

Sports

Chris McCosky, Brad Emons editors/591-2312



(FBA)

Loss shakes MSU captain

By Jim Toth
staff writer

This weekend marked a first for Plymouth native Don McSwen and his Michigan State University hockey teammates at Joe Louis Arena. It was the first time in McSwen's four years of wearing the green and white at Joe Louis that he took part in the consolation finals rather than the championship contest.

The Spartans' senior co-captain found himself in Sunday's consolation game of the 22nd Annual Great Lakes Invitational hockey tournament after Western Michigan University delivered a surprising 7-3 pasting in a semifinal showdown on Saturday.

The defeat marked the second consecutive loss by the defending NCAA champion Spartans on Joe Louis ice after posting 17 straight victories. The other loss occurred last March when Western stopped the Spartan streak with a 3-1 triumph in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association championship game.

"IT HURT losing before all these people here," commented McSwen in the quiet of the MSU locker room. "We've noticed more this season that teams are coming at us a lot more. We know that would happen after last season, and we just have to be ready to face it every night. Tonight we weren't ready, and we got beat pretty bad by a good Western Michigan team."

Saturday's loss was one of only a handful suffered by the Spartans this season and one of only a few in McSwen's career at MSU. In McSwen's three previous years, the Spartans compiled a 102-27-2 mark. Following Sunday's 9-0 victory over Michigan Tech in the consolation game, the Spartans stand with a 19-3-1 ledger this season.

"We've been playing well," said McSwen, who has captained the Spartans the last three seasons and is a candidate for the Hobey Baker Award, presented to college hockey's top performer. "I'm happy with the team's play and I'm pretty happy with the way I've been playing. I'm



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

MSU captain Don McSwen, as did the rest of the Spartans, found the going rough against Western in the first round of the Great Lakes

Invitational Saturday night at the Joe Louis Arena.

not going to score a lot of goals or anything like that, so that isn't going to show up in the game story. But I feel I've been doing a pretty good job defensively.

A FIRST TEAM All-CCHA and second team All-America selection last season, McSwen, a graduate of Catholic Central, said he welcomes the opportunity to be the one to finally provide the senior leadership.

"I don't mind it; I like being one of the leaders on this team," said the Spartans' three-year letter-winner, who managed one point in the two tournament games. "We've had quite a few successful teams here, and we try to pride ourselves in being consistent. We've done that so far this year, but we're only half of the way through. We still have a long way to go, and I think a game like tonight can help us because, if anything, it

will teach a lesson that you have to work hard every night to win.

"I just wish we could have given everybody a better show tonight because there are a lot of Michigan State fans here who have really supported us," McSwen continued. "We've always played well in this building, and I can't really think of another game since I've been at Michigan State that turned out like this one."



Brad Emons

A farewell glance at the events of '86

IT'S SAD TO SEE 1986 pass on. There were so many memorable moments in Observerland.

I'm the type of person who looks to the future, but often it's good to reminisce just one last time before the year ends.

Here are some of my personal memories, good and bad.

Who could ever forget Bernie Holowicki's 500th basketball victory at Catholic Central?

The John McIntyre and Carlos Briggs controversies?

Steve Hawley's jumper? Jerry Diete-Spitt's block?

Ralph Owen's retirement dinner?

Debbie McDonald's spiking?

Tom Teeters' coaching?

The Wayne-Romulus district basketball game?

Scott Skiles against Georgetown?

Churchill's regional hockey win over Ann Arbor Pioneer?

Regional hockey win over Livonia Stevenson?

Vern Norris' retirement?

Rocky Watkins' dismissal at Schoolcraft and Bob Wetzel's hiring?

Bernie Carbo's bats?

Steve Irwin's fireballing and Clint Straub's clutch relief?

The Glenn-Brother Rice baseball semifinal?

Shelly Malone's grand slam?

Tracy Leck's incredible pitching and Franklin's state softball title?

Churchill's state Class A girls soccer title?

The coaching of Ed Dudek?

The titles won by Ivan Cotman and Cherie Johnson at the state Class A track meet?

The hiring of Jack Roberts as executive director of the MHSAA?

Howard Freiling's home run at Ford Field? Don Vestling's pitching?

Livonia Adray's win over Detroit Adray Appliance at Johnston?

The NBA draft: Greg Wendt to Boston, Carlos Briggs to San Antonio?

THE WOLVERINE SOCCER TOURNAMENT?

The Stevenson girls winning the Observerland Track Relays?

Chris Kovath's last-minute catchdown catch at the Silverdome?

Bishop Burgess beating CC in football?

Scott Selzer's electrical night against Glenn?

The quiet effectiveness of Bob Dropp and Jack Beardon?

The cooperation of Fred Price and Steve Dollaway?

Brian Vooltech's 68-yard quick kick in the CC-Ann Arbor Pioneer football game?

The brawl at the Thurston-Taylor Center football game?

