

Ocelots put past behind them

By C.J. Risak
staff writer

Expect a different look from Schoolcraft College's mens basketball team this season.

One telltale sign that things will be different is coach Dave Bogataj's attitude.

"I don't sound like my usual optimistic self, do I?" Bogataj said after describing his '89-90 squad. "I still am, but I'm a little more of a realist after the last two years.

"I do think we'll be a better team than last year."

A coach like Bogataj has needed his optimism the last couple of seasons. He came to SC as a last-minute replacement for Bob Wetzel just before the 1987-88 season. The results were predictable: recruiting problems, academic problems, and an 8-21 record.

Last year, Bogataj was more hopeful. He had been on the job a full year, he had some promising recruits, and although he wasn't predicting a championship, he figured the Ocelots could reach .500.

Then at the end of the first semester in January, seven players were lost, four to academic deficiencies and three others who just quit.

The result: another dismal season and a 6-24 record.

But his optimism would be tempered after two such disappointments. And yet, this year Bogataj has better reason to approach the season with high hopes than any other.

Schoolcraft sports

INDEED, THIS group of Ocelots is better than any since Rocky Watkins left as coach in 1988.

There's experience, with six sophomores returning; there's talent, according to Bogataj ("We're in a position where we'll play eight or nine kids"); there's size, with four players standing 6-foot-5 or better; and, best of all, there's depth, with 14 names on the roster.

Of course, one pivotal question remains: Are there grades? Can these guys cut it academically?

"We're going to be fine," Bogataj said when asked about the Ocelots' past academic troubles. "We'll be all right."

One reason for his assuredness is SASS — the Student-Athlete Support System, a program designed to make certain athletes are fulfilling their academic requirements. Included is a weekly check; if a player stumbles in the classroom, he can't play until he gets back on track.

"I know it's forced learning," Bogataj said. "But at least we've got them opening their books. Hopefully we won't have the devastation we had last year."

That would be a major victory in itself. And it will result in some on-court victories, as well.

BECAUSE THERE'S another factor to consider as SC opens its '89-90 campaign 5:15 p.m. Wednesday against Siena Heights junior varsity in Adrian: With 14 wins in 50 games over the past two years, the Ocelots should be seeing red every time the ball goes up to start a game.

"I think that ate at the kids," Bogataj said. "People came out and just flat beat us. (The sophomores) have played a lot of basketball this summer. They came in in shape. They were ready."

But besides working on their own game, they've been taking the freshmen aside and basically telling them, "We're not going to put up with what happened last year."

Six who started some time during last season are back (of course, almost everyone got a shot at starting for SC last year).

The biggest is Al Hudson, a 6-foot-7 center who would be better suited to forward. Still, Hudson, from Romulus, averaged 10 points and nine rebounds per game and, Bogataj said, "has really worked at his game."

Ken Fuster, a 6-2 guard from River Rouge, also returns. Fuster averaged 12 ppg last year. Rob Harmon (6-3 from Redford Bishop Borgess),

Mike Mercer (5-10 from Southgate Aquinas) and John Moran (6-1 from Allen Park Cabrini) are back, too; each averaged approximately eight points a game last season.

ANOTHER RETURNÉE is Ed Hudson, a 6-3 forward from Royal Oak Shrine who was leading the Ocelots in scoring (16 ppg) when he was sidelined by poor grades last January.

Among the newcomers who could crack the starting lineup are Temy Rumpke, a 6-0 guard from Wayne Morris; Jeff Elliott, a 6-3 guard-forward from Plymouth Salem; and Randy Waters, a 6-4 rebounder from Milford-Lakeland.

Sean Hansen, a 6-2 guard from Berkley, is expected to return when he recovers from a broken jaw suffered in a batting cage accident in August.

Others Bogataj is counting on are 6-7, 240-pound Eubie Layton (Wilmington Lake), who will back up Al Hudson and provide inside defense; and muscle; 6-5 forward Dave Hamilton (Taylor Center); 6-5 forward Chris Hebert (Wayne Morris); and 6-1 guard Tom Progar (Dearborn Divine Child).

