Ocelots coast to Christmas tournament title

It turned out everyone was playing for second place last weekend in the Schoolcraft Col-lege men's basketball Christmas tournament.

lege men's basketball Christmas tournament.

The host Occlots, ranked No. 10 in National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I pell, cruised to the title Sunday with a 95-55 victory over Wilber Wright (III.) after crushing George Brown (Toranto, Ont.) In Saturday's semifinals, 116-59.

Schooleraft is now 13-0 overall entering Eastern Conference play this Saturday at home against host Oakland CC. (Gametime is 3 p.m.)

Second-year guard Javon Clark (Detroit Cass Tech), named tournament MVP, hit four 3-pointers in the opening half as Schooleraft roared out to a 53-28 halftime lead against the

Chicago-area school.
Clark finished with a teamhigh 18 points after leading SC
with 18 against George Brown.
'Javon was able to knock down
the three-ball,' Schoolcraft coach
Carlos Briggs said. 'Once he gets
his feet set, he's a good shooter.
He hadn't been knocking them
down lately, but he had a good
dournament for us and hopfully
this will give him a lot of confidence."

dence."
Yaku Moton-Spruill, a 6-foot-8 center from Westland John Glenn, shared game-high inones with Clark against Wilber Wright by scoring 16. Moton-Spruill also grabbed nine rebounds.
Emir Medunjanin, a 6-6 forward from North Farmington, also had a strong first-half offensively, scoring 10 of his 13 points.

points.

Eleven different SC players scored with Delvar Barrett adding 13 off the bench and

■ BASKETBALL

starter Mike Williams contribut-

starter Mike Williams contributing 10.

We know we had the size,"
Briggs said. "We just had to be patient and get the ball insideout and not force shots. I thought We did a good job of getting the ball to our shooters."
Guards Randy Thomas and Marcus Jordan scored 17 and 18, respectively, for Wilber Wright. But the Illinois squad simply could not match up with Schoolcraft's superior size, shooting ability and bench strength.

"Schoolcraft is well-coached and they have a good group of and they have a good group of and they have a good group of individuals who know their roles well," Wilber-Wright coach Joe Wharton said. "We brought basketball back here (WilberWright) after 10 years and our goal is Division I. That's what we're shooting for. You can see

the administration and staff (at Schoolcraft) gives them support they need. "We'll be back her next year because if we want to be the

because if we want to be the best, we we have to play the best. Wilber-Wright (9-7) advanced to the final by surprising Kirliand CC, 83-77 on Saturday, as Thomas had 26 and Jordan 24. Hubert Jones and Isalah Brooks each contributed 13.

Reuben Edwards had 22 to lead Kirdand in the final, Briggs said. "Wilber Wright gave us a different look than we're used to. They have a lot of guys 6-2 to 6-5 who are very athetic and like to get to the basket. "With that matchup I thought we adjusted well, and it will help us get ready for the league because a lot of those teams will present the same kind of look." The only negative on the afternoon was a sprained ankle starting point guard Rulon Harris suffered near the end of the opening half. "The good thing is that we get

gs said. "We'll give Rulen a cou-ple of days off and hopefully he'll be ready for Oakland."

Many thought it would be hard a duplicate last year's 32-4 sea-son of a year ago when School-raft made its first-ever trip to the NJCAA national tourna-ment.

"We'll be back her next year because if we want to be the best, we we have to play the best."

Wilber-Wright (9-7) advanced to the final by surprising Kirland CC, 93-77 on Saturday, as Thomas had 25 and Jordan 24. Hubert Jones and Isalah Brooks each contributed 13.

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"We thought we might meet Kirland in the final," Briggs said. "Wilber Wright gave us a different look than we're used to. They have a lot of guys 6-2 to 6-5 who are very athletic and like to get to the basket.

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The good thing is that we got a chance to play 16 to figure and be happy for the helidays." Brig.

Spantanns hand harris in to make a form of the control o

Toledo.
He had 26 total points in the tournament and gives SC an inside presence along with Moton-Spruill.

five — all in the Michigan Inter-collegiate Athletic Association — to finish 5-4. The fifth win was a 56-19 romp over Olivet.

Lewis from page D1

56-19 romp over Olivet.

"The past season was kindu disappointing as a team," Lewis said. "It was pretty frustrating because we lost the last three games of my career.

