

Rout fails to dampen Borgess reunion

By Chris McCochy
staff writer

JOE GREGORY wore a hang-dog expression. His eyes were fixed on the ground, his voice barely audible. This was not the greatest moment in his young athletic career.

Lewis Scott, on the other hand, was all smiles. He was animated, restless, the adrenalin still shooting through his system. The only lull in his enthusiasm came when he talked about his friend, Joe Gregory. Deep down he sympathized with Gregory's pain.

This was the aftermath of a special reunion. It took place at Eastern Michigan University's Bowen Field House Wednesday night during the EMU-Bowling Green basketball game. It was, regardless of the outcome, a proud moment for followers of Redford Bishop Borgess and Observerland sports.

people in sports

Gregory and Scott, two of the most exceptional basketball players produced by Bishop Borgess, matched up against each other. Scott, the point guard for EMU, against Gregory, the point guard for Bowling Green. For the first time in a college game, Gregory and Scott matched up man on man.

THE OUTCOME, from Gregory's perspective, was disastrous. EMU humiliated Bowling Green 95-52.

"This hurts," Gregory said after the game. "This hurts real bad."

Said Scott: "Playing against one of my high school teammates, I was definitely pumped up. And you know there was no way I wanted to lose

this one. I talked to Joe after. I know he was down. I just told him not to stay down. He has really improved his game. He shoots the ball well and passes it real well."

Actually, the individual battle between Gregory and Scott — though difficult to measure because of the team's differing offensive philosophies — was pretty even.

Scott, slowed some by a flu virus, played 23 minutes. He made two of three shots for four points, grabbed two rebounds and dished out two assists. He also made a steal (off Gregory). In fact, Scott's and EMU's bounding man-to-man defense was the difference in the game. The badgered Falcons hit on just 19 of 40

shots from the floor.

Gregory played 26 minutes. He hit two of four shots and one of two free throws for five points. He had a rebound, four assists and two steals (one off Scott).

It should be pointed out that Scott is 6-5 and Gregory 5-9. But where Scott had the advantage of height and reach, Gregory had an edge in quickness. It made for an intriguing individual battle, a welcomed one considering the one-sidedness of the game.

For Scott and Gregory, Wednesday was merely a continuation of the friendly individual battle the two began some five years ago at Borgess. Gregory was a sophomore in 1983 when Scott, a senior, was establishing most of the Bishop Borgess scoring records. Two years later, Gregory had eclipsed all of Scott's records. The two players still get together over the summer and play pickup games at Borgess.

THE TWO have taken different paths through college.

Scott has emerged as one of EMU's most versatile athletes and one of the team's premier defensive players.

After seeing limited action as a freshman, Scott was asked to play small forward as a sophomore. He responded by averaging 8.8 points and 4.5 rebounds per game.

As a junior Scott was asked to play shooting guard. He averaged nearly 12 points a game and shot nearly 50 percent from the floor.

This year, Scott was asked to play point guard and again he has responded to the challenge. Prior to Wednesday night, he has averaged 13 points and three rebounds per game. In 11 games he has 36 assists and 32 turnovers.

When asked if EMU was a better team with him at point guard, Scott said, "I'd like to say so. I'd be in trouble if I didn't. I think I've been able to provide some leadership at the point."

"I'd say the toughest part of it is defense. In the MAC (Mid-American Conference) a lot of the guards are smaller. When we played against Notre Dame and Cleveland State the point guards were my size. Some of the guys are quicker, but I have decent quickness and my long arms really help."

From all accounts, Lewis Scott is completely content with his basketball life at EMU.

THAT HASN'T been the case for Gregory at Bowling Green. Last year was somewhat of a nightmare.



Joe Gregory, despite a credible individual performance, was less than pleased with the final outcome Wednesday night.

He and coach John Weir didn't exactly hit it off, and Gregory spent a lot of time on the bench.

Things are different now. New coach Jim Larranaga has won Gregory's confidence and trust.

"The coaching is great and we have a good team," Gregory said. "This was just one of those nights for us. We are a lot better than this. I'm just happy to be playing for a coach like Jim Larranaga."

Gregory's game is far different now than it was back at Borgess. Gregory rarely shoots, although he has hit seven of 15 shots from three-point range this season. He seldom drives the lane, something he did brilliantly in high school. His job with Bowling Green is to get the ball into the hands of the designated shooters.

"I'm not unhappy with my role. I do whatever I'm asked to do and whatever it takes to help us win," Gregory said. "I wasn't really a scorer at Borgess. I was just asked to do it, so I did it. We've got guys on this team that can score, and I'm more than happy to get them the ball. If a shot is there for me, I'll take it."