"We're deeper on the bench, and a little taller," Bogataj said. "I hope we can finish in the middle of the (Eastern Conference) pack. I'm optimistic we're going to be very competitive."

Which would already be an improvement over the past two seasons.

Warriors stagger stags in state playoff opener

By Marly Budner
staff writer

There was nothing fancy about the way Brother Rice waltzed to victory in its Michigan High School Athletic Association Class A pre-regional playoff football game Saturday over Detroit Mackenzie.

The Warriors, displaying their usual balanced offense, scored on three of their first four possessions en route to a rather methodical 28-14 victory.

It wasn't as close as the final score might indicate.

Rice staggered the Stags both offensively and defensively in dominating the first half, then scored the first time it touched the ball in the second half to build its advantage to 28-0. Mackenzie scored twice in the fourth quarter against a Rice defense manned primarily by reserves.

The Warriors now play Westland John Glenn (9-1) Saturday — at John Glenn — in the regional championship game. John Glenn scored a surprising 20-7 win in its pre-regional game over Dearborn Fordson.

Rice's defense shut down the potentially explosive Mackenzie offense, which features blue-chip fullback Jerome Bettis and fleet tailback Walter Smith. The Stags could not get their rushing game in gear against the fast-pursuing Rice defense, led by blue-chip senior Gannon Dudlar, defensive tackle Mac McCabe (who injured his right shoulder and is doubtful for this week's game), Steve Morrison and defensive end Kevin Kaczynski.

Bettis, considered one of the state's premier players, entered the game with more than 2,600 yards gained over the last two years. The 230-pound senior had accumulated 1,268 yards this season — an 11.6 average — with 14 touchdowns.

THE RICE DEFENSE was up to the Bettis challenge. Bettis gained 68 yards on 12 carries, with his longest run from scrimmage a 22-yard effort in the fourth quarter. Bettis had just nine yards in the first half.

Dudlar, one of Rice's top three tacklers this season, and his defensive mates limited the vaulted Mackenzie rushing attack to a total of 126 yards — only 37 in the first half when Rice took control. Dudlar was in on numerous tackles and seemed to follow Bettis around the field.

"Basically we knew both (Mackenzie's) backs were very good and we didn't want to give them a straight path to the end zone because they're very fast," said Dudlar.

"There's one defense where I play linebacker and, once we ran that, they ran like a power to my right and I got (Bettis) pretty good in the backfield a few times," he said. "Our down linemen did a great job of making him cut back and slowing him up so our linebackers could finish him off."

The defense finished off Bettis and the offense finished off Mackenzie. Rice, which now owns a 13-2 post-season record since the playoffs started in 1975, opened the scoring four minutes into the game on a 4-yard touchdown run by Sean Johnson. The Warriors missed the extra point and that was about the only thing that went wrong offensively all day.

Salem kickers clip CC; eye Portage Northern

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Jeff Gold is considered the best player on the Plymouth Salem soccer team but not the only quality player, he wants people to know.

His affirmation will be put to the test Wednesday when the Rocks meet Portage Northern at 2 p.m. in a Class A semifinal game at Okemos High School.

Gold, who scored two goals Saturday to help Salem defeat Redford Catholic Central 5-1 and win its first regional championship, received a red card and will have to sit out the next game.

But it wasn't necessarily a costly victory, according to Salem coach Ken Johnson and Gold.

"As long as he's alive for the next game, I'm sure the boys will carry the game for him," Johnson said. "I think we have such overall strength, the boys will be there for him. He'll still be the emotional leader."

Gold, who put the Rocks on top 2-0 in the first half, pointed to the fact his teammates, after his excellent scored three quick goals without his help to lead the victory.

"WE HAVE guys on the bench who can fill in easily," said Gold, who has scored a team-leading 30 goals and has 19 assists. "I'm confident we'll be fine."

