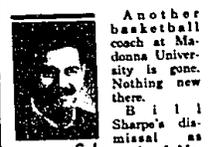


Sharpe's firing all too familiar



C.S.J. RISAK

Another basketball coach at Madonna University is gone. Nothing new there.

But Bob Sharpe's dismissal as coach of Madonna's men's program makes it the third time in the past decade a basketball coach has left, either forced into resignation or by firing. (Bob Whitlow, men's coach, and Bob Bell, women's coach, were the others.)

You can spend all the time discussing and analyzing the decision you wish, but the bottom line is that it's nothing new.

Whitlow and Bell both left because of conflicts with the administration on how they felt their respective programs should evolve.

Sharpe's biggest mistake was that he thought he could avoid that problem. He was well-aware of the run-ins his predecessors had experienced prior to his hiring.

But he thought he could steer clear of them. He was wrong.

Sharpe was fired Thursday because, athletic director Ray Summers said, "We're looking in a new direction. We're looking for someone with more head-coaching experience."

"Bill brought a lot of good things to the program. He was making progress, indeed. But the program wasn't progressing the way we thought it should."

Had Sharpe been able to produce an instant winner, this may never have happened. He couldn't.

This is, Sharpe said when he was first hired he told Sum-

mers it would take a while, that the first few years could be difficult (although he painted a far brighter picture to the media before his first season). Sharpe said he would build his program with freshmen, from the bottom up.

So they lost. A lot. Madonna won twice in 32 games in '93-'94; this season was better, but not much: 6-25.

Still, there was progress. Since the first of January, the Fighting Crusaders were 5-12. That wasn't enough, apparently. Which is what angered Sharpe.

"This hurt. I don't think I deserved it," he said. "I don't believe he's relieving me for a good reason. I don't think it has anything to do with the progress of the team."

"When I came here, I was led to believe that the level of commitment to me and my program was there. Clearly, that wasn't the case here in good faith. I don't think I was dealt with in good faith."

Sharpe said he thought he had a five-year agreement with Summers to build his program. The only contingency: show some sort of progress.

Sharpe believed he did. Lack of progress, he insisted, wasn't what cost him his job. "I do not fit in with that (coaching and administrative) group because my philosophy, as far as coaching and professional conduct, is in conflict with the rest of the staff," Sharpe said.

In plain terms, Sharpe did not like to socialize with the rest of the staff, and he didn't feel it was right to socialize with them. That, he said, made led to his dismissal.

Although Summers was the hatchet-bearer, he was just the man caught in the middle. As

with Bell, the former women's coach, the conflict was between Sharpe and baseball coach Mike George and softball/volleyball coach Jerry Abraham. Neither liked Sharpe's style, during work hours or after them.

When considering the substantial success both George and Abraham have experienced and the impressive programs they've built, compared to Sharpe's staggering start, Summers' decision was easy.

Forever more, Sharpe will feel he was betrayed from within. His dismissal was no surprise, certainly. He'd been talking openly of it himself since mid-season. He thought Summers' private meetings with his players fostered a sense of insecurity on the team.

(For the record: Summers said of the meetings, "There are always internal issues on the team. When an athlete can't get it resolved with his coaching staff, he comes to me. But that had nothing to do with my decision.")

Since last season, Sharpe was ostracized by the rest of the staff. The agenda against him was already under construction — he didn't communicate with his players, there was a lack of discipline on the team, he failed to motivate them.

A case could be made for each. But the bottom line was this: He didn't win enough to offset whatever shortcomings the staff attributed to him.

"You always look for a coach who not only can coach, but is a good fit with the rest of the administrators," Summers said.

It all sounds so familiar — certainly to Bell and Whitlow.

Once again, it proves that history does, indeed, repeat itself.

Bookend strikes for celebrity



AL HARRISON

"How's your thumb? Hey, Michael, how's your thumb?"

This question came up over and over last week as WJR's Michael Barry bolted through a 24-hour marathon at Troy Lanes, the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

In so doing, Barry bowled at the equivalent of one full bowling season in one day. The number of games reached around 75, combined with the many practice balls, that was one major Bow-A-Thon.

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Michael Barry is ready to do it again next year, and the MCF will be looking for him to lead the way. While bowling with Michael Barry, I had to quit after one game, as my left knee was in great pain and I could not even get to the foul line.

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Our local guys fared pretty well in this event at Shorecrest Lanes as Bill Haynes of Rochester Hills took second place, Bob Chubel of Garden City came in third, Ed Dzik of Livonia was fifth, and Jack Treble and Fred Vitall of Farmington took the seventh and 10th spots.

Vitall was high qualifier, which earns a free entry for the next tournament which will be held on April 8th at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

For more information, call (810) 626-8656 or (810) 358-3740.

Country Kagers — Fred Barlett, 218/729; Scott Samson, 265/678; Dave Katschewski, 259/731; Walt Lutz, 234/666; Tom Kuch, 233/709.

Wednesday Kings — Dave Richardson, 254/643; Rob Felm, 218/729; Scott Wright, 254/643; Steve Beale, 244/703; Marc Marzullo, 244/601.

