



# St. Joseph's drubs Lady Pioneers

By C.J. Rissak  
staff writer

All sorts of reasons can be given for what happened to Oakland University's women's basketball team Saturday night: lack of experience, a rugged overtime win the previous night; even bad luck.

But when it comes right down to it, the reason for the Lady Pioneers' 80-59 whipping by St. Joseph's of Indiana was simply a lack of weapons.

The Pumas, who won the Great Lakes Region in the NCAA Division II tournament a year ago, repeated with a pair of lopsided victories over Great Lakes Conference teams. On Friday, they decimated Northern Michigan 84-69 in the regional opener.

Jeannette Yeoman's offensive creativity. Nor was it Karen Deno's slashing drives to the basket, or Jennifer Radosevic's suffocating defense, or even the inside work of Alicia Dobbels and Tracy Payne.

It was a combination of all of the above, and more. The Pumas surrounded OU's Debbie Delle every time she touched the ball and, although Delle still powered her way to 22 points and seven rebounds, the Lady Pioneers turned it over far too often trying to force the ball in to her.

"I felt like I was open," said Delle. "But once I got the ball inside, they were all over me."

According to St. Joseph's coach Dave Smith, his team played straight man-to-man with a couple of modifications. "We put somebody on 55 (Shawne Brow), and that's all

## basketball

she was supposed to do. She wasn't supposed to drop off and help anyone. (Browe's) three-point shooting was a definite concern.

"THEN WE just doubled-down on 45 (Delle) with our guards when she got the ball."

Perhaps it wasn't as much the strategy as it was the execution. The Pumas used their superior quickness to great advantage, and played over their lack of size. Their front line stood 5-foot-11, 5-10, 5-8, compared to OU's 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, but St. Joseph's outbounded OU 36-27.

Radosevic, a sophomore, had the

job of guarding Brow, who set an NCAA II tournament record by hitting six three-pointers against Northern Kentucky Friday. She did her job exceedingly well; Brow was 0-for-3 from the floor and attempted just one triple. After getting 23 against NKU, she did not score a point against the Pumas.

While St. Joseph's defense was forcing OU into committing 20 turnovers and 23-of-62 shooting (37.1 percent), its offense was clicking. The Pumas made 31-of-49 of their shots (63.3 percent) against the best scoring defense in the GLIAC.

YEOMAN WAS the triggerman. She scored 16 points and assists against and over riding NMU for 37 and eight, Friday. "I just took what the defense was giving me," she said. "A few times they had 23

(Leah Fenwick) on me, and there was a definite quickness advantage there, so I'd drive and then pass off when others came to help. But at the beginning of the game, it was straight dish in to the post."

Everything St. Joseph's tried worked. Past players Payne (16 points) and Dobbels (11) combined to make 11-of-13 shots. Deno was eight-of-12 on a variety of moves (she scored 18); Yeoman was six-of-11.

The game turned at the end of the opening half in spite of their shooting woes — the Lady Pioneers were 11-of-30 (36.7 percent) in the first half — they were still within striking distance, trailing 36-28 with 3:14 left. But Deno (five) and Dobbels combined for the last nine points of the half, and St. Joseph's led 45-28 at the intermission.

OU outscored the Pumas 9-2 to

start the second half, getting five points on one possession. Delle scored and was fouled. She missed the free throw but Dawn Lichty rebounded and kicked it out to Ann Serra, who sank a triple to make it 47-37.

It never got closer. St. Joseph's scored the next eight points and 12 of the next 14 (Yeoman had eight) that made it 59-39.

"Once we cut it to 10, I think we thought it could be easy," said OU coach Bob Taylor, whose team bowed out at 28-4. "But they were in the final eight they played like it tonight."

Fenwick and Serra each finished with 12 points, with Serra adding eight assists and three steals. St. Joseph's, now 27-3, advances to play the winner of the Cal Poly Pomona-Cal St. Northridge game.

THE DIFFERENCE wasn't guard



Brother Rice's P.J. Potter (3) and Peter Mitchell (44) sandwich Pershing's Kehill Felder (14) Ferndale.

photo by MELANIE STENGEL

# Warriors fall short in loss to Pershing

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

Pershing was the slick city team out of the reputable Detroit Public School League (PSL). The Doughboys lost just two games all season — to sixth-seeded Detroit Southwestern and Detroit Cooley.

Not many people gave Birmingham Brother Rice a chance in Friday's regional championship game against Pershing. The Doughboys were overwhelming favorites.