With the Rocks leading 2-1 early in the second half, Salem had a major advantage after CC's Scott Leadbetter was red-carded for pushing Gold to the ground.

That was nullified a short time later when referee Steven D'Amico sent Gold to the sideline. Gold was carrying the ball into CC territory when he got tangled among three Shamrocks. CC defender Chris Williams had to leave the game after being shaken up on the play.

"One of their guys pushed me into one of their players," Gold said. "He fell over the guy laying on the

ground and kicked him in the head. But the ref said I stepped on his face because he didn't see it.

"It's kinda upsetting because I didn't do anything. But right now it doesn't mean anything. A 5-1 win against this team is great."

Gold said he told his teammates at the beginning of the season Salem (17-3-1) would have to beat either Livonia Stevenson, Livonia Churchill or CC — or possibly two of the three — to win a state title. The No. 5-rated Rocks faced No. 2 Stevenson and the No. 3 Shamrocks (18-3-1) in the regional.

"The guys were kinda scared of CC earlier in the year," Gold said. "They have nine players on the state team, a lot of known players, and that was kinda intimidating."

"AS A TEAM, they talked about how they were going to beat us. But (my teammates) just came out today and showed them who the real team is."

Following the game that included physical play on both sides and the issuance of three red cards — CC's Jim Bernthal received the other — and four yellow cards, CC coach John Boots was not impressed by what he saw from the Rocks.

"They're the dirtiest team we've

played this year," he said. "I've got one kid in the hospital and four others limping. That's not sick (the Rocks) used to win the game; they just beat the hell out of us."

"They've got two or three decent players and the rest kick the ball and run to it. But it's efficient."

"I'm just not impressed with them," he added. "They won the game, but they don't play good soccer."

Johnson said Boots is entitled to his opinion but thought the Shamrocks were just as rough. He added his team's only intention is to hurt tough soccer.

"The boys are told never to hurt anyone deliberately," Johnson said. "I wouldn't stand for it."

SHORTLY AFTER Gold's departure, Bill Jaker gave the Rocks a 3-1 lead with a hard shot from 25 yards out front. The ball bounced off the hands of CC goalkeeper J.P. Angeli and dropped behind him.

A quick switch led to an even greater turn in momentum for the Rocks.

Tom Baker made a big play, heading the ball away from the Salem goal, and Andy Cosman picked it up at midfield where two CC defenders collided and fell.

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JONAH A. LANG, Attorney for Plaintiff,
24451 Grand River, Redford, Michigan 48278
STATE OF MICHIGAN, IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND, FILE NO. 89-21476-DM

GRANT CLARK, Plaintiff

BRENDA M. CLARK, Defendant

ORDER TO ANSWER

At a session of said Court held in the Court Room of the County of Oakland, Michigan, this October 11, 1989, Present: Richard D. Kuhn, Circuit Judge.

On the 11th day of August, 1989, an action was filed by the above named Plaintiff against the above named defendant in this Court to obtain a divorce.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the said defendant shall answer or take such other action as is permitted by law on or before December 26, 1989. Failure to comply with this Order shall result in a judgment by default against said defendant. For the relief demanded in the Complaint for Divorce filed in this Court.

The defendant shall be notified of the action by:

(1) publishing a copy of this order once each week for 3 consecutive weeks in a newspaper in the county where the defendant resides, if known, and if not, in the county where the action is pending and

(2) sending a copy of the order to the defendant by air or by first class mail before the date of the last publication. It is further ordered that the defendant, if known, shall file a copy of the answer, and answer in full, in the County Clerk's Office, within 14 days of the date of the last publication, and cause to be filed a true and correct inventory, listing of all the order is not required.

RICHARD D. KUHN,
Circuit Judge

The Court's address is 1100 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, Michigan.
Attorney for Plaintiff, Joseph A. Lang, P.C., 14391, 14411 Grand River, Redford, Michigan 48278
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Court Reporter, Observer & Reporter
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