The honest reporting by Chris McCosky at the Churchill-Stevenson regional boys soccer match?

Lars Richters' bat trick against CC in the regional?

Paul Beasley's running against Ypsilanti?

Mike Hammontree's touchdown catch against Ann Arbor Pioneer?

The wit and humor of Jim Gibbons?

DENA HEAD's magnificent talent?

The dedication of Chuck Gordon?

The unheralded play of Greg Bates?

Losing Skip Barnett to Georgia?

Bringing back Lance Vaccarella?

The improvement of Andy Grullis?

Paul Graziulis' hook shot against Notre Dame?

Tom Domako's 18 points and 17 rebounds against Indiana?

The faithfulness of George Croil, Bill Pinnell, Jim Murphy, Marshall Henry, Emil Majeski and Herb Osterland?

Shelia Taormina's swimming?

Dean Kobane's golfing?

The CC tennis team and their state title?

Salem Yaffa's undefeated season in wrestling?

The usefulness of Lee Cagle?

The straight-forwardness of Roger Frayer?

The raspy voice of Rudy Varvar?

See you next year.

Formidable foes

Elite teams battle for Rock title

By Bill Parker
staff writer

If everyone shows up with a full, healthy squad, the Plymouth Salem Wrestling Invitational Saturday should stack up to be one of the better tournaments of the year.

Eaton Rapids, the Class R state champion in the 1985-86 season, returns to defend the championship it won at the Plymouth Salem Invitational last year.

To do that, however, the Greyhounds will have to get past the tough Redford Catholic Central Shamrocks.

The two teams met earlier this season in the Lansing Eastern Invitational. Catholic Central won that tournament while Eaton Rapids finished third. Since then, both teams have been impressive.

The Shamrocks will come in with five tournament victories in five tournament outings. Their most recent triumph was at the 32-team Medina Invitational Dec. 27-28, in Medina, Ohio.

The Greyhounds, meanwhile, come in following an impressive win at the Temperance-Bedford Invitational Dec. 6. In that tournament, Eaton Rapids knocked off Oakland County champion Hazel Park and defending Class A champion Bedford to claim the title.

THESE TWO teams should get some stiff competition from Warren, Montrose, Salem and Garden City. Other local teams competing in the tournament are Wayne Memorial, North Farmington, Canton, Redford Union, Farmington Harrison and Livonia Stevenson. Rounding out the 16-team field are Ann Arbor Pio-

Dennis Dameron
SalemLee Krueger
CCMike Gentile
CC

neer, Belleville, Portage Northern and Ypsilanti.

"I'd have to think it will be a two team race," said Salem coach Ron Krueger. "Montrose or Warren could slip in there but I'd have to say Catholic Central and Eaton Rapids are the two teams to beat. They'll keep each other honest. The rest of the way down it should be tough. All the other teams each have a couple good kids coming in."

CATHOLIC CENTRAL coach Mike Rodriguez agrees.

"We placed second last year. I don't think we'll be second this year. We have three kids that are out and we just won a 32-team tournament (in Ohio). We should win it without them. If they're all healthy we shouldn't have any problems."

"It should be tough. (Krueger) is bringing in some pretty strong outsiders. It looks like it will be a pretty tough tournament."

Although the competition will be strong, it's Rocks hope to be near the top of the chart when all matches are completed Saturday night.

Much of Salem's hopes for success will be riding on the shoulders of four wrestlers whom Krueger feels have a shot at individual championships.

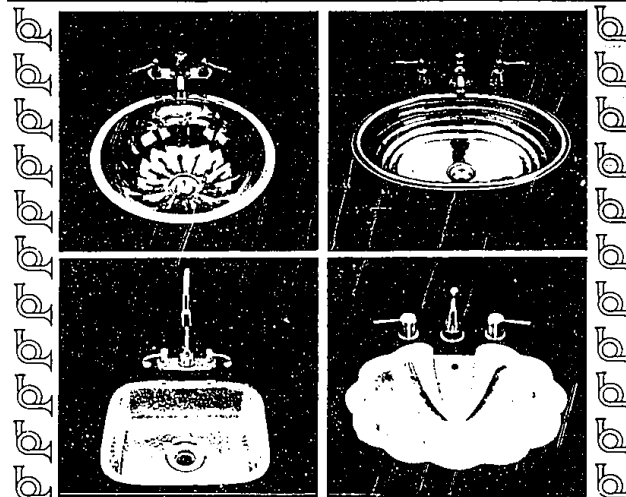
Dennis Dameron leads the Salem troups after winning the 112-pound championship last year. He'll battle in the 126-pound division this time around. Heavyweight Richard Johnson, 132-pounder Tim Ott and 88-pounder Jeff Delbecke all have a shot at winning their respective weight classes but Krueger admits it won't be an easy task.

"IT'S GOING to be tough. They each have a chance but they'll each have to wrestle real well."

"We finished third last year. This

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