

Sports

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St. Mary's no match for U-D

By C.J. Riskak
staff writer

The reasons for St. Mary's College getting pounded, 82-45, by University of Detroit Thursday are seemingly unlimited in number. Tim Domke, SMC's co-coach, listed half a dozen in less than five minutes.

The bottom line is this: The game never should have been scheduled.

The Eagles would have been heavy underdogs if they came in riding a winning streak with a healthy, well-rested squad. Instead, they came to Calhoun Hall saddled with a four-game losing streak.

That's tough enough — and it gets worse. The game was the fourth in eight days for SMC. The competition in that streak was no cakewalk, either. The Eagles faced Division I Eastern Michigan, WIAA District 23 defending champion Saginaw Valley State and Northwood Institute.

Mix in a case of the flu for a starting guard (Greg Spraggins) and school finals coming up, and presto! You've a made-to-order rout, just waiting to be punished.

WHICH IS what U-D did. Guard Archie Tullos got things started for the Titans by hitting two three-pointers in the first 1:17. Tullos added a basket and another three-pointer and with 15:58 still left in the first half, U-D led 19-6. Tullos already had 11 points.

"We didn't do what our game plan was — press defensively, get the ball inside, and don't let Tullos hit his jumper," said Domke. "We didn't do any of those things. We were lost in those first four minutes."

SMC never got on track. U-D did about anything it wanted, including using everyone on the bench. By halftime the score had reached 45-16.

"We wanted to make them go to their bench," joked Domke. "They did, but for the wrong reasons. (At halftime) I told our guys, 'We're all embarrassed. Let's get it back one at a time. Maybe we'll

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get a hot streak going, force a few turnovers and get back into it."

That proved to be wishful thinking. That halftime deficit of 27 points was as close as the Eagles could come. The final margin of 37 points left both Domke and co-coach Rich Zaleski stunned.

"The thing is, we thought this was the weakest of the Division I teams we faced," said Zaleski.

WAS IT ALL for naught? Was the only purpose in this pairing of a Division I team against an obviously outmanned NAIA squad to pad the stats of U-D's Brian Humes (20 points on nine-of-10 floor shooting), Tullos (17 points), Paul Williams (12), Marvin Owens (11) and Dan Kennedy (10)?

Was there a lesson worth learning, something beneficial to SMC? "I learned not to play so many games in two weeks," said Domke. "I think (our players) learned a lot. They learned that when we play good teams, they have to execute the offense."

"Most of them realize now why they aren't Division I athletes, instead of going around thinking they are."

It was a humbling experience. Thirty-seven-point losses have a tendency to be that way. No Eagle reached double figures in scoring. Jon Bow's nine points was team high. Jim Butcher hit two-of-four three-pointers and finished with eight. No one had more than three rebounds or two assists, either.

Not to be overlooked is SMC's shooting slump. The Eagles have hit less than 45 percent of their shots in the last four games. Against U-D they shot a meager 29 percent in the first half; for the game, they shot 36.7 percent.

SMC's record dipped to 6-6. The Eagles are idle until Saturday, when they host Wayne State at 2 p.m.

North stops Stevenson



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

North's Rick Karcher (42) grabs one of his game-high 18 rebounds against Stevenson Friday.

Hawks punish Pats; Glenn fells Falcons

North Farmington's Raiders had a great first quarter Friday against visiting Livonia Stevenson. Maybe too good.

North's defense choked the Spartans, limiting them to two points as it built a 12-2 lead. But the Raiders let up in the second quarter and Stevenson battled back, forcing North to hit its free throws down the stretch to claim a 52-44 victory in the Western Lakes basketball opener for both teams.

"They got some kids who can shoot the ball from the perimeter," said Raider coach Tom Negoshian, whose team improved to 2-1. "Our shot selection was pretty good, and we played good defense at the beginning of the game and down the stretch."

In between — well, that was a different story. North was outscored 27-17 in the middle two quarters and its early advantage melted away. Stevenson had a one-point lead early in the final period, but Rob Knapp popped in two jumpers to regain the lead for the Raiders.

After that, the game became a matter of free throw shooting, and Negoshian said, "We hit our free throws down the stretch." The Raiders were nine-of-13 from the stripe in the period; Stevenson was three-for-four.

Knapp led North with 13 points, but it was 6-foot-4 center Rick Karcher who provided the muscle. Karcher got 11 points and grabbed 18 rebounds. Mark Taylor added 10 points and Kurt Dudek scored nine.