Inter-Lanes — Herman Schonberg, 224; Albert Laine, 210.

U-Not Brothwood/Edo Jacobson — Dennis Lee, 264/679; Randy Marzullo, 224; Barry Peters, 266/630; Andy Rubin, 249/617.

Play — Matt Kingston, 257-248-237/142; Mitch Fink, 245/693; Larry Sander, 245/662; Alan Down, 224/634.

Advanced Youth (senior) — Ralph Peters, 237/653; John Ostram, 215/585; Lily Healy, 201.

St. Paul's Men's — Brian Sherman, 241/635; Dave Olson, 234/620; Mark Ochoa, 230/602; Brent Groom, 225; Chris Decker, 229.

Youth Leagues (Farmington Schools) — Andy Mumford, 223/579; Paul Aletog, 212; Brian Larson, 211.

Beginners — Kerry Basham, 100; KerryAnn Sider, 100.

But Also Lanes: Our Lady of Sorrows — Ken Dean, 245-227; Norm Pitar, 235; Ernie Wegrocki, 234; Tony Marzullo, 234; Ed Sider, 233.

Michigan Golf Men's — D. Davis, 233; W. Runtor, 254/658; H. Kowalsky, 234/612; Don Sorocky, 248-221.

Junior House — Howe Gerwinch, 266-262-247/715; Jeff Block, 224.

Blue Bell Lager/Groce — Ray Schneider, 214; Rob Pshaw, 213.

Redwood Lanes: West Side Luthers — Drabinski, 254/621; Tom Kuch, 224; Chris Thompson, 259/617; Cyril Block, 256/721; Shannon Rowe, 249/658.

Amateur's — Dan Boy Ganes — Larry Verste, 270/752; Dave Lakson, 300/150; Keith Lohr, 268/743; Lee Snow, 299/741; Dave Myer, 300/703.

Farmington Eba — Dave Letwin, 268/697; Larry Lyle, 287/663.

Blue Bell Downtowners — Ken Gross, 222/612; Steve Satt, 222/604; Shel Raloz, 222; Steve Shoemaker, 221.

Redwood Lanes: West Side Luthers — Randy Kohn, 72; Mike Mochowski, 602; George Engel, 600; Tim Collins, 629; Chuck Berry, 603.

Redwood Lanes, 4-8-10 Club: Proce, hole converted.

Mayflower Lanes: Wednesday Seniors Classic — Charles Lawrence, 228/811; Al Hadden, 244/603; Howard Davis, 256/652; Gary Ziemulski, 244/643; Al Harrison, 244/670.

Monday Seniors — Andy Parrillo, 245/661; Jerry Wozniak, 200/649; Pete Reichenbach, 227/711.

Friday Seniors — Bill Miska, 255/701; Stan Jan Semons, 237/682; Alvin Fiedler, 244; Lee Ostram, 234/645; Mike Ostram, 236/633.

Oak Lanes (Procedural): DIB M.L.A. — Don Wozniak, 277/653; Tom Danzer, 245/662; Lou Winters, 274/650; Bill Gennert, 243/707.

Tuesday Men's Men's — Ted Gennert, 298.

Weekend Seniors: St. Mal's Men's — Doc Ciano, 218/714; Scott Gyzanski, 260/761; Mark Auly, 252/676; John Koski, 235/671; Mike Ford, 260/661 Men's — Steve Reiter, 297/750.

Tuesday Junior House — Tony Loecher, 235-217/801/2.

In City Men's — Glenn Clark, 296; Bob Przewalski, 299.

Sunday Sleepers — Mark Kelly, 298.

Monday Sleepers (Brentwood): Mark's Senior House — Garrett Kagle, 300/691; John Wilson, 233-247-234/714.

St. Gen's Men — Louis Froehlich, 268/662; Gary Kagle, 300/691; John Wilson, 233-247-234/714.

Saturday Men's Guys & Dots — Sue Spear, 235-236-295/697.

Coaches — Jim Ford, 256.

Ladies Classic — Jan Hansen, 245; Debbie Blanchard, 618.

Friday Men's Downtowners — Melinda Paul, 245/638.

K of C Men's — Ed Hansen, 258/699; Frank Korychak, 265/633.

Golden Eagles — Mark Zupnow, 277/663; Mike Dornik, 254/716; Jim Kadz, 278; Roger Dohring, 279/654.

Weekend Ladies Senior House — Greg W. Grot, 773; Gene Dohring, 209/727.

Friday Kings & Queens — Don Gennert, 278/619.

Saturday Youth — Mike Dohring, 278/619.

Monday Ladies — Pat Ripkan, 246.

Swinging Seniors — Dan Sneider, 247.

Weekend Ladies: Woodland Classic — Don Hesse, Jr., 290/623; Garrett Hagg, 278/762; Bryan Goggin, 270/741; John Wodarski, 260/721; Stan Marzullo, 725.

Men's Open — Don Gregory, 243/665; Chris Far, 241/641; Cliff Hagan, 245; John Cove, 269/628; Mike Kozak, 235.

Father & Son — Bryan Foley, 418/203.

