

SPORTS

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MONDAY, JULY 20, 1992

O'Donnell aims for Olympic gold



STEVE KOWALSKI

Gus Macker puts scribe in his place

I didn't need to get wet last week to feel all washed-up as a basketball player.

Long before the rain started to fall on the Gus Macker 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Belding a week ago Sunday, I knew my role.

Our team was called the "Slow-Motion All-Stars," and while I did a great job moving in slow motion (especially on the rain-soaked asphalt late Sunday), I was no all-star.

Normally I play in the media division where it's easy to look good against guys who write about sports rather than play them.

But the competition was like none I've ever played against. Our team was in an advanced division which included several players with college experience.

The eventual champion, Carlson Plus-3, came from Hope College and was led by 1991 Division III college All-American Eric Elliott, a guard who has signed a professional contract to play in Sweden. (Rick Laven, a 1990 Livonia Stevenson graduate now playing at Grand Rapids Baptist College, also had a team in our division.)

When a buddy from college, Mike DeVilling, asked last month if I wanted to play in the Belding tournament — the granddaddy of all Mackers — I jumped (probably not too high) at the chance.

DeVilling said his friends, Ken George and Jerry Royce, also were on the team.

"Ken George — wow," I said. "Count me in."

George, a 1986 Farmington Hills Harrison graduate, scored more than 1,100 points while starting four years at guard for Albion College.

Royce was named Most Valuable Player of Troy Athens' 1984 basketball team and he still has an incredibly accurate turnaround jump shot from 20 feet.

DeVilling, meanwhile, is pretty modest about his game. "I was sixth man on my intramural team at Central (Michigan)," he quipped.

But DeVilling also played at Athens with Royce. His other claim to fame is once traveling to Milwaukee, Wis., to compete in a Pepsi Hot-Shot Contest along with John McIntyre, former all-star at Redford Catholic Central now playing professionally in Israel.

That leaves me, whose role was to rebound, set screens and play good defense — and look good in warm-ups.

A bad start

When our first game began at 8:30 a.m. Saturday I was driving on I-96 somewhere between Detroit and Lansing. By blowing off my alarm clock I also blew a chance to play against a team that we dominated, 20-6.

"We must have won in 12 minutes — record time," DeVilling said.

"Just my luck," I thought.

I arrived in Belding around 10:30 a.m. in plenty of time for our next game which started at 6 p.m.

While I spent the afternoon checking out the sights at Mackerville (it seemed like half the girls in western Michigan showed up to watch or play), DeVilling spent time at his in-laws near Grand Rapids, George was at a friend's house and Royce did his best Michael Jordan impression — golfing nine holes before a game.

"I shot a 39," Royce said.

What sport can't this guy play?

We won our 6 p.m. game 20-18 on a clutch two-point shot (behind the take-back line) by George after an intentional foul.

With our next game scheduled for 11 a.m. the next morning against one of the division favorites, it was wise to follow a disciplined training regime.

Unfortunately, DeVilling and I accidentally walked past my car after the tournament and ended up walking another three miles before finding it.

I don't know how much good that did us.

Our first game Sunday was played up to 15 by one and we narrowly won again, 16-13, over the eventual division runner-up Blacktop Players. Again, George buried a two to win the game but the most important shot might have been a two-pointer by DeVilling with a man in his face to put us up 14-13.

DeVilling also made a key coaching move, bringing me in for him as a defensive replacement at crunch time.

I can't ever remember being used as a defensive specialist.

After a long rain delay, we lost our last two games to be eliminated but I left at least with the satisfaction of finally scoring a couple of points. We also gained a third-place trophy, which went home with DeVilling.

"If you want to look at it come by the apartment," DeVilling said.

Camraderie 2nd to none

Belding has hosted the Gus Macker since 1987 when some folks in Lowell, the original site, wanted it out of town because of all the people the tournament drew.

See MACKER, 2C



OLY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Aiming for gold: Eighteen-year-old Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington hopes to bring back a gold medal in women's archery from the Olympics.



BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington is setting her sights on the gold medal when she travels to Spain later this week for the start of the 1992 Olympic Games and competition in archery as a member of the three-woman United States team.

Jennifer O'Donnell of Farmington has traveled thousands of miles to compete, practiced countless hours and devoted much of the last four years to one goal.

Her objective was to make the U.S. Olympic team in women's archery, and her efforts were so rewarded at the Olympic Trials in May. Now she has a new goal.

"I'd like to be in the gold medal match," the 18-year-old O'Donnell said. "I wouldn't be going if I didn't want to bring home the gold."

O'Donnell will leave Wednesday for the Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain. The Olympics begin July 25 and end Aug. 9, with the archery competition slated for July 31 through Aug. 4.

"I'm excited. It's been my goal the last four years and it's finally here," she said. "I'm happy about it, but there are a lot of other things I'd like to do. I'd like to medal at the games, and I'd like to go again in '96."

International competition is nothing new for O'Donnell, one of three women on the U.S. team who has been to Poland, Norway, Italy, Cuba, Japan and Finland for tournaments in the last three years.

The World Championships in Poland last year were good preparation for the Olympics, according to O'Donnell.

"I finished 17th, but that was my first major competition with people who are the best in the world," she said. "I had been shooting well enough to compete with them, but I never had. I didn't have enough confidence and got blown away by it all."

"I wish I would have done better, but I'm glad I had those kind of problems. I'll be able to deal with that kind of pressure, and I'll know what to expect

when I get over there."

Getting there took a lot of time and effort. O'Donnell, who has been competing seriously since 1987 with the Olympics as her aim, spent her junior year of high school at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. She returned to graduate from Farmington High School in 1991.

"It helped me a lot," she said. "I got to work with sports psychologists, get on a weight-training program and practice more. It made me more aware of what I was doing and more knowledgeable of my equipment and form."