Stevenson (1-2) was paced by Bill Gray's 17 points, Pete Alazoni netted nine and Rich Greiner and Rich Johnson scored eight apiece.

HARRISON 56, FRANKLIN 48: This could have been a repeat of Farmington's Haviland's foul-up against West Bloomfield, a game in which the Hawks led big but lost when play got physical.

Friday's game against visiting Livonia Franklin degenerated into the same thing. "The play got real

rough and it took us out of our game," said Harrison coach Mike Teachman. "It got rougher than I think basketball should be."

There was a difference, however. The Hawks got tougher, too, holding off the Patriots' last quarter surge.

Harrison's free throw shooting was instrumental. The Hawks scored just one basket in the final quarter, but they hit nine-of-12 foul shots to frustrate Franklin. Brad Ridgeway, Harrison's 6-9 center, hit nine-of-13 free throws in the game, including six-of-seven in the last period.

The Hawks had a big lead entering the final eight minutes. Their five-point (17-12) advantage after one period doubled by halftime (32-22). After three quarters Harrison was up 45-29.

Ridgeway's play was a big reason for the Hawks' success. He finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots. Chad Burgess contributed 12 points and eight rebounds and Brian Hoskins had 10 points and seven boards.

Mike McCoel topped Franklin with 16 points. Mark Kerpet added 11, including eight in the fourth quarter when the Patriots outpointed Harrison 19-11. For the game, the Hawks were 20-of-30 from the line. Franklin was 40-of-61.

JOHN GLENN 69, FARMINGTON 54: The final score of this game was deceiving. It was more than a 15-point blowout Friday at Farmington.

Westland John Glenn remained unbeaten by rolling over the undersized Falcons. The Rockets led 21-10 after one quarter, 37-25 at the half and 59-35 after three quarters before Farmington managed a 19-10 fourth-period rally.

Guard Steve Howell was one bright spot for the winless (0-3) Falcons. Howell poured in 19 points. Brandon London chipped in eight.

Glenn, though, had three players score in double figures: Andy Graulzus (23), Anson Stroman (15) and Greg Bates (10).

Salem's at the head of All-Area class



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Yvette Malson's solid work habits and sacrifice have made her a top playmaker and Mercy's all-time single-season scorer.

By Chris McCoaky
staff writer

A DISTINCTIVE class system took shape in Observeland girls basketball this season.

There was an elite class (Plymouth Salem, Farmington Hills Mercy and Livonia Ladywood), a middle class (Westland John Glenn, Garden City and Plymouth Canton), and a heavily populated lower class.

The spread between the classes was wide. For example, Salem beat Garden City by 43 points in the Class A district championship game. Salem beat Glenn by 20 in the first round of the district. Salem beat Canton by 25 in the Western Lakes championship game. Salem beat Mercy by 17 in the Class A quarterfinals.

OK, OK. Plymouth Salem is in class of its own.

The 1986 All-Area girls basketball team reflects the Observeland class system. Three Salem players have been named to the first team. Fred Thomann has been named Observeland Coach of the Year. Six of the seven first-team selections played on teams from the elite class. Of the 21 players named to the three teams, only four players played on teams from the lower rung.

Let's meet the seven best girls basketball players in the 19-team Observer coverage area as selected by the coaches.

FIRST TEAM

Dena Head, Plymouth Salem, junior: At the beginning of the season, media people and opposing coaches said Dena Head might be the best junior player in the state. By the time the Rockets rolled through the district, regional and quarterfinal rounds of the state tournament, those same people were saying she is the best junior player in the state.

Here's her scoring totals in the six tournament games preceding the state semifinals: 21, 16, 23, 25, 29, 25. She also led Salem in rebounding in those games and was a demon on defense.

She's big (5-10), strong and extremely quick. She has one of the highest vertical jumps to come through here in many

years. She's a superb post player, and she handles the ball like a guard. A complete player. A major Division I college prospect.

Yvette Malson, Farmington Hills Mercy, senior: The best point guard in Observeland the past two years. An intelligent player, smooth ball handler and passer, and a dangerous perimeter scorer.

Her numbers this season were impressive: 18 points, five rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. She set a Mercy single-season scoring record this year with her 18.0 average.

Mercy coach Larry Baker summed up Malson's value: "She models exceptional work habits and has been willing to sacrifice herself for the team. She has adapted to very different roles for us in two seasons. She was a superb playmaker in 1985 and the school's best scorer ever in '86."

Jessica Handley, Plymouth Canton, senior: Her primary asset is a super-sweet jump shot. She was a foul-out zone buster. She averaged close to 15 points per game for the Rocks this season.