Cherry Lanes (L'Arche): Al Star Bonaventura — Tom Taylor, 225-240-251/728; Julie Weng, 258/656; Gena McKinney, 245/657; Tracy Harlow, 247/647; Kathy Hagg, 268-247/707; Jack Monday, 248/708.

Tuesday Seniors — Dick Davis, 227/811; Bob, 236/619; Jim Townsend, 229-202; Ed Henschel, 212; Pete Corbett, 207-209.

Volleyball from page 1C

Kimberly Sanders serve — three of them coming on Jamaica Emerson kills.

The second game was more of a struggle, but Mercy prevailed, scoring the final four points. Consecutive serves by Mitsu Ruddock went unreturned by Ferndale, supplying the Marinas with the final point.

Against Ladywood — which had beaten Mercy twice this season — the story was a different one. "Ladywood has really put it all together," Spenger said. "They've improved their passing tremendously since the beginning of the season. They were out there with a mission."

"We just had trouble with their attacks. And if you can't pass, you can't play."

Mercy simply could not handle the Blazers. The closest the Marinas came was a 5-3 deficit in the opening game. Ladywood scored the next eight points en route to an easy win.

The second game was even more lopsided. Mercy trailed 9-0 and 10-1 before turning a couple of Ladywood errors into points to narrow it to 10-4. Shannon Swish finally served out the match for

the Blazers, with Nicole Vondracek collecting three kills.

Mercy finished with a 24-26-2 overall record.

For Ladywood, the key match was indeed supposed to be in the regional final, but against Salem. The Blazers proved themselves by overwhelming Salem 15-4, 15-12, to advance to the regional final.

Perhaps if the Rocks had gotten an earlier start — they were originally scheduled to play Mercy at 6:30 p.m. instead of Ladywood at 6:30 p.m. — things would have worked out better. Instead, the fired-up Blazers took it to them from the start, and before Salem could regroup, the match was history.

That opening intensity allowed the Blazers to build a 13-1 cushion in the first game, mainly behind the net play of the 6-foot-3 Pogitis, 5-9 Erin LeSage and 5-9

Vondracek.

Salem's strength rested with the hitting ability of 6-foot-6 Shelly Sills, 5-10 Paula Dombrowski, 5-7 Karen Gundry and 5-7 Kelly Johnston. All were effectively neutralized.

All the things Ladywood coach Tom Teeters said his team needed to do to win, they did. The Blazers served exceptionally well — 10 aces in the two games, including eight in the second — and blocked, well, according to Teeters, the first game was "the best we've blocked all year."

The Rocks never did get into any kind of flow offensively, although they looked far better in the second game. Ladywood again broke out on top, going up 6-1 and after Salem closed to within 6-5 — scoring four points on Pogitis' serve (three aces) to make it 10-5.

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Specifications may be obtained by contacting the Purchasing Division. All bids must be submitted in accordance with the bid specifications.

The City of Farmington Hills reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to alter, start or in whole, to waive any formalities and to accept the bid which it believes to be in the best interest of the City.

KATHRYN A. DORNAN
City Clerk

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Dr. Steven Ingersoll speaks on INTEGRATED VISUAL LEARNING

Thursday, March 16th 7:00 pm

Schoolcraft College Liberal Arts Bldg. Room LA 200 18600 Haggerty, Livonia, MI.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A regular meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order by Mayor Campbell at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 1995 in Council Chambers, 3340 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 287-1978.

PRESENT: Bink, Campbell, Harlock, McShane.

ABSENT: Tupper.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Central, City Attorney Deacon, Director Goss, Director Gustman, City Manager Lamboli, Assistant to City Manager Richards, Assessor Baller.

Minutes of the previous Special and Regular meetings of February 20, 1995 were approved as submitted.

Gerald Weese, new member of the Farmington Retirement System Board of Trustees, was introduced to Council.

Mr. Michael Chase, General Manager, Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southeast Oakland County, presented a Recycling Status Report.

Minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

Council granted a sign variance extension to Kinco Realty Corporation.

Council authorized to approve Walker Post 344, American Legion to conduct their annual Poppy Days sale May 18, 19 and 20, 1995, and issued a proclamation proclaiming May 18, 19 and 20, 1995 as Poppy Days in Farmington.

Council adopted a resolution establishing a policy with guidelines for poverty exemptions for the Board of Review.

Council adopted resolutions authorizing the issuance and sale of Michigan Transportation Fund bonds for the Road Improvement Program.

Council approved a communication regarding the Arbitration Award on the Public Safety Officers Contract.

Council received and filed the annual report on the removal of liquor licenses.

Council authorized the reservation of 1500 square feet of land.

Council approved an Annual Disposal Agreement with Oakland County Animal Control Division.

Council called a public hearing for Monday, March 30, 1995 at 8:00 p.m. for the Bluewatern Park, Grand Application.

There were no public comments.

Council comments and announcements were heard.

Council met a meeting on April 2, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a Community Bids Fund System.

Council received and filed the Department of Public Safety Annual Operations report, 1994.

Council received and approved the Monthly Payments Report.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ARNOLD T. CAMPBELL, Mayor
PATSY K. CANTRELL, City Clerk/Treasurer

Public March 13, 1995