

Chris McCosky

Me, make a mistake? So, no one's perfect

"Mistakes, I've made a few..."

WELCOME TO MY own personaloops sale. Bloopers, however unfortunate and embarrassing they might be, are part of the game. Any game.

Professional place kickers miss extra points. The best hitters in baseball history averaged less than four hits per every 10 at-bats. Pass catchers drop passes, runners slip and fall. Basketball stars throw air balls. Hockey players have missed open nets or scored on their own goalie.

Why, I've even seen Harrison All-American John Miller fumble — once.

Nobody is perfect. Especially not me or the others of my ilk.

Mistakes happen. There are many, many details to attend to, too many unfamiliar names to spell correctly, too many coaches to rely upon, too many different sets of statistics to choose from, too many chances for error to expect every edition of the newspaper to be completely oops-free.

VERY, CRAZY AS it seems, that is our goal. Crazy, yes, we come pretty darn close to attaining it.

Unashamedly, therefore, I shall expose the egg-on-my-face mistakes that you may or may not have noticed in your bi-weekly Observer sports section. These will be in no certain order. They will appear as they spill out of my brain into my thick fingers and onto my computer screen. Also, I may have forgotten some of my mistakes. Please, don't bother to remind me either by letter or phone call.

For some reason, I've been on a bloopers streak lately. It began with my preview of the Plymouth Salem boys basketball team. I could have sworn coach Fred Thumann spelled his 6-6 center's name B-r-b-e-r-e-t-t. No sir. It's Rick Berberet. Oops.

Then, I could have sworn those Instagram I saw on the Trenton girls basketball team's uniforms were Spartans. It was the same insignia I wore for the Cherry Hill Spartans. But, no-o-o-o! The damn thing was a

Trojan. For at least one game, Trenton was known as the Spartans. Who knows, maybe the name will catch on.

THE WORST mistakes I've made have been in spelling. Twice, twice, the wrong story appeared under the right headline. Man, those really hurt.

Names are the trickiest. Is his name Brian or Bryan? Is her name Laurie, Lori, Lauri, or what? How do you spell Reggie? R-e-g-g-i-e, right? Not if you're Salem guard Reggie Rojeski you don't. Since I'm not Reggie Rojeski, I spelled her name Reggie all season.

But on the other hand, I think I was the only reporter around that consistently spelled Laiona (not Laina) Shaw's name correctly. (So there!)

My name, by the way, is spelled wrong a couple of times in this paper, thankfully never by me. One time this name appeared on my column: Chris McCoskey. What? When I first started working here, they thought my name was McCoskey. Oop.

Did you notice my faux pas in the Mercy-Murray-Wright story last Monday? At the end I wrote that Mercy will take on (fill in the school) Wednesday in the quarterfinals. The parenthetical remark was a note to myself. I was supposed to plug in the name of the winner of the Salem-Trenton game which was played the night after Mercy's game. Uh, but I forgot.

One of the most embarrassing goofs I made this year didn't appear in print. I was waiting to talk to Mercy coach Larry Baker after his team beat Murray-Wright. He was down the hall talking to his team. I then asked me what time the Salem game was the next night. Confidently, I told him and his team 7 p.m. Game time was 7:30.

Hey Mercy, you screwed up — you trusted me.

Mistakes, like hemorrhoids, are a part of life. No matter how careful you are, no matter how hard you try to avoid them, they seem to always appear. Perhaps the best thing to do is ignore them, and maybe they will go away.

2nd half shooting sparks OU win

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

Oakland University shot an eye-popping 73 percent from the floor in the second half Friday to overtake and eventually bury Wisconsin-Parkside, 98-87, in a men's basketball game Friday at OU.

"It was a great win for us because they are a quality NAIA team," said OU coach Lee Frederick. "We played exceptional offense in the second half. I thought our forwards were the difference. We seemed to have the edge in quickness over Parkside."

Those forwards — Chris Howze and Mike Mohn — combined for 50 points. Howze scored 26 while Mohn had 24 and 12 rebounds. Harold Davis came off the bench to hit eight of his floor shots and score 20 points.

The Pioneers, now 5-1, trailed by a point (46-45) at the half, but Mohn hit three three-point plays in succession with seven minutes left to put OU ahead 79-69, a lead it never relinquished.

ONLY ONE THING was missing from OU's contest Wednesday night: a killer instinct.

The game had everything else: great defense, a great comeback, and a great win for the home team, as OU held off Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) foe Hillsdale 70-69 in the league opener.

Hillsdale was one of the pre-season favorites to win the title, with four starters back, including All-GLIAC center Bill Grandberry.

But OU freshman Jenny Vrij put the clamps on Grandberry, limiting him to four first-half points as the Pioneers jumped to a commanding 42-30 halftime advantage.