"It was a tough year. We had quite n few seniors, a lot of guys oming back. We had high expectations for ourselves. Our 5-4 could have been 7-2 or 8-1 if a few things go our way.

"Now that I can't look forward to next season, I can't look back

"Now that I can't look forward to next season, I can't look back with much regret. I can't come back next year and have an even better season."

Lewis has mixed emotions about the end of his football

about the end of his football carrier.

"As much as I thought I'd hate it, I can feel good about one thing," he said. "I can start leading a little weight, so my body and joints don't hurt as much.

"But you miss It, just watching games on TV; the practices and camaraderic you have with other players is something cles.

"None of the professional or indoor teams have been knock-

indoor teams have been knock-ing down my door. I'm pretty sure I've hung up my cleats except every Friday after Thanksgiving for the Harrison

VISA

bunni game – the old turkey bowl."

Lewis helped the Harrison freshmen conches last summer before reporting to Kalamazoo, but he's not planning a career in coaching.

"I was amazed how I remembered all the old Harrison plays right away," he said. 'If I have a son playing Little League football, I'll help out there. Just being around football in any way is fun for me."

Another Job Lewis doesn't plan to pursue anytime acon is Fresi-

to pursue anytime soon is Presi-dent of the United States. Harri-son coach John Herrington pre-dicted at the 1997 team banquet Lewis would one day be presi-

dent.
"I was just pretty good at talk-ing the coaches into running the play I wanted or giving us less sprints after practice," Lewis said.

said.
"Maybe that's why he thought
I'd be a good politician. I could
work the referee pretty good, too.
That might be where he got
that."

that."
Lowis spent three months in Mexico last winter, fulfilling a foreign studies requirement.
"I was doing petty well (with the language)," he said. "I lived with a host family, and they didn't know any English; so you

pick it up pretty fast.

The people were real friendly down there. You get pretty comfortable with it. I had a lot of stares, because I was the biggest guy down there."

Harrison prepared him well for college football, Lewis added. He started four years for the Hornets, the first at dofensive tackle, the second at offensive tackle and the last two at center. "I was more prepared for weight lifting than anybody I came in with," Lewis said. "I think we prepare guys so much better than other high school programs.

"I hit the ground running, coming from Harrison. Other guys take time to adjust. It helped with playing right away."

Two other former Harrison players joined Lewis in the Kalamazos starting lineup last season. Lewis and junior tight end Zach Burton were second-team, All-MIAA picks, and sophomore defensive lineman Brett Foster received an honorable mention.

"I wanted to go somewhere I could play," Lewis said. "Football for me is not really fun standing on the sidedline. It's getting in there and contributing to the team. It was great to get four years of games instead of one or two."

Spartans have best effort in win Redford Bishop Borgess boys baskethall coach Lloyd Pracedel said his team played its "best game so far this year" with a 53-44 win over Saginaw Buena Vista Saturday in the University of Detroit-Jesuit's Roundball Classic.

reducing the number of turnovers, said Pracedel.

Borgess led all but three periods with senior forward A.J. Shakir-Fulford adding 12 points.

Buena Vista's only double figure scorer was Mekele Cooper with 16 points.

"We executed things well both offensivals and done in the holidays, and Pracedel said offensivals and done in the holidays, and Pracedel said

of Detroit-Jesuit's Roundball
ure scorer was Mekele Cooper
Classic.
Darien Bynum led the Spar
tans (3:2) with 24 points and 12
rebounds.
"The guys were very much
under control and did a great job

Whalers from page D1

with Whaters' gostender Paul Drew
off for the oatra attecker, Plymouth
scored on Stenart's goal with just under
27 seconds to go from Summa.

WHALERS 3, LONDOW 2: Before
MAGE Triday at the Ice House, Plymouth beat the host Mights on goals
by Stewart, Liftion and Rob McBride (a
short-handed beakhewly goal).

center Dylan Hunter, both playing for Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Tournament in Manitoba.

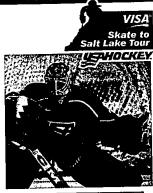
The Whaters played without five at the World Juniors — Stephen Weiss (Canada), Libor Ustrnul (Czech Repubtic), Jason Bacashihua (U.S.), Kris Vernarsky (U.S.) and Chad LoRose

om, The Pala

all ticks treaster locations.

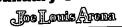
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