But, guess what? The Warriors, despite a decided height advantage and a lack of overall quickness, gave the Doughboys everything they could handle. Pershing eventually pounded to a 50-53 triumph.

Rice coach Frank Carrio thought his team had a chance all along to cash in on a regional trophy. And the Warriors almost pulled it off.

"I'm proud of the way we fought. We were the underdogs, but I didn't think it was going to be a clear decision," said Carrio, whose team ended the season with a 14-9 overall record. "I thought it would be a close game."

"I told the players I thought it would be a game in the 40s or 50s. I thought they held the ball more than we did. We were ready to run with them. We hung in there really well."

"I thought the thing we had to do against them is not turn it over," he said. "If you limit your turnovers you can limit their fast-break opportunities. They actually run a better fast break off of turnovers than they do off of missed baskets. That's what we were hoping to do."

RICE RAN that strategy to near perfection in the first half. The Warriors had only five turnovers in those two quarters, and even though court leader David Washington was held pointless, the Warriors still matched Pershing point-for-point.

Pershing had a 15-11 lead after the first quarter, but Rice started strong in the second to take an 18-17 lead. The teams traded baskets the rest of the quarter, with Pershing junior guard Kehill Felder making a free throw just before halftime to give his team a 28-25 lead at the intermission.

Pershing outscored Rice by four points in the third quarter to take a

42-37 lead. The Warriors were still in the game at this point.

But things slowly started to unravel for Rice.

The Warriors two centers — senior Loren Luodemann and Junior Matt Moskus — and Washington all were playing in foul trouble. Plus, Rice started committing turnovers (13 in the second half) — something they avoided in the first half.

That combination ultimately led to Rice's downfall.

PERSHING TOOK its biggest lead of the game four minutes into the fourth quarter, 51-42. The Warriors tried to fight back, but to no avail. Pershing made 7 of its final 11 free throws to stay in control.

And when Washington fouled out with two minutes left, it was virtually all over for Rice. The Warriors just couldn't get their offense running smoothly without their floor leader.

"We had a couple of lapses there right at the end of the game," said Carrio. "But I thought the ones which really hurt us were the half-

Please turn to Page 2

# Observerland's last hope meets end

By Brad Emons  
staff writer

Observerland's lone survivor in the state basketball tournament was left feeling like a refugee.

Two-time defending state Class A champion Detroit Cooley (22-7) left Wayne Memorial in ruins Friday, rolling to a 63 victory in the regional final at Southfield-Lathrup.

"Our kids did the best they could," said Wayne coach Chuck Henry. "We were over-matched at every position. We just couldn't go belly-up from baseline to baseline. We were hoping our shots would go early and they would go cold."

"But we didn't hit our shots and they sure did."

Henry was hoping for a bit of deja vu. It was only three years ago that his overzealous Zebras took eventual state champion Romulus and Terry Mills to triple overtime before losing in the district.

"I thought of that," Henry admitted, "but the circumstances here were a little bit different. Playing against the PSL (Public

School League) and Saginaw (Valley League) is a whole different story. These kids are 6-foot-6 and 6-7. They're big, strong kids."

COOLEY WAS certainly imposing, but it was the shooting of guards Michael Talley (25 points) and Derwin Good (14) which left Wayne stranded.

"I think we were prepared to play and it showed from the start," said Cooley coach Ben Kelso. "We've been a fairly good shooting team. We've shot 60 percent from the floor most of the season."

Wayne's plan of attack was to spread the floor out, penetrate and attack Cooley's defense with jump shots.

The Zebras had moderate success in the first half, but found themselves trailing 40-26.

"We didn't want to hold the ball or delay," Henry said. "We came here to win. We basically had a conservative game plan. We wanted to hold down their layups. Defensively, we tried to guard Talley straight up, but Good and the others hit the jumpers because our guards were helping out inside against

their big people.

"For us to trap early would have been disastrous. We don't have the depth or the quickness to press a team like that. We just hoped to spring the press now-and-then and get a quick turnover."

THE ZEBRAS COULDN'T spring any surprises at the outset of the second half as Cooley reeled off eight unanswered points to swell the lead to 29 points.

The University of Michigan-bound Talley, the team's catalyst, scored 10 points during the third period to propel the Cardinals to a 56-38 advantage.

Cooley then opened up its offensive attack in the final quarter, highlighted by a pair of monster dunks from 6-7 Missouri-bound Daniel Lyton, who finished with 14 points; and 6-6 junior Clifford Judkins.

