

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

S'craft men's squad rallies to win in OT

The doubters are dwindling. And after Saturday's thrilling, come-from-behind 77-71 overtime victory over highly-regarded Grand Rapids CC, the men's basketball doubters have become slim indeed.

The Ocelots ran their record to 8-2 with their second victory this season over GRCC, which slipped to 6-3.

"It showed character to come back and beat a good team like that," said SC coach Carlos Briggs. "The kids showed a lot of pride and heart."

Emeka Okonkwo drained a three-pointer with 1:30 left to tie the game. In overtime, the Ocelots outscored GRCC 11-5 to win easily.

SC trailed 34-23 at the half. "We got off to a slow start, then in the second half we picked it up defensively," Briggs explained.

Part of that defensive adjustment included a 1-3-1 half-court zone that "took them out of their offense," Briggs said. "We kept switching defenses, and that kept them off-balance."

Kevin Melson, the third-leading scorer in the NJCAA Division I (28.7 points per game), led SC with 28 points and 16 rebounds. Okonkwo added 18 points. Dave Jarrett (from Westland John Glenn) scored 10 and grabbed 10 rebounds. Pete Malos (Garden City) totaled 10 points and six assists, and Jimar Eddins collected eight points and 10 boards.

Damon Powell's 16 points paced GRCC; Delshan Adams added 15.

SC hit 23-of-47 from the field (49 percent) and grabbed 45 rebounds, 21 of those offensive.

The Ocelots are averaging 101.1 points per game, seventh-best in the NJCAA.

ST. MARY'S 73, MADONNA 63 (Men): Orchard Lake St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake built an eight-point lead by halftime and held off a Madonna second-half comeback in a game played Monday in Livonia.

The loss dropped the Crusaders to 1-11.

Poor shooting was the biggest factor in the Crusaders' loss. They converted 24-of-65 shots from the floor (36.9 percent) compared to St. Mary's 29-of-58 (48.3 percent). In addition, Madonna made just 3-of-17 three-point tries (17.6 percent); the Eagles were 4-of-10 (40 percent).

A Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton) layup with 11:19 left in the first half gave Madonna a 16-9 lead, its biggest of the game. St. Mary's answered with eight straight points to start a 19-0 run, a run that would give the Eagles the lead for good.

The closest Madonna got in the first half was 29-27 on an Erick Giovannini (Livonia Stevenson) three-pointer with 4:31 left. During the remainder of the half, the Eagles outpointed Madonna 13-6.

In the second half, the closest the Crusaders got was 44-41 on another Giovannini triple with 16:51 left. St. Mary's answered with a 13-2 run, and it was never close after that.

Giovannini finished with a team-high 14 points; he also had five rebounds. Hurley totaled 13 points, four boards, three assists and three steals, while Navin Russaw collected 11 points, 10

rebounds and three steals. For St. Mary's, Pierre Brown led the way with 17 points; he also had three steals. Kevin Spencer scored 16 points. Jason Karyl got 11 points and 12 boards, and Shawn Hurt totaled 10 points, seven boards, six assists and three steals.

FERRIS STATE 92, MADONNA 82 (Women): A pool of hot put out a dry streamer into a hole they could not climb out of Monday in Big Rapids. The loss was Madonna's second in a row, dropping the Crusaders to 6-4. Ferris is 6-3.

Madonna hit just 8-of-33 floor shots in the first half (24.2 percent) and trailed 51-24 at the break. The Lady Bulldogs were 20-of-34 (58.8 percent) in the opening half.

Katie Cushman's 16 points paced Madonna. Chris Dietrich had 13 and Dawn Pelic scored 11.

20 points was paced by Valerie Scott's 20 points. Julie Anthony added 15. Heather Roneck scored 13 and Tiana Kirkland got 11, as 14 of 15 of the Bulldogs played and scored.

LAKE SUPERIOR 78, MADONNA 62 (Women): Again, a poor start proved costly to Madonna as Lake Superior State used a 45-21 first-half barrage to propel it to the win Saturday in Sault Ste. Marie.

Lori Enfield, a freshman center, was one of the best bright spots for the Lady Crusaders. Enfield came off the bench and in just 10 minutes of action, hit 6-of-14 shots to score a team-high 17 points. She also grabbed six rebounds.

Chris Dietrich added 11 points and Katie Cushman collected 10 points, nine assists and two steals.

For Lake Superior, four players reached double-figures in scoring: Jill Vanderlinde with 20, Becky Murray with 18 (and 11 rebounds), Heather Bertram with 13 (and 11 assists) and Holly Hockin with 12.

Madonna was outrebounded, 45-33.

Swim previews from page C1

event in 4:26.03.

Harrison went 1-2 in the 200 freestyle, with Justin Barringer winning in 2:02.17 and sophomore Dan Price taking second at 2:07.05.

Duffy captured the individual medley in 2:22.88, Walker won the 50 freestyle in 24.29 and Svoke's 187.25 took first in diving.

