## On the shelf

# Madonna basketball program cancelled

According to Madona College According to Madona College athletic director Ray Summers, "In two days, the whole program unraveled."

What Summers said, in reference to the womer's basketball program, is accurate. Injuries suffered by several players before the season was a few weeks old, combined with eacheric eligibility problems for two others, trimmed an already slim roster to four and resulted in the cancellation of this year's schedule. What Summers said, however, doesn't shed much light on why the program was in a situation like this to begin with. Summers refused to point fingers. "The only thing we can do is bow out of the season) as politicly as we can and start over new again next year," said Summers. He added emphatically, "We are not folding our program."

AND YET, the fate of women's baskethall always seems to be in question at Madonan. As late as August, the program's future was in doubt because of a misunderstanding between Summers and coach Bab Belf on how much scholarship money was available.

That problem was resolved, but more trouble was just around the next corner for Madona.

First came bad news on the academic front. A starter from last sea-

#### college sports

son, Michelle Dyksinski, and a top recruit, Rene Bennett, were both declared ineligible for the season. Dyksinski handt complected mough credit hours according to NAIA. Standards: Bennett had played previously for Madonna, prior to its joining the NAIA, leaving her in linbo. An NAIA District 23 committee was to rule on her eligibility. All of which trimmed Belf's roster from 11 to nine. After school started, Belf found out another player from last season's 6-15 team, flolly Murphy, decided against returning. That left eight players.

Then came the injuries: Teresa Terness suffered a broken collarbone last summer and hasn't recovered; Lisa Kine had ankle surgery. Stephanle Niebauer standards of the surgery. Stephanle Niebauer was slowed by tendonitis in her knee; and, in a game against Albion Nov. 17, the clincher came — Lori Creten broke her wrist.

WITH THE SEASON three games

17, the clincher came — Lori Greten broke her write.
WITH THE SEASON three games old, the Flighting Crusaders found themselves with precious little left to flight with. Only Becky Edinger, JiH Burt and Alice Williams were entirely fit.
We put it up to the girls, whether

they wanted to play or not," said Summers. Their decision wasn't casy, but Madonna's options were carhausted.

Other problems seemed imminent. Edinger was a walk-on who was leaving school in January. It was boped Ternes and Kline would be able to return by then, but it wasn't was certain. Niebauer could play with her knee, said Belf, but for how long? And there was a possibility Bennett might become eligible, but that was detain. Belf claimed he could have put that was detained in the could have put of this semester Edinger. Burt, Williams was a strength of the could have put of this semester Edinger. Burt, Williams who has recovered aufficiently from her shin playr.

But what chance would a five-player team have?

Through all the neblems of the

But what chance would a five-player team have?

Through all the problems of the past few years, one factor has re-mained, consistent for Madonna's women's team: It's uncertain future.

Summers was admainst that the pro-gram would remain. He blamed no one for the current troubles: "It's a nightmare no coach wants to ever face. I would never blame Bob (Bell). Injuries like this can't be blamed on coaches."

STILL, THE PROGRAM'S cancel-

hatlon was due to a lack of players—whatever the reason. And there are people who share the blame for that. Bell admitted he channeled most of his recruiting funds into signing: Niebauer, Williams and Creten, With just five eligible returnees (after Murphy's defection), that left him with eight players. He hoped to add sonie wait-ons, but had little money to offer other quality recruits. So he control to the pre-season problems regarding the budget, even after they were round out, didn't help Bell's recruiting efforts. Neither did Summers, who quarreled with Bell over money be committed to recruits, adding to the program's uncertainty. The turn of events has made Bell's status tenuous, at best. "I was going into the season by the skin of my teeth, no question about it," the hird-year coach admitted. Now, he has just one objective his players. I was considered to the comment of t

where else."

Belf added, "Right now, I'm not planning on eoaching again at Madonna." He is convinced Summers wants to replace him, although Summers says no. "Bob and I get along very well," said Summers "Technically, Bob's probably the finest coach we've ever had here."

Still, the future of women's basketball at Madonna is hardly optimistic.

## St. Mary's cruises

It was hardly an inspired per-formance, but St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake did add another school to its list of basketball vic-tims Wednesday, clubling the Uni-versity of Windsor 118-95 in Wind-

sor.
Five Eagles reached double-ligures in scoring: James Gilleaple (23), Jeff Suspeck (18), Garth Howard (16), Kevin Nicefield (15) and Brian Smith (10). Nicefield topped the St. Mary's rebounders with 10, and Howard and Jimmy Bolden each dished out six assists. Bolden

The Eagles were up by 18 points in the first half, but a Windsor comeback trimmed the deficit to 58-51 at the half. Dennis Byrne led 58-51 at the nail. Dennis Byrne leo the Windsor rally, scoring 16 points in the half, including four baskets in the comeback. But St. Mary's de-fense limited Byrne to just two sec-ond-half points; his 18 led Windsor.

