

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Boni NAIA All-America

University of Michigan-Dearborn volleyball captain Heather Boni (Livonia Churchill) recently became the first U-M varsity athlete to be named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics All-America Team.

The second-team selection earned a number of honors this season for the 38-16 Lady Wolves including All-Section, team MVP, All-Region and All-Tournament.

An honor student in mechanical engineering, Boni carries a 3.8 grade-point average. She is a two-time NAIA Academic All-America.

Figure skating lessons

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club is hosting skating classes for all types of skaters Jan. 14 and 15 at Compuware Sports Arena (located at 14900 Beck in Plymouth). No experience is necessary; the lessons are open to those 4-years-old through adults, for figure skaters and hockey players.

For more information, call club director Carrie Brown at (734) 459-6686, Ext. 1.

Men's racquetball league

A men's racquetball league is now forming, with play at Body Rocks-Racquetball in Livonia.

Sponsored by Canton's Parks and Recreation Services, play begins at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 13. The league will last 13 weeks.

Cost is \$100, which includes all league court time and awards. There are no residency requirements. Players will be divided into divisions, depending upon ability level.

For more information, call (734) 397-5110.

AAU girls hoop tryouts

The Western Wayne Wildcats AAU girls basketball team will be having tryouts throughout the first week of January.

The 17-18 division will meet 8-9:30 p.m. Jan. 4 at Pioneer Middle School (located on Ann Arbor Road between Canton Center and McClamahan).

On Jan. 5, the 15-year-old division will meet 6-7:30 p.m.; the 16s will meet at 7-8:30 p.m.; and the 17-18s will meet from 8-9:30 p.m., all at Pioneer MS.

On Jan. 6, the 14s will meet 7-8:30 p.m. at West Middle School (located at Sheldon and Ann Arbor Road), and the 16s will meet from 8-9:30 p.m. at Pioneer MS.

On Jan. 8, the 11-12s will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. at Pioneer MS; the 13s will meet from 6-7:30 p.m. at Central Middle School; the 15s will meet from 7:30-9 p.m. at Central MS; and the 14s will meet from 7:30-9 p.m. at Pioneer MS.

For further information, call either Fred Thomann at (734) 459-7316 or Bob Blohm at (734) 459-1763.

Soccer official training

Training sessions for new soccer referees are scheduled for four consecutive Saturdays in January and February at the Westland Bailey Center, located on Ford between Newburgh and Wayne.

Each class will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; referees must attend all four classes. A certification test will be given at the final session.

Classes are Jan. 23, Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and Feb. 13, and are open to those 12 and older.

Cost is \$43. Call (734) 459-4875 to register. Class size is limited.

Drop-in basketball

The City of Plymouth Recreation Division will offer open gym for basketball 6:45-9:45 p.m. Mondays at Central Middle School beginning Jan. 4. Cost is \$4 per person. City of Plymouth residents will receive a \$1 discount with identification.

Contact the Plymouth Recreation Division at (734) 456-6620.

Fast-pitch softball

Teams are forming for the Little Caesars Girls Fast-pitch Travel Softball Leagues.

For information about the upcoming season, call Chris Vangoss at (313) 561-8696 or Dennis Ringler at (734) 285-8873.

Whaler watching

Matinee victory: The Plymouth Whalers continued their winning ways in the Ontario Hockey League with a 7-4 victory over the London Knights before 4,223 fans Tuesday afternoon at the Compuware Arena. It was a hard-hitting game as (left photo) as Plymouth's Mark McMahon (left) and London's Tom Kostopoulos tangle along the boards. Meanwhile (bottom photo), Damian Surma of the Whalers and Chris Kelly of the Knights mix it up during a second period skirmish. See inside for complete game story.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCKMANN

Bigby leads SC to crown 10-0 Ocelots face Mott on Saturday

By BRAD EMONS
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Bo Derek would like the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team so far. The Ocelots are a perfect 10-0 as they completed the 1998 portion of their schedule with a hard-fought 80-68 victory Sunday night over visiting Waubesa (Ill.) in the finals of the SC Christmas Tournament.

And with 1999 right around the corner, SC opens Eastern Conference play Saturday at home against defending champ Flint Mott. (Game time is 3 p.m.)

SC, however, will most likely be without two key components entering Saturday's challenge — Matt Bauman (Livonia Franklin) and David Jarrett (Westland John Glenn).

Bauman, the team's top post player at 6-8 and second leading scorer, left the team for personal reasons, while Jarrett, a fierce defender and rebounder, is doubtful after undergoing surgery last week for a damaged finger.

But SC coach Carlos Briggs, whose team is leading all NJCAA teams in scoring, appears to have the depth to overcome defections, injuries or possible academic casualties.

Waubesa (11-4), an NJCAA Division II member from Sugar Grove, Ill., proved to be a worthy finalist.

But behind 6-foot-5 freshman Lamar Bigby's game-high 22 points, SC is off to its best start in school history.

Bigby also tossed in 37, hitting seven triples, in SC's 105-81 victory Saturday over St. Clair (Ontario).

"Lamar played great for us offensively and hit a couple of big 'threes' for us in the second half," Briggs said. "He's a freshman and he's getting better every game. He just needs to concentrate on defense and play that for 40 minutes."

SC led 35-26 at halftime, but Waubesa stayed within striking distance much of the second half. Four free throws by point-guard Mario Montgomery and a basket by Bigby in the final 34 seconds helped put the game away.

Point-guard Dave McGlowin, named to the All-Tourney team along with Bigby, contributed 10 points. Mike Peek added nine points, while Quentin Mitchell and Dashawn Williams each had eight.