But Handley's value to the Rocks this season wasn't measured by how many times she drained her perimeter jumper. Handley sacrificed a good deal of her individual acclaim for the betterment of the team. She had always been a point guard and a premier scorer. But with Salem this year she was a wing player and a supplemental scorer. She made the adjustment painlessly. She contributed both offensively and defensively. She played within her capabilities and became a better all-around player for her efforts.

She will play college ball at Saginaw Valley State College next year.

Jennifer Okon, Westland John Glenn, senior: This slender 6-1 forward earned the respect of area coaches with her command of the game's fundamentals. As Salem coach Fred Thomann often said of Okon: "I'd love to have her. She catches the ball well, she shoots the ball well, she passes well and she runs the court well."

Okon averaged 11.5 points and 7.6 rebounds per game this year. She shot 59 percent from the floor and 72 percent from the free throw line.

She has accepted a basketball scholarship from Northern Michigan University.

Katie McNulty, Livonia Ladywood, junior: With the exception of Head, this was the most powerful post player in the area this season. She's a solidly-built 6-1 and possesses a soft shooting touch around the basket. One of her weapons is a consistently effective hook shot. She also uses both hands with equal efficiency.

McNulty averaged 13.6 points and 12.2 rebounds per game. She was also a superb shot blocker.

As Ladywood coach Ed Kvanough said: "Katie is just starting to reach her potential. She will be a dominant center next year."

Mandy Chandler, Livonia Ladywood, senior: Talk about having a nose for the ball. If the basketball was loose, Mandy Chandler would grab it. If there was an important offensive rebound to be had, she'd have it. If a ball was tipped,

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Dena Head Salem

Mandy Chandler Ladywood

Katie McNulty Ladywood

all-area girls basketball

1986 All-Area GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Dena Head	Plymouth Salem	Plymouth Salem
Yvette Malson	Farmington Hills Mercy	Farmington Hills Mercy
Jessica Handley	Plymouth Canton	Plymouth Canton
Jennifer Okon	Westland John Glenn	Westland John Glenn
Katie McNulty	Livonia Ladywood	Livonia Ladywood
Mandy Chandler	Livonia Ladywood	Livonia Ladywood
Jill Estley	Plymouth Salem	Plymouth Salem
Fred Thomann (coach)	Salem	Salem

SECOND TEAM

Denise Kakolovich	Garden City	Garden City
Karen Duchak	Plymouth Canton	Plymouth Canton
Margaret DeMatteis	Farmington Hills Mercy	Farmington Hills Mercy
Tacey Greenwald	Livonia Canton	Livonia Canton
Kristen Hosteny	Plymouth Salem	Plymouth Salem
Lydia Lankford	Garden City	Garden City
Sissy Graham	Westland John Glenn	Westland John Glenn

THIRD TEAM

Melissa Emley	Westland John Glenn	Westland John Glenn
Karen Sandpen	Garden City	Garden City
Virginia Angelo	Redford Thurston	Redford Thurston
Katy Foley	Bishop Dugans	Bishop Dugans
Tony Barger	Plymouth Canton	Plymouth Canton
Jan Herberholz	Farmington Hills Mercy	Farmington Hills Mercy
Rose Okey	Livonia Franklin	Livonia Franklin

Honorable mention: North Farmington — Scott Butcher, Barry Sears, Mo O'Brien, Jerry Bealock, Farmington — Becky Philp, Stacy Swandinski, Kelli Koss, Farmington Harrison — Lindsay Dewar, Mercy — Adrienne Clark, Marie Dietz, Redford Thurston — Hollie Boonick, Janet Smith, Redford Union — Jennifer Sora, Gwynn Sorensen, Redford Bishop Dugans — Phil Hines, Tanisha Sotak, Redford St. Agatha — Maryann Rick, Cathy Garslap, Janet Byrdewick, Laura Panoz, John Glenn — Beth Wilson, Theresa Terence, Wayne Memorial — Patricia Garcia, Kyla Adams, Antonette Hiscot, Garden City — Terri Peck, Mikey Gorak, Cherevichko — Dr. Kay Lindsey, Livonia Chubbuck — Julie Sorogun, Liz Monroe, Livonia Stevenson — Sue Zatorni, Karen Carney, Livonia Franklin — Marie Veselaku, Cathy Oost, Ladywood — Nicole Ewald, Julie Oaks, Monica Galt, Yvonne Barnett, Plymouth Canton — Perry Pappoli, Viki Fetic, Plymouth Salem — Kari McBride.