

Albion tackles nation's best

By C.J. Riasak
staff writer

What a season Albion College's football team has had. A pre-season long shot to win the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championship, the Britons pulled it off, posting a 7-1 overall record.

And to the victors go the spoils, right? Albion is ready to cash in. The team earned an NCAA Division III playoff berth and will embark on its road toward a possible national championship Saturday.

Those lucky Britons, you say? Think again. What confronts them now can not be mistaken as a reward for a triumphant campaign. Not when they face a team like Augustana College to start their post-season play.

Not only is Augustana, located in Rock Island, Ill., 9-0 this season and ranked No. 1 in Division III, Augustana has won 46-straight games and three national titles in a row.

ITS THE KIND of assignment that would strike fear into the hearts of most players. But Albion coach Pete Schmidt sees it as — can you believe this — an advantage.

"It puts us in a great position," was how Schmidt described it. "As long as we have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

Playing such a powerhouse is challenging enough, but Albion is going to have to play at Augustana's 13,000-seat stadium, making the task that much more difficult.

The Britons are not weaponless, though. They have an offense that commits few turnovers and a hard-nosed defense that's tough to score against.

Four of Albion's defensive starters have local backgrounds. Ed Ewald, a 6-foot, 200-pound junior inside linebacker from Redford Catholic Central, is the team's defensive leader and an All-MIAA selection.

Ewald was twice named MIAA defensive player of the week. He paced Albion with 115 tackles, including 61 solo hits. He also recovered a fumble and intercepted two passes.

"HE'S REALLY had an outstanding year," said Schmidt. "I expect him to make some big plays for us Saturday because Augustana is a strong running team." They only pass about five times a game.

For a player like Ewald, that's great news. His ability to stop opposing running attacks is a major reason Albion is in the playoffs. The Britons allowed their foes an average of just 2.9 yards per rush.

"That's his strong point," said Schmidt. "The one thing he's really improved this year is that he's reading his keys very well. He's a very smart player."

Sill, Ewald can't be expected to do the job single-handedly. And he won't have to, not with outside linebackers like Charlie Wasczenzki and Steve Freier flanking him. Both are Garden City graduates, and both are tough against the run.

"Our linebackers are going to have to play well," said Schmidt. "In a game like this, we're going to ask them to make a lot of tackles."

WASCZENSKI, a 6-1, 206-pound sophomore, led the Britons in tackles for loss (15) and quarterback sacks (seven). Freier, a 6-2, 190-pound freshman who won a starting role by the fifth game, recovered two fumbles and had an interception.

"Both are hard-hitting, both are good against the run," said Schmidt. Centering Schmidt's three-man defensive line is sophomore middle guard Dan Strehl from Westland. Strehl is puny by defensive linemen standards (5-10, 210), but he is a fierce competitor.

"He's one of the finest competitors on our football team," said Schmidt. "There are a lot of people quicker and stronger than he is, but he somehow gets the job done."

One job Strehl did particularly well was punice on loose balls. His three fumble recoveries were best among the Britons.

ALBION'S DEFENSIVE abilities don't worry Schmidt. The key to victory, he's convinced, rests with his offense.

And yet, he wasn't certain who he would entrust with the task of leading that offense early this week. Ken Klis, a junior from Farmington Harrison, started the last three games but needed relief help from Dave Yaw in each.

Earlier in the season, Yaw started and Klis replaced him. For the year, Klis has completed 32 of 71 passes (45.1 percent) for 43 yards and four touchdowns, with five interceptions. Yaw has hit on 53 of 114 passes (46.5 percent) for 583 yards and four TDs, with one interception.

"We're just seeing how practice goes this week," said Schmidt. "Both will play, but we won't determine until Wednesday or Thursday who will start. Whoever's passing well will get the nod."

Whoever starts, Klis or Yaw, the pressure will be immense. "There is more pressure on our offense," admitted Schmidt. "They are going to have to gain momentum, move the ball and get some first downs. We have to punt them deep, get some turnovers and take advantage of them."

A strong performance by the offensive line is essential, said Schmidt. The Britons have been fortunate in the turnover department — they have yet to have one on their side of the 50.

That's the kind of error-free football they'll need to knock off No. 1.

Churchill wins finale; Borgess jolts C'ville

The fouls were plentiful but Livonia Churchill had a good time at the line in Tuesday's win over Redford Union.

The Chargers (14-0) connected on 22-of-30 attempts from the charity stripe as they downed the host Panthers 62-46 in a non-conference girls basketball game.

Churchill took advantage of RU's foul trouble, especially in the third quarter as the Panthers (9-11) were outscored 17-6. The Chargers, led by Amy Weber's 18 points, blew it open with 21 points in the final eight minutes.

"(Kelli) Mountford and (Marie) Becker both had three fouls so we had to go into a delay game in the third quarter," said RU coach Terri Anthony. "They

BISHOP BORGESS 43, CLARENCEVILLE 25: The Spartans got their second win in the second half for their second win of the season in Monday's triumph over the visiting Trojans.

Redford Diabos Borgess outscored Livonia Clarenceville 33-18 in the second half after both teams battled to a 16-10 draw at the half. Cheryl Livingston led the way with 11 points for the Spartans (9-11). Janel Hucakki added 9.

girls basketball

outbounded us in the third quarter, too."

The loss overshadowed a 27-point performance by Becker. She scored 16 in the first half as the Panthers trailed 25-24 at intermission.

"Becker went nuts on us in the first half," said Churchill coach Roger Springsteen, "but we shut her down in the second half."

