

Crusaders stumble in 2nd half

All the ingredients were there for another win for Madonna University's men's basketball team.

For 30 minutes, anyway.

The Fighting Crusaders had a 55-49 halftime lead over visiting Tri-State University Saturday, and with 10 minutes to play their lead was 10, according to coach Bill Sharpe. But it all ended there; free throws became a factor, and so did technical fouls called against J. Dimes and Christian Emerit.

The momentum quickly dissipated. So did the lead. Tri-State made 35 trips to the free throw line and converted an amazing 32 of them (91.4 percent) for the game; Madonna was 9-of-12 (75 percent).

The end result was a 111-88 loss, Madonna's 24th in 28 out of this season. Tri-State improved to 11-10.

Despite the defeat, Sharpe was pleased with his team's effort. Mike Stone (from Plymouth Salem) enjoyed his finest scoring game, connecting on 12-of-16 floor shots — including 6-of-8 three-pointers — in scoring 30 points. Dimes added 14 and grabbed eight rebounds, Dan Dombrow netted 12 points and

had four assists, and Brandon Stone and Kurt Carlos each scored eight points.

"When you play a team like that — a national qualifier last year, a team that kicked the (heck) out of you the first time you played — and stay ahead of them for three-quarters of the game, that's a major step," said Sharpe.

Tri-State got 33 points from Chris Singple, 24 from Doug Targart, 16 from Frank Berg and 12 from Andrew Hinkle. Tri-State connected on 72 percent of its field goal attempts in the second half and was 37-of-60 for the game (61.6 percent). Madonna was 35-of-65 for the game (53.8 percent).

TRI-STATE 57, MADONNA (WOMEN) 35: Finding a reason for the Lady Crusaders' loss Saturday in Angola, Ind., was easier than finding a solution.

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Madonna simply couldn't score. At the half Tri-State led 29-25; over the last 20 minutes, the Crusaders managed to score just 14 points. They were getting good shots, they just weren't falling. Right now, we're struggling offensively. In crucial situations we're not getting a person to step up."

Potter estimated that the Crusaders missed 20 layups in the game. In the second half, they were 7-of-28 from the floor (25 percent). Stephanie Criley, the team's top scoring threat since Shawn Bannon was lost to a knee injury three weeks ago, managed just two points.

Denise Williams led Madonna with 12 points. Mary Bleniewicz (Farmington Hills Mercy) scored 10. Carmen Ham led Tri-State with 15. Fran Everidge had 12 and Jennifer Rushton scored 11.

The win boosted Tri-State to 12-11 overall. Madonna fell to 9-12.

MOTT 50, SCHAFF (WOMEN) 48: A miracle finish rimmed out for Schaff College's women's basketball team Saturday, dooming the Lady Ocelots to a 50-48 loss to Mott CC in Flint.

The defeat dropped SC to 4-8 in the Eastern Conference, 9-9 overall.

With 10 seconds left in the game, the Ocelots trailed 50-46 with a Lady Bear at the free throw line with a one-and-one opportunity. The shot missed, the Ocelots rebounded and Dawn Newlin was fouled driving to the basket. She converted both free throws to pull SC to within two.

Mott made matters worse by committing a violation on the ensuing inbounds pass, thus turning the ball back over to the Ocelots. Angie Cerne, who led SC with 13 points, got off a 10-foot attempt to tie with three seconds remaining, but it missed.

Champs

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"Our inside people are skinny and their aren't," Teachman said. "When there's a collision of bodies, our guys don't get the call."

"Not having our big guys at the end hurt. We had inside position twice, but (Ellis) got the ball because he's not only 6-7 but has a long reach."

Harrison lost 6-5 forward Calvin Pruitt, who had a game-high 16 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks, to a fifth foul with 2:50 remaining and the Hawks ahead 47-46.

"I give Harrison a lot of credit for the way they executed and what they did," Negoshian said. "The freshman point guard (Kevin Bambenek) played well, and Calvin Pruitt did a great job because you figure it's Calvin against two big kids."

