

# Fine-tuned SC victory good preparation for league

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

The game is fun again. Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team sped up and down the floor Monday, outclassing the visiting Adrian College junior varsity with ease. No way the Bulldogs could keep pace in this game; the final score was indication of that: SC 124, Adrian 102.

The Ocelots had an 11-point lead (54-43) at the intermission and a 10-2 start in the second half decided the issue. Sure, Adrian closed — the last was 85-72 on a Scott Hill three-pointer with 10:33 left — but never got closer. SC always had the answer.

That's the nice part of the Ocelots' early-season schedule. Even coach Dave Bogataj referred to these games as confidence-builders.

"It's 5-1," he said, examining his team's record. "And that's better than 1-5, like last year."

Bogataj knows the easy part of the schedule is over. A road game at Lake Michigan CC is coming up Saturday, before the real fun begins — the Eastern Conference slate. And what a start: a home game against one conference favorite, Oakland CC, Wednesday, followed by a trip to play another, Mott CC, Dec. 15.

## Women prevail on road

Tricia Lucas' sharp shooting and Julie Sawicki's clutch shooting were the difference for the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team in a 62-57 win against Siena Heights' junior varsity Friday in Adrian. Lucas connected on 10-of-11 from the floor and 11-of-12 from the line in scoring 31 points. No other Lady Ocelot reached double figures, but Sawicki had 9 — including 2 free throws with 10 seconds left to thwart a late Siena Heights' rally. Lee Anne Lightfoot also scored 9 points for SC. The Lady Ocelots led by as many as 20 — they were up 38-30 at the half — but needed Sawicki's end-of-the-game heroics to preserve the win.

**BOGATAJ PLANS** to try and keep the Ocelots in a pace similar to the Adrian game. His reason is simple: "We're going to have to because we can't go half-court. Those teams will beat us up if we try and go half-court against them."

"We have to go for the quick shots. Once we get down the court, though, we have to be quick in a half-court game... we have to rely on whatever quickness we have."

In Monday's shootout, the final Bulldog rally was thwarted by Lynell Collins, a freshman point guard from Southfield. Collins converted a pair of layups, both after turnovers; he finished with a game-high 30 points, 20 coming in the second half.

and half.

Collins got plenty of offensive help. Four other Ocelots reached double figures in scoring: Mitch Fyke (21), Kwest McGill and Randy Waters (17 each), and Barry Quayle (15). Collins also had six steals and four assists, Waters had seven assists and seven rebounds, McGill had six assists and Quayle hauled in 10 boards.

Five Bulldogs scored in double-figures too, led by Eric Davis' 23. Hill had 19, Chad Demery netted 18, Bob Brugger had 17 and Brian Temple finished with 11.

**BUT ADRIAN** was similar in size and not nearly SC's equal in talent or

depth. Such favorable odds won't be present in the conference season. The Ocelots will have to use whatever superiority in quickness they can muster to set up those easy shots — and they'll have to convert them. Bogataj would also "like to see a lot of fast turnovers. In an up-tempo game, you expect to see turnovers, but you don't want to see them in the double-digits."

It will be difficult for SC to win when it's surrendering the ball 20-to-30 times a game. It will be equally hard to win if the roster is ravaged by end-of-the-semester academic losses, as it has been in recent years. Bogataj said he knew of no players having classroom problems at present.

Indeed, SC may even be strengthened for the second semester when guard Marcus Lowe, a sophomore from Westland, becomes eligible. Lowe, a 1988 John Glenn graduate, played a season at Madonna College before the program folded after the 1988-89 campaign. He didn't play last season, but academic troubles prevented him from becoming immediately eligible at SC.

There's no doubting Lowe's abilities; he'll be a definite asset. When combined with those already in the lineup, SC is transformed into a formidable unit — as long as everyone stays eligible and healthy.

# Good start fueled Salem's rise

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Plymouth Salem's experiences last August in the first week of the girls basketball season put the Rocks on course for a successful year.

The first three games provided the insight and direction that eventually guided Salem all the way to the Final Four for the third time in five years.

It took eventual state champion Detroit Martin Luther King to stop the Rocks with a 60-38 setback in the semifinals of the Class A tournament Friday night.

"We really achieved everything we could this year," Salem coach Fred Thomann said. "We maximized our ability to the end. There was not much more to be accomplished with a roadblock like Martin Luther King in the way."

A fine season — the Rocks were 22-4 and won the Western Lakes Activities Association title for the fourth time in six years — began with Salem winning the Traverse City tournament, defeating Sterling Heights and the host school.