Senior guard Tony Rumpke, who did his best to keep Wayne close with 11 first-half points, finished with 17 points to share team-high honors with junior Pierre Hixon.

"They did a very good job of shooting and spreading the floor; and also by setting some excellent picks," Kelso said. "They tried to

go to the basket a number of times and it was evident that they are well coached. To be deliberate, it's difficult to do that if you haven't done it all year."

KELSO SAID his Cardinals have been a marked team all year.

"It hasn't been an easy road for us," he said. "A lot of the teams have tried a number of gimmicks. A lot of the coaches have come up with some excellent game plans. They've tried to create as much confusion as possible."

But there was no confusion about Friday's outcome.

Cooley simply had too much talent. "I don't think they (Wayne) have faced that kind of competition before," said the Cooley coach.

"We have a good schedule, but not a PSL schedule," said Henry. "We have to play 14 league games, but also play teams outside our league like CC (Redford Catholic Central and Ann Arbor Huron). We're also allowed three scrimmages a year and normally we pick up good teams. I'm not ashamed of our schedule."

## basketball

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— Chuck Henry  
Wayne basketball coach

# Canton goalie stars in WCHA tourney

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Hi, mom! That message is intended for Ellen Pyle of Canton Township and comes from her son, Bill Pyle.

It seems Bill, who became an instant celebrity when he was named most valuable player of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association playoffs a week ago, forgot his mother in the aftermath of victory.

Pyle, a sophomore goalie, stopped 43 shots last Monday night to pace Northern Michigan's 8-4 victory over Denver in the final of the WCHA tournament in Minnesota.

"When he was interviewed on television, I was expecting him to say 'Hi, mom,' because he knew we'd be watching," Ellen said. "But he said 'Hi, Tracy.' That's his girlfriend. I thought 'Tracy.' What about 'Hi, mom.'"

BILL WAS informed of that error of omission when he spoke on the telephone later to the jubilant members of his family, who watched the game via the satellite dish at the Sports Den in Redford.

"Yeah, she was kinda upset about that," Bill said. "That name just stuck in my head and I said that. Give my ma something, so she can show all her friends."

Actually, her son's performance in the WCHA playoffs was more than enough to please Ellen Pyle.

Bill turned away 38 shots as the No. 8-ranked Wildcats defeated Wisconsin 4-2 in the semifinals, and he topped that with his superb showing in the championship game. Pete Podrasky, another NMU player from Canton, scored a goal against Minnesota, also.

Though pleased to have been the MVP, Pyle downplayed his selection, however.



"It could have gone either way," he said, adding teammate Phil Berger of Dearborn had a great series, too. "I don't think I had as many quality shots as I did other games."

"There were a lot of shots from the blue line, and that kind of save should be made. Those are the kind you have to make if you want to go any farther."

PYE, HOWEVER, outplayed Wisconsin goalkeeper Curtis Joseph, who was the regular-season MVP, when their teams met in the semifinals. Pyle was runner-up in the earlier voting.

"Against us, he didn't have that many shots, and he couldn't do much

in the shots we had," Pyle said. "But he had a good series. It was a 3-2 game, and then we scored an empty-net goal."

The possibility of landing tournament MVP honors occurred to Pyle after that game, but Denver goalie Lucian Carigan was coming off an excellent semifinal game, too.

"He made my game look like nothing," Pyle said. "He must have stopped 30 point-blank shots."

"When I went into the final — you don't want to think about it — but it does go through your head. I figured the goalie on the team that won it would get it."

Pyle's goaltending is one of the reasons NMU is where it's at. He has all the decisions with the exception of two losses for the Wildcats, 25-15-2. Pyle has a 3.11 goals-against average and .907 save percentage.

AGAINST us, he didn't have that many shots, and he couldn't do much

the WCHA this year. After being picked to finish seventh, the Wildcats were second only to Minnesota in the final standings and improved upon that in the playoffs.

"The biggest thing was proving everybody wrong," Pyle said. "We all knew we could do it, and we wondered why the hell they were picking us so low. But it's such a competitive league I can understand why they'd do that."

Pyle's parents wish they could have foreseen the success that was ahead for NMU, a middle-of-the-pack team the last four seasons in the WCHA.

They made five trips to Marquette during the regular season, and they used the airline tickets Ellen had won to fly to Colorado Springs for a NMU-Denver series.



Bill Pyle named tournament MVP

Please turn to Page 2