Jackie Wozniak contributed 18 points for Churchill, while Liz Monroe added 13.

"Borgess wanted it more," said Clarenceville coach Jack Grehan, whose team slipped to 8-11. "They outbounded us and outshouted us. They deserved it."

FRANKLIN 55, DEARBORN 42: The Patriots closed out their home season and their fall on Saturday by defeating Dearborn in Livonia Franklin's non-conference win Tuesday.

With a tough man-to-man defense, the Patriots' offense was

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Observerland sports people Teeters: He builds winners

By Chris McCoaky
staff writer

Tom Teeters must have attended the Billy Martin school of coaching.

Teeters, the Schoolcraft Community College women's volleyball coach, doesn't generally spend too much time at any one coaching position — but he wins everywhere he goes.

Like Martin, there have been two consequences of his success: His services are in constant demand, and his methods (and personality) are either loved or loathed — there is little middle ground.

Some high school coaches, particularly those in Observerland, are enamored with Teeters' ability to mold a group of athletes into a cohesive unit.

His ability to reach into players' guts and wrench the last drop of ability screams out for applause — and many high school coaches respond by encouraging their better players to join Teeters' program.

ON THE OTHER side of the fence are Teeters' critics. His style has been perceived by some high school coaches and by several college coaches as abrasive and offensive. He is an aggressive person by nature and his teams reflect that.

But there is a thin line between aggression and arrogance — Teeters teeters upon that line like a tightrope walker.

"I have my own way of doing things," Teeters said. "There aren't any two coaches who are exactly alike. Each thinks his or her own way is the right way."

There are some schools, Grand Valley State College and Eastern Michigan University, to name two, that don't think Teeters' way is necessarily the right one and have refused to put his teams on their schedules.

But there are few, fan and foe alike, who aren't impressed with the job he has done with the 1985 Schoolcraft team.

He is in the first year of his second tour of duty with the Ocelots. He inherited a clean slate from departed coach Joe Jandasek — there were no returning players from that year's season.

BUT BUILDING a team from scratch isn't new to Teeters, nor bothersome.

After building a respectable program at Farmington Hills Mercy High School in the mid-1970s, he took Clarenceville to a state championship in 1977-1978.

From there, he took the head coaching post at Wayne State University.

He took a team of five freshmen and a sophomore to the GLIAC championship just one season after the team had finished dead last. For that, Teeters was named GLIAC coach of the year.

The past two seasons, he has made a winner out of a previously wretched Garden City program.

This year, he brought a group of freshmen and one transfer sophomore into Schoolcraft and produced a league, state and regional championship squad.

The Ocelots, ranked No. 16 in the nation, leave next Tuesday for Miami to compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association national tournament.



Tom Teeters has ruffled some feathers during his journeyman-like coaching career. But one thing has remained consistent: his ability to win.

"I produce most of my own players," he said. "I try to adapt the players to a style that fits the team."

AN EXAMPLE of Teeters' adaptation method is Linda Loeffler, the lone sophomore on the squad. After a sterling career at Livonia Stevenson, Loeffler spent a torturous year at Henry Ford Community College — a season largely spent watching from the bench.

Transferring to Schoolcraft has rejuvenated Loeffler.

"I don't feel like there is a bias against me here. I know my role here. Tom has really helped me, not only with volleyball, but he's taught me a lot about self-sacrifice and playing as part of a team."

Loeffler, on two occasions, played the dominant role in Schoolcraft victories against Henry Ford this season.

What Teeters has done is take an All-Area high school team one step, maybe two or three steps, higher.

He built the team around Pat Kozicki (North Farmington, All-Area 1984), Sue Cyrus (Garden City, All-Area 1984) and Kim Relyea (Livonia Stevenson, All-Area 1983).

Loeffler (All-Area 1983) was a pleasant, although

unexpected, addition. With that nucleus, Teeters added Kathy McIntosh (Wayne), Ann Bennett (Walled Lake Western), Donna Konjarevich (North Farmington) and Amy Lotero (Livonia Franklin) — and a championship "team" was formed.

"THE BIG thing is that we work together real well on the court," said Kozicki, the floor leader of the team.

And that has been the key to Schoolcraft's, and Teeters', success.

"We work very, very hard and we play as a team," he said. "We go up against teams that are much taller than us. We are small. But no matter how hard they hit at us, we can dig it up."

Schoolcraft will take its 40-10 record to Miami. The odds-on favorite among the 15 competitors will be Scottsdale CC from Arizona — the No. 1-ranked team in the nation and the defending NCAA champion.

Most coaches in Teeters' shoes would call any thing beyond the regional championship gravy. Not Teeters.

"We're going there to win," he said. "We want to get a shot at Arizona."

Billy Martin would be proud.

Area cagers begin district tournaments

Continued from Page 1.

The title game will go at 7 p.m. Monday. The winner will move on to the Harper Woods Lutheran East regional and play the Warren Fitzgerald district champ.

Also expected to advance into the Lutheran-East regional is defending Class B champion River Rouge featuring Franthea Price.

AT WATERFORD OUR LADY (Class C) Redford St. Agatha, featuring Maryann

Kick, will play at 8:30 p.m. Saturday against the winner of tonight's Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes-Detroit Country Day game (7 p.m.).

At 6:30 Saturday night, Detroit St. Mary of Redford will play tournament-favorite Pontiac Catholic (17-1).

The title game is 7 p.m. Tuesday. The winner moves on to the Detroit Holy Redeemer regional against the Detroit St. Martin dePorre district champ.

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