They stayed in control for the first 10 minutes of the second half, on top 60-47 with 10:14 to play. But that's when things started happening — bad things for OU. The Pioneers did poorly enough to nearly snatch defeat from victory.

FORTUNATELY, THEY failed.

With 4:43 to go, Hillsdale staged an 18-4 rally that enabled it to take its only lead of the game, 65-64.

Howze tied it for OU with a free throw at the 4:03 mark. After a Hillsdale 1:20. But Davis turned it over on a five-second violation.

Hillsdale missed again, and Mohn

gave OU the lead with a free throw with 1:05 left. Howze canned two more free throws at the 52 second mark and OU was on top, 68-65.

Grandberry's two free throws narrowed the gap to one with 41 seconds left. Rob Skinner's free throw 10 seconds later gave OU a two-point advantage. Then with 23 seconds on the clock, Jack Furling tied it at 69-69 with a short jumper.

OU played for the final shot — and missed. But Furling went from hero to goat as he fouled Howze in the scramble for the rebound. Vrij's lane violation cancelled Howze's first free throw, but he hit the second to clinch the win.

Howze and Craig Mitchell had 16 points and seven rebounds apiece to pace OU. Mohn had 15 points and nine rebounds (seven offensive) and Davis 12 points. The win was OU's first over Hillsdale since 1978.

OU WOMEN WIN FAIR

OU's women eagles "went out with a lot of intensity," according to coach Sue Kruszewski, and came back with a 92-49 trouncing of Northern Michigan Friday at OU.

The Pioneers maintained control all the way, leading 51-24 at half. Brenda McLean connected on 10 of 13 field goals and scored 32 points. Anya Williams had 14 points, Maria Reynolds notched a dozen, and Sue Mausolf and Toni Gasparovic each contributed 10.

Kim McCarthy netted seven points, dished out 10 assists and made five steals. Kim Nash scored six points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

"We played excellent defense," Kruszewski said. "And they were never able to recover."

It was OU's third straight win and evened its record at 3-3.

ON WEDNESDAY, OU's half-court outburst keyed by an aggressive defense and solid rebounding sparked the Pioneers to a 92-62 victory over Hillsdale in its GLIAC opener at OU Wednesday.

McCarthy's layup with 9:43 left gave OU a 55-52 lead. That was the start of a 29-10 scoring spree that put the game on ice for the Pioneers.

McCarthy, a 4-11 point guard, had five steals and 12 points in the game, including eight points in the OU rally.

McLean led the Pioneers with 20 points, 12 in the last 10 minutes, and 12 rebounds. Reynolds made six steals and scored 18 points.

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Falcons set marks

Record-breaker Alec Campbell and teammate Fred Courville were double winners last week as host Farmington trimmed Southfield in a non-league boys' swim meet, 93-79.

Campbell set Farmington school marks in the 200-yard freestyle (1:49.9) and 100 backstroke (57.5).

He also led the Falcons to first place in the 400 freestyle relay (3:45.8).

Courville, meanwhile, captured the

50- and 100 freestyles in 23.6 and 53.7, respectively. He also led the Falcons to a first-place finish in the 200 medley relay (1:52.5).

Other Farmington individual winners included Eric Davis, 200 IM, 2:16.46; Chris Inch, 500 freestyle, 5:43.98; and Frank Tellerico, 100 breaststroke, 1:12.1.

The Falcons meet Farmington Harrison at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at home.

Farmington falls shy

Walled Lake Western, considered by many the team to beat in the Western Lakes Athletic Association wrestling season, ran into a young, feisty bunch of Farmington Falcons last Thursday.

And the Warriors barely escaped, 34-33.

"This was a big improvement over last year," said Farmington coach Barry Walsh. He was referring to last season when Western won all but one match against the then-lazy Falcons.

In Thursday's meeting, there were two wins, two draws, four Warrior wins and five Falcon wins. The problem for the Falcons was, the four Western wins came via the pin.

"The pins definitely hurt us. But, we're a young group. We have five sophomores in the lineup. We're really coming along," Walsh said.

THE FALCONS' JOE GREGG (119 pounds) and Dan Parillo (98 pounds) both won on pins. Gregg nailed Western's Joe Itacques in 5:44, and Parillo took John Holyfield down in 58 seconds.

Ah Hazen (167 pounds) defeated Matt King 17-2 for Farmington. At 185

pounds, Farmington's John Augustin out-pinned Bill Blair 10-2. Darrell Tharnish bested Western's Joe Gaul, 5-2.

Dave Hubey won on a void at 98 pounds. Paul Moon (105) and Jason Forge (112) each wrestled to draws for the Falcons.

Rob Anglin (132 pounds), Mike Cody (138 pounds), Scott Martinuzzi (145 pounds) and Dave Cunningham (155 pounds) were all victims of Warrior pins.

Farmington (1-2) will travel to Livonia Stevenson Wednesday.

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