"Defense won the game tonight," Briggs said. "Our goal is to hold a team under 70, and we did that."

"We also did a pretty good job of holding our poise down the stretch and hitting foul shots."

James Patrick led Waubesa with 16 points, while all-tourney pick George Poulakidas and T.J. Seales each contributed 14. Guard Lee Straughter (Southfield-Lathrup) was also named to the all-tourney team.

"We didn't play well," said Waubesa coach Dave Heiss, now in his 14th season. "We shot 12 of 25 from the free throw line — you can't do that and expect to win."

"We also let number 24 (Bigby) get hot for a stretch and we knew he could do that."

Heiss had his team try and control the tempo offensively.

"We knew they (Schoolcraft) were averaging 113 and were going to

try and keep it in the 70s in order to win," Heiss said. "Schoolcraft is very athletic, a good basketball team."

"We gave the effort, but we didn't shoot well and several of our kids didn't get the job done."

Against St. Clair, McKelvey added 22 points, connecting on four triples. Mike Murray added 14 off the bench, while Peek had six assists. Williams grabbed 10 rebounds.

Tyrone Elliott, an all-tourney pick, scored 28 points to pace St. Clair, while Jimmy Parsons chipped in with 19.

Waubesa beat Conestoga (Ont.) 89-70, as Poulakidas tossed in 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Tiras Smith added 10, while James Patrick had 13 points and 12 rebounds. Straughter dished out eight assists.

In Sunday's consolation final, St. Clair edged Conestoga, 87-82, as Elliott led the way with 32 points.

Jason Graham (all-tourney) led Conestoga with 20.

Meanwhile, SC hopes to get off on the right foot Saturday against Mott.

"We have to get better rebounding the basketball and get better offensively to beat them," Briggs said. "And we have to get better during the week (practice)."

With the loss of Bauman, Briggs will go with 6-6 Dwayne Holmes and 6-7 Chris Colley in the pivot.

"We wish Matt the best, he's a good kid and a good person, the team likes him," Briggs said. "The door is still open. But if he returns, he'll have to make some sacrifices and do some things to step back into the position he was in."



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCKMANN

CC shaved by Borgess in tourney

By STEVE KOWALSKI
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After 31 minutes, 59.06 seconds of play, Tuesday night's boys basketball game between Redford Bishop Borgess and Detroit Catholic Central turned into a free-throw shooting contest.

Borgess made both of its attempts and CC one of two in the last .04 and the Spartans held on to win, 75-74, in a wild Motor City Roundball Classic semifinal played at U-D Jesuit.

Borgess junior guard Donald Didlake, fouled while shooting a baseline jumper, made two free throws to put Borgess up 75-73 with .04 left.

Ironically, Didlake missed four of five free throw attempts earlier in the fourth quarter.

"It was just concentration," said Didlake, who had seven points.

The Shamrocks in-bounded the ball and threw it deep to senior guard Dan Josa, who was fouled over the back. Josa, who scored 14 points off the bench, made the first attempt and missed the second with no time left.

CC coach Rick Coratti, whose team is 4-1 overall, thought neither of the fouls should have been called.

"The guy was off-balance, threw one up, a desperation shot," Coratti said, describing Didlake's attempt. "There should have been no calls and overtime (tied at 73). The missed free throw didn't cost us the game. What we did in the first 31 minutes hurt us."

Said Borgess coach Roosevelt Barnes: "I don't comment on calls."

Borgess' sophomore center Marcus Young scored a game-high 30 points with 10 rebounds to lead the Spartans, who are 2-2 overall and advanced to Wednesday's championship game against Detroit Murray Wright.

The Shamrocks played in the third-place game on Wednesday against Detroit Redford.

Results will appear in Sunday's Observer.

Senior guard Curtis Allen added 17 points for Borgess before fouling out and sophomore guard Marcus Bennett added 10.

Young finished 12 for 16 from the floor.

"The key was just coming out and playing physical, staying on top and keeping the lead the whole game," Young said. "I feel I'm one of the leaders of this team. I don't feel like a sophomore."

CC senior guard Nick Moore, held scoreless in the first quarter, had a team-high 23 points, including four three-point baskets. Junior forward Matt Lorida had eight of his 18 points in the first quarter and also had a team-high 11 rebounds for CC.

A free throw by Didlake with 22.0 left gave Borgess a 73-69 lead but CC reserve junior guard Rod Hunt made a clutch shot in the paint with 14.8 left to cut the deficit to two.

After a Borgess turnover and a CC timeout, Moore made a running one-hander off balance in the lane with 7.3 seconds remaining to tie the score at 73.

"It wasn't quite the shot we wanted but we wanted Nick to get the ball," Coratti said. "He can't keep doing it (all). We have to get others to step up."

Hunt gave the Shamrocks instant offense with four points and three rebounds in limited action.

"That's what we wanted to see (from Hunt)," Coratti said. "We wanted to see who else could get involved. He definitely earned more playing time."

Borgess threatened to turn the game into a blowout early, scoring 12 of the first 14 points and sailing for a 20-14 lead after one quarter and 35-29 halftime lead.

The Shamrocks went on a 6-0 run to end the third quarter down only two but Borgess led by as many as 10 in the fourth quarter.

The two teams met again Tuesday at Borgess.

"It's important to come out strong against these guys but we knew they wouldn't quit," Barnes said. "CC is well-coached and competitive."

Strong defense: Schoolcraft's Dashawn Williams (right) gets down in a stance against James Patrick of Waubesa during Sunday's championship game of the Schoolcraft College Christmas Basketball Tournament. The host Ocelots prevailed, 80-68.