Jeffrey was a double winner when he swam 1:02.64 in the 100 backstroke.

Barringer won the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:33.44, with Price finishing second in 5:45.77.

Harrison went 1-2-3 in the breaststroke. Walker won in 1:06.23, Svoke was second in 1:13.44 and Joe Walte third in 1:24.16.

"We have two returning state qualifiers and six returning college qualifiers," Collins said. Her captains are seniors Barringer, who will swim distance freestyle and some sprints, and Walker.

Collins hopes Barringer can qualify for the state meet in the 200 and 500 and possibly in a relay event.

Walker was third in the WIAA in the breaststroke and 11th in the state in his specialty. He could qualify for the states in the 50 freestyle and a relay.

Other seniors include Duffy, who will swim the backstroke, IM and freestyle. "He's pretty versatile," Collins said. "We're looking for good things from him."

Svoke is a swimmer as well as a diver. He qualified for the regional last year and Collins would like to upgrade that. He'll also swim the breaststroke and butterfly.

Schwadt (butterfly, freestyle) returns for his fourth season of varsity competition while Brinck comes back for the freestyle and backstroke.

Two seniors are new to the team: Geoff Pickering (backstroke and freestyle) and Walte

(breaststroke, IM, freestyle).

Juniors include Rick Olivero (butterfly, breaststroke, backstroke) and Adam Bander (breaststroke and freestyle).

In addition to sophomores Price (distance), Juede (sprint) and Wong (100 and 200 freestyle), Max Settles will also compete in the sprint.

The Hawks do have one freshman, Ed Kay, a newcomer to swimming who will try freestyle and backstroke.

North hopeful

Co-captains Dan Gabriel and Chris Hands will lead North Farmington, which doesn't have a meet until 1998 has given up its diapers in favor of training pants.

Gabriel "is a terrific individual medley swimmer," said his coach, Pat Duthie. Gabriel finished fifth in the state in his specialty and also won the WIAA title. He'll also swim the backstroke.

Rands will swim some of the longer freestyle distances and the butterfly.

"We've got some young kids coming in that I think are going to help us," Duthie said. "Plus our others are looking pretty good."

North Farmington traditionally is thin in numbers but deals with the shortage in pretty good fashion with quality swimmers.

The Raiders were 7-2 in dual meets last season and could be in that neighborhood again this year with a team of 20 swimmers and six divers.

Duthie is looking for leadership from the other two seniors on his team, Justin Hawkins (freestyle, breaststroke) and Chris Smith (backstroke, freestyle).

His juniors include veterans Tony Munaco (freestyle, individual medley), Oz Pearlman (freestyle), Aaron Rycroft (individual medley, freestyle), Mark Wachaberg (butterfly, freestyle), Matt Zald (sprinter) and first-year swimmer Colin Seals (freestyle).

Duthie has six divers on his team, junior Joe Lebowitz in his third varsity season, plus Justin Goodwin, who lettered as a sophomore last year, and junior Steve Fera, out for his first competitive meets.

Jared Goldman is already a diving veteran as a sophomore while sophomore Rob Satter is out for the first time. Duthie says freshman Jeff Sallen is promising.

Sophomores on the swim team include Dan Bowman (freestyle), Chris Clayson (freestyle, breaststroke), Brandon Digla (longer freestyle distances, butterfly), Jim Gabriel ("Who swims the IM and backstroke"), Duthie said, "like his brother," a bigger Jon Kern (freestyle), and Jon Zald (breaststroke).

Versatile Adam Farber is part of a talented freshman contingent that includes Dan Goshorn (freestyle), Craig Paske (breaststroke, all-around) and Loughlin Rycroft (freestyle).

"We won't find out about ourselves until after the Christmas holiday break," said Duthie, whose team's first competition comes in an invitational meet Jan. 10.

"It's going to be a while until we find out where we stand," he said. "I'm pretty excited. We have some young kids that look pretty talented."

"And some of our older kids are pretty talented. It's going to be a fun season."

"I'm not sure how we're going to do won-loss wise. Hopefully we'll swim fast at the end of the season."

(Staff writer Richard Shook also contributed to this report.)

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PREP HOCKEY

Shamrocks ice Wyandotte in Metro action

Redford Catholic Central improved to 3-0-1 overall with a 3-1 victory Saturday night over Wyandotte Roosevelt in a Michigan Metro High School Hockey League game played at Redford Ice Arena.

ROYAL OAK 6, STEVENSON 2: "It was one of those nights, we hit the post three times and the nob of the goalie's stick on another," Livonia Stevenson coach Mike Harris said after his Livonia Stevenson squad was bounced Saturday by host Royal Oak.

Stevenson is now 6-3 overall.

Royal Oak led 6-1 after two periods.

John May and Jeff Lang (power-play) tallied goals for Stevenson. The Spartans' Chris McComb worked in goal the first two periods before giving way to Matt McLeod.