Then came The Trials at Tempe, Ariz. O'Donnell was among 70 women vying for a spot on the Olympic team, but only a handful were in actual contention.

"It was only my second outdoor tournament of the year, but as long as I shot well I stood a good chance," she said.

After two days of qualifying, O'Donnell survived two days of elimination rounds and placed second. She will be joined on the team by Denise Parker (18) of Utah, a member of the '88 team, and Sherry Block (21) of Colorado.

"I was actually more relieved than anything because The Trials were over," O'Donnell said. "I didn't have to worry whether I was going or having everyone be disappointed that I didn't make it."

The Olympic format in archery has been changed to make the sport more appealing to a television audience. In the past, the eight remaining archers competed simultaneously for the top three scores and medals.

In 1992, qualifying will be done the first two days, with archers competing in a FITA (shooting 36 arrows from each of four distances). The field will be

See O'DONNELL, 2C

Victory keeps Hines Park atop league

Hines Park Lincoln/Mercury clung to its slim hold atop the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League standings Wednesday with a 2-1 win over Little Caesars at Ford Field.

The winners improved to 16-9, one point ahead of second place Walter's Appliance (16-8-1).

"We have three big games coming up with Walter's and that should tell us the story," Hines Park coach David Carroll said. "The league is real competitive this year. I think you could throw a blanket over all of us and watch to see who will come out on top."

Scott Rodgers (Plymouth Salem/Kent State University) tossed a two-hitter through six innings against Caesars.

Rodgers walked the first batter in the seventh before giving way to Jeff Paluk, who retired the side and earned the save.

Rodgers struggled with his control throughout the game, walking eight.

"I credit our catcher Scott Niemiec (Salem/University of Michigan) with settling Rodgers down when he needed it," Carroll said. "Niemiec really took control of the game. That's why he's such a fine catcher. When Scotty would walk someone, Niemiec would settle him down."

Vince Sacco knocked home Jason Riggs (ex-Plymouth Canton) for the first Hines Park run. He then stole third base and later scored on a wild pitch. Livonia Franklin product Dave

Roman (Henry Ford Community College), went the distance and suffered the loss for Caesars.

Walter's wins easily

Louis McKalg (Madonna University) tossed a three-hitter Wednesday to lead Walter's Appliance to a 7-1 win over Ann Arbor Wendy's at Ford Field.

McKalg worked all seven innings and fanned six, while walking just two.

Mike Grahl took the loss for Wendy's after allowing seven runs in five innings. Walter's tallied four runs in the second inning thanks to a two-run double from Craig Overholtz (Franklin/Henry Ford CC). Jason Gabel (Livonia Church-

ill/Central Michigan) added an RBI single.

Gabel, on a torrid hitting pace of late, also contributed a two-run double in the fourth inning.

Raindrops fall on Delwal

Delwal added another rainout to its list Wednesday, having to cancel a game with the Tecumseh Green Giants at Farmington High.

"The field conditions were just too poor," Delwal coach Bob Peterson said. "We have a lot of games to make up. That might work in our favor because we have less losses than anybody else in the league."

Runners to compete in Classic

BY M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

Runners, walkers and wheelers, start your engines. The gun signaling the start of the Ninth Annual Redford Roadrunner Classic will fire Saturday evening, July 25, at Veterans Park in Livonia.

Sponsored by the fun-loving, hard-driving Redford Roadrunners, the Classic has earned a reputation as one of the most popular, competitive and festive races in the state. A field of more than 1,000 — studded with All-Americans and NCAA distance stars — is expected again this year, according to race organizers.

The Classic actually is a series of races followed by one heck of a party. There'll be plenty to eat and drink, and dancing until midnight, said co-race director Larry Huff.

The "Cinderella Junior" for kids 12 and under will kick off the evening's activities at 5:30 p.m. The one-mile fun run/walk will follow at 6 p.m. The eight-kilometer run is set for 6:30 p.m.

After last year's 96-degree heat, the Roadrunners are offering no reassurances regarding Mother Nature's be-

See ROADRUNNER, 3C



SHARON LEWIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Collision course: NFWB first baseman Jay Davey tumbles to the ground after colliding with Salem baserunner Bryan Proctor, who got caught in a rundown and was tagged out by Davey.

NFWB topples Connie Mack leader

North Farmington-West Bloomfield I Riggas gave Westland its first loss in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation Connie Mack Division Wednesday, 5-4.

NFWB scored five early runs and held on to win the game for Mark Temple, who pitched a complete game. Temple allowed eight hits, struck out eight and walked five.

Reliable scored all of its runs in the second inning, taking a 5-3 lead. Mike Juhls hit a two-run single, Jason Farrell drew a base-loaded walk and Doug

Gaughan drove in a run with sacrifice bunt.

Gerard Romej, Daryl Ferguson and John Heller had two hits apiece. Brian Hicks had two hits and three RBI for Westland.

In the sixth inning, Hicks tripled to drive in Westland's fourth run with one out. Westland tried a squeeze bunt, but the hitter missed the bunt and Hicks was tagged out. The batter struck out to end the inning.

The win gave NFWB an 8-3-1 record in the LCBF. Westland was 9-1.

Mantle team nipped

The NFWB Mickey Mantle team lost 2-1 to visiting Plymouth Salem Thursday when a fourth-inning error allowed Salem to score the winning run. Jamie Schroeder pitched four innings and took the loss. Ron Minc worked the last three innings. Each team had four hits.

Joey Danilewicz drove in NFWB's only run with a groundout. Jay Davey, Corey Muir, Matt Woolf and Darin Glasner had the NFWB hits.

The loss left NFWB at 7-10 in the LCBF and 14-18 overall.