

Ocelot kickers get swift boot

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

One problem haunted Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team at the NJCAA tournament last weekend in Princeton, N.J. — finishing the job.

The Lady Ocelots had their chances but failed to capitalize. The result was a pair of one-goal losses.

Schoolcraft fell to Herkimer (N.Y.) Community College, ranked No. 1 in the country entering the tournament, 4-3 Nov. 27. The Lady Ocelots had their high-ranked foes reeling for the first 15 minutes of the game, applying pressure around the Herkimer net.

But all Schoolcraft had to show for its efforts was a zero. Two ideal scoring chances ended in frustration for the Lady Ocelots. The first, a Denise Piwko header to the front of the goal, was deflected by Lori Nicely (from Troy Athens, N.J.). Then Julie Nowka missed a penalty kick.

THAT GAVE Herkimer the reprieve it needed. The New York team scored two goals on a corner kick and a breakaway early in the second half to build a 4-0 edge.

Schoolcraft battled back with three goals in the final 25 minutes, but it

wasn't enough. Angie Butterfield, Kerry Langshan and Julie Kusza (Livonia Stevenson) scored for the Lady Ocelots.

"We had our chances, we just weren't putting the ball into the net," Schoolcraft coach Ed Dudek said. "If we had just finished off the plays like we should have, it could have been different."

"We dominated the first 20 minutes and the last 20 minutes of the game. The middle of the game, it was a combination of them getting up and us getting down. But I have to give (Herkimer) credit, they took advantage of their opportunities. They're a good scoring team."

FURTHER HAMPERING Schoolcraft's efforts was the loss of Piwko, the team's leading scorer. Piwko hurt her leg at the 25-minute mark of the opening half and did not return.

In a consolation game, Schoolcraft met Essex (N.J.) CC Thanksgiving Day and lost 1-0. The game was played in a heavy downpour, and once Essex scored it retreated into a defensive shell to thwart the Lady Ocelot efforts. "It was the same kind of situation as the first game," Dudek said. "We had a lot of opportunities, but the footing was bad and it was hard to get off a good shot. Essex played defense in the second half and marked us very tightly."

OCC wins opener; Schoolcraft wins big

Oakland Community College opened its men's basketball season Tuesday night with an impressive 79-57 victory over Northwestern Business College in a game played at Lima, Ohio.

Guard Gary Holt, a Detroit Central product, led the winners with 23 points and seven assists.

Also contributing to the win was 6-foot-6 center Willie Jones, also of Central, who scored 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. He helped control the boards for OCC along with Pat Gardner, who hauled down 14 rebounds.

Point-guard Rodney Thompson (U of D High) added 16 points and nine assists. Darrell Darling (Detroit Cooley) was the defensive stopper for the Raiders.

Northwestern, a Region 12 tournament finalist a year ago, got 17 points from center Chuck Scoggin.

OCC returns to action Saturday night at Kalamazoo Valley.

SCHOOLCRAFT CC #1, FRANK SHAW: Thirteen players scored Sunday as the host Ocelots routed their Ontario foe.

basketball

Transfers aid Raider cause; Falcons thin

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Harrison will get an added boost after Jan. 1. That's when Billy Otto becomes eligible. Otto, a talented guard, transferred from Redford Catholic Central.

"The key to our team is not Ken George," Coachman said. "He is a given. We know he's good and that he makes everyone else on the court better. What worries me is how well the others handle things."

"I don't think we will play as good defensively as we played last year. We lost Mike Dempsey (6-9), and he altered an awful lot of shots. We held our opponents to under 49 points a game and under 32 percent from the floor. I don't see us doing that this year. We might have to score seven or eight more points a game because we might give up that many more."

Harrison opens Friday night at Waterford Kettering.

NORTH FARMINGTON

Coaches around the Western Lakes unanimously list North Farmington among the "teams to beat" this season.

North coach Tom Negoshian wishes they'd keep their options to themselves.

"Yeah, I kind of think it's premature," he said. "The way I look at it, we graduated three two-year starters (Rick Pennala and Bob Chwalk) and both are playing college ball. That's an awful lot to replace."

Negoshian also understands why his team is highly regarded. The Raiders posted an impressive 16-7 record last year, winning the district championship with a stunning upset of state-ranked Southfield.

Back from that team are two key components: seniors Rick Anderson and Paul Wahrman — two of the most explosive offensive players in Observerland.

North looks to be solid. Two transfers have helped beef up the Raider inside game — Rick Karcher, a junior from Brother Rice, is 6-4 and Chuck Howard, a junior from Detroit Country Day, is 6-6.

Others expected to contribute are senior point guard Jim Raglund, junior Rob Knapp, and seniors Mike Rudin (a strong 6-2, 195-pounder) and Corky D'Ascenzo.

"Compared to last year, we're a better shooting team with Anderson and Wahrman, and the others are shooting better. We have five seniors who have been through the war with us to that, and we're at the point now where we've established a winning tradition here — that's important."

The biggest concern facing Negoshian is filling Chwalk's big shoes.

"I'm wondering who will be as strong as he was on the glass for us," Negoshian said.

The keys will be Anderson and Wahrman. Both have worked extremely hard at their game over the summer and should apply plenty of pressure on opposing defenses. Both have the ability to score inside and outside.

North opens its season tomorrow at Southfield-Lathrup.

FARMINGTON

Richard Roy seldom enters a basketball season with unbridled optimism.

He knows that his 1985-86 Farmington basketball team has some glaring deficiencies. He also knows it has some strengths.

"You have to be realistic. We'll do fairly well against some of the Redford teams, and Northville and the Walled Lakes, but we'll have our problems with the Glens and the Salens and those teams," he said.

The deficiencies? No size and no depth. Senior Kyle Metz, who finished strong for the Falcons last year, is the big man at a thin 6-4. And Roy plans to rotate no more than seven players in and out of the lineup.

That may change after Jan. 1. Mark Stevens and Paul Orrico become eligible at that point and could help the team.

The leader of the team is senior guard Bruce Kratt. Kratt, a flamboyant player with an unlimited-range jump shot, has started for two seasons with the Falcons.

Others expected to contribute are guard Tony Racka, Jerry Pelter and Mike Kramer — all seniors. Junior Steve Howell, the leading scorer on the Farmington junior varsity last year, should see some time as well.

Roy has high hopes for senior strongman Craig Petermark. An All-Area football star, Petermark is leading his 6-3, 235-pound frame to the basketball team for the first time.

"He takes up a lot of space and runs the floor well," Roy said.

Primarily, Farmington will score a large portion of its points from the perimeter.

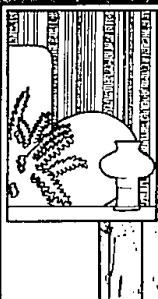
"Hopefully, we will shoot the ball well," Roy said. "We run OK and the defense is fair. We're going to have to work hard on our rebounding."

The Falcons will open at Redford Union Friday night.

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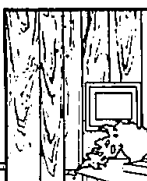
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