**NEITHER TEAM** lost another game during the regular season and entered the post-season tournament with 19-1 records.

On the heels of that uplifting experience came a

humbling experience when the Rocks were soundly beaten by No. 1-ranked Flint Powers 58-40 in their next game.

"Our season and our expectations were shaped early in the season," Thomann said. "That put us in the position to know we were pretty good but not great and we had to keep working."

"We were down 16 points to Sterling Heights and came back to win. That was important for our team to believe good things could happen. Flint Powers was a good lesson. We had beaten two pretty good teams, but we found out we weren't the best team out there."

The Rocks overcame injuries and illnesses to win 15 of their next 17 games and finish the regular season 17-3.

A key was the play of sophomore Christy Parmucha at point guard when returning starter Kelly Austin, suffered a knee injury that required surgery and sidelined her for the entire season.

"**WE NEEDED** someone to step in and fill that spot, and she did a great job," Thomann said.

"Every time there was a roadblock we figured out a way to get over it. We thought we'd be a good basketball team, but we didn't know we'd lose some people and be able to carry on."

The Rocks lost only two players to graduation, Sarah Ruete and Betsy McAllister, but the duo

accounted for most of Salem's outside scoring.

"We'll definitely have to make some adjustments in terms of the perimeter game," Thomann said. "Right now I don't know if we have a consistent three-point shooter like Betty or Sarah."

Salem's strength next year should be its post-up game since that's where most of the returning players will be. Junior Darcie Miller and sophomore Yolanda Jackson started at post positions, and juniors Emily Glinski, Mary Bol and Allison Fyke and sophomore Cyndi Platter came off the bench.

"I think that became one of our strengths this year," Thomann said. "Even Cyndi Platter had some great games for us. People really stepped in when Emily went down (with spinal meningitis), and we've got a nice group of players ready to play on the inside."

**WITH** the addition of Parmucha and possibly a healthy Austin to that group, the Rocks will be a team to watch again next season.

Salem will have competition in its own backyard, however.

Plymouth Canton, which played some close games with the Rocks, lost one starter, all-league guard Mary Barna, and will return quality players like Julie Nicastri and Stephanie Gray.

"We lost two starters; they lost one," Thomann said. "They'll have four starters back; we'll have three."

Thursday, December 8, 1990 C6E

(L6.F5D)

## sports shorts

### • SOCCER TRYOUTS

• The Michigan Elite (boys under-19) Soccer Club, coached by Schoolcraft College men's coach Van Dintendonk, will stage tryouts for the spring season at 9 tonight and Thursday, Dec. 13 at the Schoolcraft College gymnasium.

Premier players (born 1972-73) are invited to try out.

• The Michigan Wolves (boys under-19), sponsored by the Livonia V Premier Soccer Club, will hold Hitech Division tryouts at 8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 at Total Soccer's Southfield Arena, located off Beech Daly between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

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

### • NEW YEAR'S EVE RUN

The New Year's Eve Family Fun Run/Walk will be Monday, Dec. 31 at the Marine Corps Reserve Center (Broadhead Armory), 7600 E. Jefferson, Detroit (across from Belle Isle). T-shirts guaranteed to the first 2,000 entries.

The children's (12 and under) one mile run/walk, open one mile run/walk, four mile competitive four mile walk and four mile fitness walk all begin at 4 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to all children's participants and ribbons to all one mile run/walk participants. Awards will also be given for the first 25 competitive walkers.

The four mile run starts at 4:30 p.m. with awards going to the first

500 finishers. Registration and T-shirt pickup will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Marine Corps Armory. Race day registration will also be at the armory.

Pre-registration fees (before Dec. 23) are \$8 (children 12 and under), \$12 (one-mile run/walk) and \$12 (four mile run/walk).

Late registration fees are \$15 (adults) and \$12 (children).

For more information, call 224-1184 (between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.).

### • EMU BASEBALL CAMP

The Eastern Michigan University Winter Baseball Camp (ages 8-16), featuring catcher Chris Holtes of the Baltimore Orioles, will be Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8-9, at Bowen Field House.

The cost for commuters is \$60 (includes lunch both days and T-shirt). For an overnight stay, the cost is \$95 (includes lunch and dinner on Friday, a room at Howard Johnson Lodge, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, along with a T-shirt).

For more information, call 487-1306.

### • COACHES NEEDED

Walled Lake Schools need coaches for the following non-teaching vacancies: boys and girls skiing at both high schools.

Candidates should send resumes to Athletic Director Bob Atkins, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake, 48088. They can call him at 624-6694 also.

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**ENTRY FORM**

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