

Ocelots get boot in kick tourney

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

When Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team embarked on its trip east to play in the NJCAA tournament, coach Ed Dudek relished a rematch with Monroe (Rochester, N.Y.) CC, the nation's top-ranked team, which beat the Lady Ocelots earlier this season.

There was just one problem: Monroe (St. Louis, Mo.) was SC's first-round opponent. And MCC was thinking about revenge, too, after losing 3-1 earlier this season to the Lady Ocelots.

In their game Nov. 26, it was MCC that fulfilled its dream, beating SC 2-0 in overtime.

"It was a very defensive game," said Dudek. "I didn't think anyone would ever score a goal."

IT WAS ALSO frustrating for the Lady Ocelots, who had the bulk of the good scoring chances while MCC concentrated on defense. "They marked us man-for-man," said Dudek. "They never really tried to score against us, they just cleared the ball downfield."

Neither team scored in regulation, but MCC got the only break it needed in the overtime. SC keeper Doreen Beagle stopped a shot but could not control the rebound, and the Lady Ocelots could not clear the ball. MCC

knocked it in and, for all intents, that was the game.

SC was forced to pressure offensively and MCC converted a breakthrough for the final margin.

That ended any hopes SC may have entertained of playing for the NJCAA title. The Lady Ocelots met Essex (Baltimore) CC on Nov. 27 and, after a scoreless first half, got two goals from Denise Piwko in the second for a 2-0 victory.

THAT LIFTED them into the game for fourth place against Mitchell (Conn.) CC. "This was probably the most frustrating game of the whole year," said Dudek. Again, the match was scoreless at the half, but Mitchell scored 30 seconds into the second to take the lead.

SC dominated play but couldn't score. Mitchell went up 2-0 when a crossing pass deflected into the net off a SC defender. A Jane Moylan goal finally got the Lady Ocelots on the board, but there was just 2:58 left. Mitchell hung on for a 2-1 win.

"It was a good tournament, but I was kind of disappointed," said Dudek. "We finished sixth, and we played better than that. It was just one of those tournaments. When you get an opportunity, you've got to put the ball into the net."

SC finished the season with a 17-7-3 overall record and a 15-6 mark in NJCAA competition.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Joelle Lukasiewicz, pictured in her senior season at Farmington Harrison, is enjoying tennis much more these days at Michigan State University.

Ex-Hawk finds bliss at MSU

By Denise Jonick
special writer

It didn't take Joelle Lukasiewicz long to discover that tennis was her game.

She began playing at 10. At 20, the Farmington Harrison graduate is the No. 6 singles player at Michigan State University.

In those 10 years, tennis has provided Lukasiewicz with a host of memories, not all of them pleasant.

Lukasiewicz began taking tennis seriously in eighth grade. Unlike many standout tennis players, Lukasiewicz was not driven by parental pressure.

"They decided if I wanted to do it, then I'd do it. And that would mean I'd give it my all," Lukasiewicz said.

What drove her to the courts was simply the desire to be better than her friends, most of whom took private tennis lessons.

SHE HAD A successful four years at Harrison though you might not remember her.

That would be understandable. Although Lukasiewicz was a standout for four years on the state-ranked Harrison team and was an all-state selection in her senior year, she played in the shadow of all-star Kelly Davidson.

No regrets, said Lukasiewicz. "High school was fun because Kelly and I were such good friends," she said.

Next step was college tennis. Simple, right? Not quite.

Lukasiewicz thought first about attending MSU. Decided against it when the scholarship offer was not to her liking. She accepted instead a scholarship from Central Michigan University.

Two weeks before classes began, Lukasiewicz decided she didn't really want to attend CMU. Her friends were either at MSU or Michigan. She decided to forego her scholarship at CMU and wound up at State.

HER FIRST year at MSU was a struggle. MSU tennis coach, Ed Rutz, told her she could join the

team as a walk-on, no scholarship. She accepted and proceeded to have a miserable season.

Lukasiewicz and Rutz never got along.

"If my match decided if the team would win or lose, I'd want to lose just to spite him," Lukasiewicz said. Lukasiewicz was all set to quit the team.

"He made me hate tennis," she said.

No need. Rutz resigned. Heather MacTaggart took over and Lukasiewicz's tennis career gained a reprieve.

"This year is better than last and it's barely begun," Lukasiewicz said. "I think we should definitely be in the top four (in the Big 10)."

As for Lukasiewicz, she won her first three matches at No. 6 singles and she's been playing No. 3 doubles as well. She has been granted a partial scholarship.

MacTaggart is impressed with Lukasiewicz's work habits and her gradual improvement over the summer.

"She's doing good," MacTaggart said. "I think she's much more con-

sistent and much more determined this year."

BUT LIFE is not all tennis for Lukasiewicz. She is majoring in communications with a minor in television broadcasting. She handles a course load of 14 to 18 credit hours. She also works 12 hours each week-end doing promotional modeling for various clothing stores.

She hopes to begin her career right after graduation. But tennis, she said, will always be a part of her life.

"I doubt if I'll ever stop," she said. "I love the game."

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