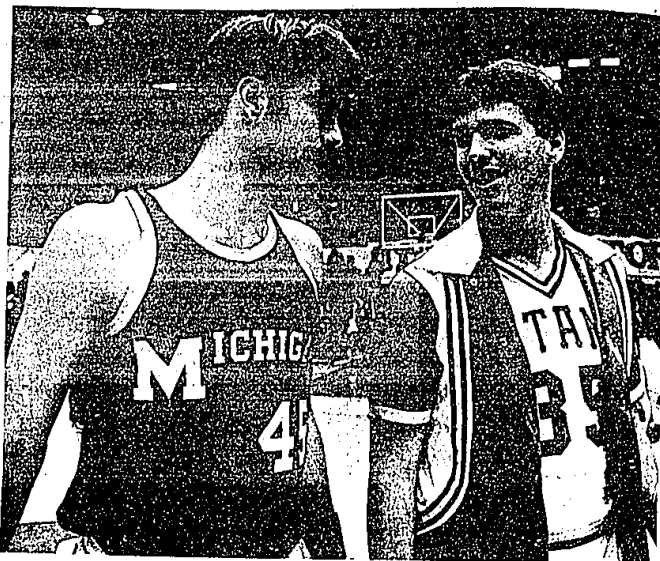
But Frieder was straight in his criticisms as well. "Paul has to eliminate his mental mistakes, like shooting off-balance or turning the ball over."

And Frieder was equally harsh with his entire team when talking about defense. "Everybody definitely has to improve their defense, both individually and as a team," he said.

Jokisch is aware of Frieder's feelings. And he knows what he has to do. He learned some important lessons his freshman year.

"The most important thing for me to do is to play smart," he said. "I have to do what I can do, play within my own capabilities."

If Jokisch is successful at that, his name may be pencilled into a regular spot come January.



Former Brother Rice star Paul Jokisch (left) shares a few insights with a Titan player after a college basketball game last year at the University of Detroit.

Henry takes Trenton job

By Brad Emons
staff writer

Dan Henry will coach a varsity basketball team this winter, but not at Westland John Glenn High School.

He was hired last week to coach Trenton's boys' team by athletic director Eric Federico.

Henry coached the past three seasons at Glenn where he posted a 40-19 record. His coaching contract, however, was not renewed for the 1983-84 season by an interview committee of four Wayne-Westland School District administrators, who said Henry is "not the best qualified for the job."

The committee consisted of Glenn principal Tom Svitkovich, his assistant, Jim Myers; athletic director Jerry Szukalski and Dan Slee, executive director of student relations for the Wayne-Westland Schools.

Denied in a grievance procedure last week, the Wayne-Westland Education Association has filed for arbitration on behalf of Henry.

"This late in the season you don't expect to get a job like Trenton. It's a quality job in a quality league. It's going to be quite a challenge."
— Dan Henry, coaching again

DR. ROBERT KOWALCZYK, executive director of the WWEA, said the case is "in the hands of the American Arbitration Association under the normal process."

"Because of time constraints, we couldn't obtain 'expedited' arbitration," Kowalczyk said. "We would not get a decision until after the basketball season had started."

"We're seeking loss of wages and restoration of the position — not immediate reinstatement," Henry, meanwhile, agrees wholeheartedly with the union's process.

"They recommended that I get another job," Henry said. "It (arbitration) might have lasted until December. It wouldn't be right to change in the middle of the season. The kids would be getting the short end."

"I'll take it one day at a time and wait until March."

"This late in the season you don't expect to get a job like Trenton. It's a quality job in a quality league. It's going to be quite a challenge."

GORDON DAVIS, who coached Glenn for 11 years before resigning in 1980, returns as the school's coach.

In 1980, Henry was fired under what was termed "personality differences" with the Glenn administration, but went to arbitration and won, gaining his position back.

"We've recommended the same arbitrator who reviewed the case in 1980 be called back," said Kowalczyk. "Because he has the benefit of previous information, we'll be able to cut down on the amount of time spent on the case."

sport shorts

● ALL-MAC RUNNER

Paul Welch, a North Farmington graduate, earned All-Mid-American Conference honors in cross country by finishing 11th at the league championship meet Oct. 29 in Muncie, Ind.

Welch, a senior, covered the 10,000-meter course in 31:18.7. As a junior he placed 15th in the league finals.

● GREAT SPIKES

Leigh Feenstra, a Livonia Churchill and Schoolcraft College graduate, was chosen as Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLIAC) volleyball Player of the Week for Ferris State.

During the week Ferris won nine games in a row, improving its GLIAC match record to 7-0 and its overall mark to 22-6. The Bulldogs are ranked eighth in the nation in the NCAA Division II.

Feenstra, a team co-captain, was responsible for 57 kills, three aces and 19 blocks during the surge.

● WHAT A CATCH!

Size isn't everything. Just ask Livonia native Mark Leidholdt.

Leidholdt stands 5-10 and weighs only 165 pounds. But lack of size didn't

stop him from hauling in eight passes for 113 yards to help his Adrian football team to a 29-27 victory over Olivet Oct. 22. The victory improved Adrian's record to 5-3, 2-2 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Leidholdt, a senior split end, now has 28 catches for 488 yards and three touchdowns this season.

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WINONA WOODS, TREASURER

North grad named OLSM assistant

Orchard Lake St. Mary's college basketball coach Tim Donke has picked Rob Henderhan as his new assistant, replacing both Mike Cash and Bob Shoemaker.

A junior transfer from Wayne State, Henderhan, a business administration major, has experience coaching high school basketball at North Farmington. Henderhan will also coach track at St. Mary's Prep and will serve as director of college intramural sports.

Another new addition was announced recently: Ann Florio will serve as student director of sports information for St. Mary's College, replacing Paul Kahler.

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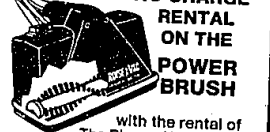
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