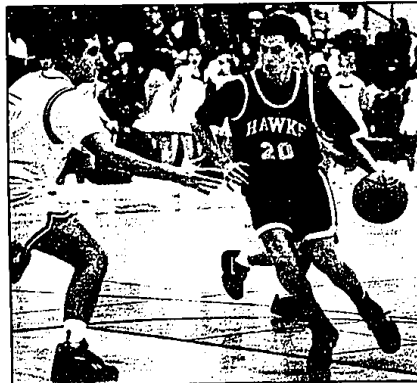
Senior guard Jon Pennala put the Raiders ahead 49-47 with a three-point shot and added to the lead with four free throws down the stretch.

Harrison center Aaron Weiss also fouled out shortly thereafter, and that made it easier for Ellis to grab three big rebounds in the last minute to keep the Raiders in control.

"Pennala's three was the difference," Teachman said. "We had a guy assigned to him, and he went to help in the low post. That made it a two or three-possession game and we didn't do it."

After Pruitt's free throws made it 47-46 with 3:10 left, the Hawks didn't score in the next 2:14. Ellis and Lord added one free throw each to give North a 55-49 lead and assure the Raiders of the win with only 23 seconds left.

Weiss added nine points, Bambenek and Rick Smith seven apiece, for the Hawks, who shot 42 percent (18-43) from the floor and 12-of-16 at the line. The



SHAWN LEMIEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Looking for a lane: Harrison's Rick Smith tries to stay a step ahead of North's Scot Lord.

Raiders made six triples and hit 36 percent (20-55) of their shots but only 12 of 24 free throws.

North's "yo-yo defense" also made a difference in the game, according to Teachman. The Raiders played a combination zone and man defense to slow the Hawks and steady the pace, Negoshian said.

"At times we didn't attack it right," Teachman said, "and there were times they weren't trying to steal the ball and we still threw it away."

"Too many times we were too lackadaisical. We missed four layups because we slipped the ball off the backboard instead of putting it in the hoop."

"We're not a light and quick team, so we want to play at a certain pace the whole game," Negoshian said. "We wanted to slow them down a bit on offense and match up all the time, so they can't just come down the floor and out-athlete us."

OCC cagers romp to win

Harold Golson had his third triple double and eight players scored in double figures Saturday as Oakland Community College routed visiting Sault (Ontario) College 117-57 in men's basketball.

Golson had 12 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists and nine steals for the Raiders, who improved to 8-12 overall.

Jason Taylor and Tony Green scored 15 points apiece to lead OCC. Corey Young and Willie Payne finished with 14 each, and Tony McNeal, Craig Martin and Freeman Jones chipped in 12 apiece. Curtis Long added seven points and five assists.

Couture has big weekend for CC skaters

Redford Catholic Central junior forward Jason Couture capped a successful weekend, scoring two goals Sunday in a 3-1 crossover victory over Allen Park Cabrini in the Metro Hockey League Showcase day at the University of Michigan's Yost Arena.

Couture's two-goal outburst came less than 24 hours after he scored the hat trick on Saturday to lead CC past Brighton 7-2 at the Redford Ice Arena.

The Shamrocks are 14-1-1 overall, 8-1-1 in the Metro League. Couture broke a 1-1 tie at 4:0 of the third period, breaking in on

Cabrini goalie Ray Aho and scoring on a wrist shot. Teammates Mark Holdridge and Greg Vavara picked up assists.

Couture added his second goal in the third period, scoring on a breakaway with assists from senior linemate Jon Heady and junior defenseman Chris Wegienka.

"He's smart, fast and tricky," CC coach Gordie St. John said of Couture. "He's very good in the offensive zone and he'll be a hell of a player next year."

Cabrini, ranked No. 1 in Class B-C-D, fell to 1-1-2-3 overall and 6-2-2 in the Metro League.

Cabrini took the first lead with a goal by Steve Kish at 11:56 of the first period.

Holdridge tied the score with an unassisted goal at 8:27 of the second period.

Senior Mike Brusseau picked up the victory in goal.

In Saturday's win over Brighton, Heady scored two goals to go with Couture's hat trick. Senior forward Jeff Lachapelle and junior forward Dan Hunt contributed one goal each.

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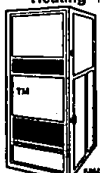
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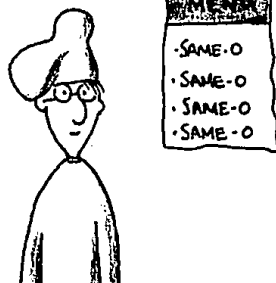
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