

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE D1

Mercuryhurst; Lisa VanderPatten, Macomb; Tiffany Peacock, Sinclair; Diona Hammett and Mary Petric, Lakeland; Moore and Broyles of Kellogg.

CUYAHOGA TOPS OCC MEN

Six players scored in double figures Saturday for the Oakland Community College men's basketball team, but it wasn't enough to prevent visiting Cuyahoga (Ohio) CC from taking a 102-90 victory.

The Challengers, who improved their record to 7-4, were ahead at halftime, 45-36, and outscored the Raiders in the second half, 57-54. OCC dropped to 2-11 overall.

Rommel Murray and Craig Myrce scored 21 points apiece for the Raiders, who also had 14 from Will Pendergrass, 13 from Michael Russell, 11 from Kyle Lawrence and 10 from Ralph Sylvester.

Cuyahoga countered with three 20-points-or-better performances by James Lewis (24), Joshua Ayers (20) and Lemaro Smith (20). Raymond Smith added 16 points and LeAndre Floyd 10.

Smith had 11 rebounds and Ayers 10 for the Challengers, who had a 43-36 edge on the boards. OCC's Murray grabbed 10 rebounds and Myrce eight.

Cuyahoga shot a stunning 71.7 percent from the floor, hitting 43 of 60 shots. OCC was 37-of-83 for 44.6 percent.

The Challengers were 2-of-7 shooting threes and 14-of-29 shooting free throws. The

Cuyahoga shot a stunning 71.7 percent from the floor.

Raiders were 3-of-13 and 13-of-18, respectively. OCC's Murray also had five assists and four steals; Lawrence had six steals and Pendergrass five; Russell had four steals, too.

GRIZZLIES GROUND FALCONS

Oakland University's men's basketball team moved above the .500 mark Sunday by registering a convincing, 61-44 home triumph over Air Force. The victory put an end to a three-game losing streak against Division I opponents.

OU guard Mike Helms spearheaded the offensive attack by tossing in a game-high 23 points. He also grabbed six rebounds.

Teammate Rawlie Marshall turned in a strong all-around game by bagging 15 points and snaring 11 rebounds and Courtney Scott contributed eight points and three rebounds.

Air Force, which dropped to 5-3 on the season, got 11 points apiece from A.J. Kuhle and David Peterson.

The Golden Grizzlies held a 27-23 lead at halftime and built the margin to 11 with 17 minutes to play.

But a 12-2 Air Force run cut the margin to just one point and promptly sent the hosts on a 14-4 run of their own to put the game away.

Kankakee stuns SC with buzzer-beater

BY BRAD EWING
STAFF WRITER

Christmas came early for the Kankakee (Ill.) Community College men's basketball team. And it was point guard Bobby Dixon who played Santa.

Kankakee let an 11-point lead with 3:38 left in the game evaporate in its game Sunday at Schoolcraft College, allowing the Ocelots to take a one-point lead with 2.9 seconds left—courtesy of a couple of three-pointers by Ronald Dorsey.

Kankakee's inbound play from under its own basket went to the 5-foot-10 Dorsey along the sideline, 30 feet from the hoop. With two SC defenders draped all over him, Dorsey heaved a desperation line drive that corkscrewed toward the basket.

Swish. Final score: Kankakee 84, SC 82.

The upset win over the seventh-ranked Ocelots ended a home court winning streak at 60, dating back to January, 2000 when SC lost to Mott CC. It was also SC's first loss this season after 11-straight wins. Kankakee is 11-4.

The loss was only part of the bad news for the Ocelots. They also learned leading scorer Dion Sherrell suffered a broken bone in his foot midway through the second half and will be lost for six to eight weeks.

"We made a good comeback being 11 down in the last three-and-a-half minutes, but any time you give a team a second left, it's a second too much," said SC coach Carlos Briggs. "Maybe we can learn from this and grow. I thought Kankakee did everything they had to do to win a close game on the road."

"We didn't play like the home

team. They played like they (Kankakee) were at home. We learned how important each possession becomes and they (Kankakee) wanted the game a tad bit more than we did. Every time that plays us wants to come in here and take what we have."

Tavoris Baker led SC with 22 points and 17 rebounds. Dorsey added 17 points, James Holmes and Marcus Bennett scored nine each, and Gary Johnson (from Wayne Memorial), Andre Scott and Dion Sherrell netted eight apiece.

Rocky Collum paced Kankakee with 19 points. Dixon and guard Lawrence Brooks finished with 15 apiece.

"Actually, when the shot (by Dixon) went up, I thought it was in," said Kankakee coach Dave Holstein. "I knew it was a prayer and sometimes prayers are answered. They (SC)

defended our out-of-bounds play well. Their size presented a problem getting a shot off."

"I was kind of disappointed with the way we finished (the game), we missed four or five free throws down the stretch, except for Collum. But it's still a road win against a quality team like Schoolcraft."

"I knew they were athletic, skilled and coached well. Our guards were outstanding. They're not big, but they're competitive and they defended well throughout the game."

The question for SC now is, can they regroup? "I guess the question now is are we as good as last year?" Briggs paraphrased. "The answer is no. Now we have to focus on being the best team this team can be. You can't focus on last year."

If it takes 30-foot desperation shots to beat the Ocelots, it's doubtful they'll lose very often.

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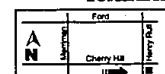
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