# Ocelots have title hopes dashed in NJCAA semi

BY THE OBSERVER STAFF
There will be no national championship for the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team

championship for the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team this year.

The top-ranked Ocelots had their 34-game winning streak and title dreams shattered Friday night in the semifinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

Behind a 30-point effort by Jaime Lloreda, No. 4-rated Dixie State of St. George, Utah, pulled off the upset with a 72-69 win over Schoolcraft.

"I give Dixie credit," Ocelots coach Carlos Briggs said. "They kept fighting and fighting and eventually won the game.

"But I think the officiating took us out of our game. They let you play at one end but not at the other end."

The Rebels (33-3) benefited

from an advantageous foul situation. The Ocelots (34-1) were called for 26 fouls while the Rebels had 16.

With 10 minutes to go in the game, Schoolcraft's five starters were on the bench in fould trouble until six minutes were loft. Rulon Harris later fouled out with 3:17 remaining.

Dixie was 18-0f-32 at the line and Schoolcraft, which had a 48-34 rebounding advantage, 12-0f-16.

"It changed our whole style of play," Briggs said of the officiating, "It was a competitive game, the work of the first substance of the property of the control of the control

good.
"Early in both halves, we had
10 fouls to their four. They were
playing man-to-man; we were
playing half zone and traps.
"Even despite that, we had a
chance to win the game."
The Occlots led at halftime,

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around.
Divic took the lead with 7:26
left. Kevin Woodberry's basket
with 20 seconds to play gave the
Rebels a 71-87 lead.
Schoolcraft's Javon Clark hit
two free throws to make it a twopoint game, and Woodberry hit
one of two for Dixic with 9.8 secords left.

onds left.
The Occlots rushed the ball down the floor and got it to Clark in the corner for an attempted three with 3.3 seconds

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also had 15 rebounds, Clark and The Occlots rushed the ball lown the floor and got it to lark in the corner for an intempted three with 3.3 seconds But the shot was blocked by the formating.

But the shot was blocked by the formating and woodberry the formations.

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"(Lloreda) was more mobile than the big guys we have," Briggs said. "He was able to slide through and get to the basket. Our help side was just too late." Dixie played No. 2 Coffoyville (36-1), Kan., for the championship Saturday night. School-craft faced No. 15 Wabsah Valley (32-5) from Mount Carmel, Ill., in the consolation game earlier. "We made a nice run," Briggs said. "We feel good about what we did at Schoolcraft this senson."

S'CRAFT 84, ITAWAMBA 72: On Thurs day, Schoolcraft College started the sec-ond half with a 28-6 run in the first 12:40 to open up a 34-point lead. After that, coach Carlos Briggs emptled his bench as Itawamba (from Fulton, Miss.) closed the

gop with a meaningless run.

"We came out lethergic in the first half," said Briggs. "We didn't get our legs until the second half. We had more intensi-

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ty defensively (in the second half). We were moving our feet and getting some run-outs.\*
Which is why the Ocelots converted 35-of-88 floor shots (51.5 percent), despite

Which is why the Oceloits converted 35-of-88 floor shorts (51.5 percent), despite making just 4-62-0 three-pointers (20 per-cent), litewambs hit 24-657 from the floor (42.2 percent). SC led 42-34 at the half, Aher outsco-ing the indiens 17-8 to start the half, the Oceloits held their foss without a point for 4-33 while putting 15 on the board, mak-ing it 7-4-0 with 7:20 left. Emir Medunjanin (from North Farming-ton) had an outstanding game for SC, sco-ing 19 points (14 in the second half) on 5-of-11 shootling, including 20-64 thress-Mike Williams also accred 19 points — he had the first nine of the game — and grabbed eight rebounds. Jevon Clairs added 12 points, Debrat Gar-rett came off the bench to score 11 and grab eight boards, and Rulon Harns dished out eight sessies.

Itowamba got 19 points from Trent Vaughn and 11 spiece from Shun Jenkins

and Jason Pannel.
"Emir stepped up tonight," said Bliggs.
"He can score when he wants to be more
assertive offensively. He can do a lot of
things for us. He can shoot the ball and he
usually gueds the best player on the other
team."

As for Itawamba, which ended its sea-sen at 22-8, coach Marty Cooper could offer only that "we shot the ball well when

the game was over.
"They're very good — better than!! thought. Their defense as a team is what makes them so good. Offensively we were OK in the first half, but we didn't get after it on the other end.

\*Our two guys got hurt (Jenkins and Pannel were both injured early in the secand half) and went out, and at that point ond nair) and were out, and a trial point we kind of hung our heads. And being the champions they are, they went after us when they saw blood.
It's called taking care of business, which SC did with precision.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, March 28 W. Bloomfield at N. Farmington, 7 p.m. Milford at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m. F.H. Mercy at Birm. Seaholm, 7 p.m.

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Publish March 23 & 30, 2002

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