The victory improved the Ea-gles' record to 6-2; Windsor fell to 1-11. St. Mary's hosts Oakland Uni-versity at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

#### the week ahead

BOYS BASKTBALL
TONGRY, Dec. 4

The lead of Co. 1, Mayor Mayo

sports shorts SOCCER TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the Michigan Wolves, a Livonia Y Premier Soccer Club under-19 boys team (Little Caesars, Ilich Division) will be at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Beechwood Rec-

Wat Kettering at Farm Havison, 7:30 p.m. Matord at W.L. Central 7:30 p.m. W.L. Western at Mirror Laiveland 7:30 p.m. Mr. L. Western at Mirror Laiveland 7:30 p.m. Riedtone CG at Don Durke Chief, 7:30 p.m. 51. Applins at Det. Hofy Riederner, 7:30 p.m. 51. Applins at Det. Hofy Riederner, 7:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. Horovitality or, Bort. Luth. Nation 30 p.m. Horovitality or, Bort. Luth. Nation 32 p.m. 4:30 p.m. Horovitality or, Bort. Luth. Nation 32 p.m. 4:30 p.m. Horovitality or, Bort. Luth. Nation 32 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:30

at Westand S Marchail J. High 8 pm BPE HOCKEY
Wednesday, Osc 5
Lv. Chruchtis 8 H. Andose
Lv. Silvenson is Southfeed Lathy
Lincolar Signa Arena, 6 and 8 pm
Pedisor CC at National Wandone Marchail
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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Monday, Dec 3
Advan College Val Schooksaft, 7 0 p.m. Wednesday, Dec 5
Sena His 3 Val 5 Schooksaft, 7 30 p.m. Landing CC at Opstand CC, 7 30 p.m. Landing CC at Opstand CC, 7 30 p.m. Schooksaft, 1 p.m. 20 p.m. Kengg at Counted CC (Highland), 7 30 p.m. Kengg at Counted CC (Highland), 7 30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday-Saturday, Dec. 7-8 S'craft at Gen-Oaks Tourney, Bland 2 p.m.

reation Center. For more information, call Mark Mason at 474-5763.

Mason at 474-5763.

COACHES NEEDED
Walled Lake Schools need coaches for the following non-teaching vacancies: boys and girls skiling at both high schools.
Candidates should send resumes to Athletic Director Bob Akkins, 615 N. Pontlac Trail, Walled Lake, 48088.
They can call him at 624-6504 also.

# Old-timers still rolling along

HE OLD TIMER Bowling Asso-ciation held its annual tourna-ment and party on Sunday, Nov. 20 at Thunderbowl Lanes ark. Fergan, of East Detroit, won

nomas Fergan, of East Detroit, won the overall championship. Ed Wright, of Farmington Hills, took second place with 626, while Hudy Pittaway of Canton wound up second in the 50° by-gear-old division with 628. West Bloomlied's Phillip Hurowitz took third with 628.

Bloomicul's Phillip Hurowitz took third with 524. In the 60-61 group, yours truly came in second place with 609 Robert Haase, of Troy, took third place in the 70-74 distribution with 529, with 82 year-old Dec Nortis taking the 80 and over division Nortis, now hiving in San Diego. Calif, was the top bowler in the Detroit area many 52 years ago. He was peak and so and half of Fame member and a member of the great Stroh's teams back in the '40 and '50s

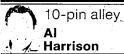
Bruce Falcon, of Rochester Hills, a former bowler for the Cecil Ward youth travel foam, is a member of the Saginaw Valley State University bowling team. The Cardinals set a new all-time record high game record while competing in the Callegase Match Championships recently in St. Louis, Mo. The team rolled a mergame score of 1310, with Falcon contributing a 265 game.

game

The Dunkin' Donuts winners at
Wonderland Lanes in Livonia were Mark
Seripsick, who shot a 180 game, and Vickie DeCamillo who shot a 149 Both players earned trips to the National Championships, Dec 13 in Reno, Nev

Many of the local bowling establishments are now booking the New Year's parties. Anyone interested in making ar-

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rangements for New Year's Eve should make reservations early. The formst usually consists of a mixed bowling no-top event and buffet dimensith price and aparty Javars. Some also-provide entertainment, including DJ's Some of the notables will be listed in this column in weeks to come.

• If you've ever wondered what the word dedication means, how about the Thompson family, All Thompson, 70, is an avid bowler in several senior means, incapes, averaging 208 and 203 at May-flower Lanes, lits sons, Alan, 23, and litrian, 32, bowl together in the Wanderland, Junior Classic at Town & Country Lanes. First resides in Leeding, Va., and First resides in Leeding, Va., and plane on Wednesday. That's dedication.

BOWLING HONOR ROLL ...

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### MICHIGAN WOLVES

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Mark Mason at
(H) 474-5763



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information to the above address. All decisions are final,



Observer & Eccentric