Gregory was understandably upset with the way the game turned out Wednesday. But he was still able to find a silver lining.

"You know the only thing good about this is we get to play them again in our gym (Feb. 4). Hopefully, it'll be a different story," he said.

If not, it could be somewhat disconcerting for Gregory this summer when he shows up at Borgess for open gym.



Lewis Scott was all smiles Wednesday night after helping his EMU team thrash Bowling Green 95-52.

college sports

CHRIS MACK, a Kalamazoo College senior from Garden City and second-team all-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association defensive tackle, has been named to the academic all-America football team. The four-year starter was one of 96 players from across the nation recognized for successfully combining

athletics and academics.

Mack was the Hornets' MVP after leading them in tackles for loss (19 for minus-97 yards) and quarterback sacks (11). To be chosen to the academic all-America team, a player must be a starter or important reserve and must carry a 3.2 to 4.0 grade point average. Mack is majoring in biology.

ALICE SHORT, a Farmington Harrison graduate, pumped in 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in Northern Michigan's three-game trip to Florida. Short, a senior who leads the Wildcats in scoring with a 16.8 average, scored 15 and nabbed eight rebounds in a 90-68 win over Air Force. NMU also beat St. Thomas (Miami) 85-41 and lost to Florida Atlantic 60-50.

CURTIS WHITE, a Plymouth State

senior, is one of several local standouts on Kent State's hockey team. While a freshman defenseman, scored his first collegiate goal and it was the game-winner against Sheridan College. He also has seven assists this season.

ED SIEPLER, from Livonia Churchill, is the second-leading scorer for KSU with eight. The freshman also has eight assists in 14 games. **JOHN SMITH** and **CHARLIE NORTON**, from Plymouth Canton, have also been big contributors. Smith, a center, has three goals and nine assists, while Norton has a goal and two assists while splitting time between forward and defense.

PETE PODRASKY, from Canton, assisted on a goal in Northern Michigan's 9-3 win over Yale and got another assist in the Wildcats' 5-3 victory over University of New Hamp-

shire. But the freshman defenseman hurt his shoulder against UNH and is expected to be lost one to three weeks.

MISSY DUCZYNSKI, a Farmington Hills Mercy grad from Plymouth, scored a career-high 11 points in Central Michigan's 80-71 basketball victory over Kent State. The freshman forward is averaging 8.5 points and 1.4 rebounds for the Chippewas.

KELLY KOWALSKI, from Livonia Stevenson, is having a superb freshman season, even if her Wayne State basketball team isn't. Kowalski leads the Tartars in scoring with a 12.6 points-per-game average and has grabbed 67 rebounds-per-contest as a starter.

TRACY LECTKA, from Livonia Franklin, has also sparked for WSU as a freshman starter.

the week ahead

PREP BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Jan. 13
Wald, John Glenn at Garden City, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Churchill at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
Ypsilanti at Psy. Salem, 7:30 p.m.
Psy. Canton at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.
Farmington at Waterford Mott, 7:30 p.m.
Wayne Memorial at Trenton, 7:30 p.m.
D.H. Ann Arbor at Red. Thurston, 7:30 p.m.
H.W. Lutheran East at Clarensville, 7:30 p.m.
St. Agatha at Warren St. Anne, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15
Bash. Gallagher at Catholic Central, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16
Northville at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.

Farmington at Liv. Stevenson, 7:30 p.m.

Liv. Churchill at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.

Wald, John Glenn at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.

Psy. Salem at H. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.

Farm. Harrison at Psy. Canton, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.

Wayne Memorial at Wyandotte, 7:30 p.m.

Red. Thurston at Taylor Truman, 7:30 p.m.

Clarensville at Del. Lutheran West, 7:30 p.m.

Hagler Wild. ND at Hagler, 7:30 p.m.

St. Agatha at M.C. Holy Cross, 7:30 p.m.

Psy. Christian vs. Farm. Lutheran N'West at Plymouth's West Middle School, 7:30 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

Wednesday, Jan. 14
Liv. Franklin vs. Windsor (Ont.) Assumption at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at Wyandotte (Yack), 6 p.m.
Catholic Central at Eden Pk. Cabbett, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Liv. Churchill vs. Southfield-Lathrup at Beech Woods Arena, 8:30 p.m.

Liv. Franklin vs. Bloomfield Hills Andover at Detroit Skating Club, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 16

Liv. Churchill vs. Liv. Stevenson at Livonia's Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Catholic Central vs. Windsor (Ont.) Riverside at Redford Ice Arena, 6 p.m.

MEYER'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Schockcraft at Oakland CC, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17

First Mott CC at Schockcraft, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Oakland CC at Schockcraft, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17

Schockcraft at First Mott CC, 2 p.m.

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