

SPORTS

Monday, November 18, 1974

(S,F)17A

Chargers must hustle

No more horses for SL cagers

By TOM BAER

For the first time in a couple of seasons, Lathrup's basketball team won't have any "big horses" to carry the scoring and rebounding loads.

Two years ago, it was Bob Malaby scoring and passing his way to all-state honors, and leading Lathrup to a league title. Last season, John Gardner and Jim Ballantyne performed well enough to keep Lathrup in the Metro Suburban Association race until near the end of the season.

Right now Lathrup coach Jim Kourtakis has seven players back from last year's team, which finished 8-13 overall. They're all small but promising, according to Kourtakis.

Returnees, all seniors, include Tom Hart (5-11), John Harding (6-2), Jim Bacinski (6-2½), Rick Gorosh (6-2), Ron Silberstein (6-1), Rob Wiencek (5-9) and Kenny Wenzel (5-9).

Gary Hawthorne, a 6-2½ junior transfer student, also could help. Tom O'Rourke, Mark Johnston, Steve Harwood and Casey Forward are up from the reserves. O'Rourke is the biggest at 6-1.

"We're a little small overall," Kourtakis said. "But we seem to be a little better shooting team this year. Hopefully, we can put the ball in with a little more consistency. Last year, we shot less than 40 percent. You just don't win many basketball games when you shoot that poorly."

"Right now we're banking on that. Add we're going to have to do a lot of hustling and a lot of scrapping to compensate for lack of size."

Lathrup opens its season Nov. 26 at

home against nonleague Royal Oak Kimball. The Chargers' MSA season begins Dec. 6 at Utica Eisenhower.

The MSA race is a question mark this season, most coaches believe. Rochester Adams, last year's champ, lost a lot of kids through graduation. So did runner up Royal Oak Dondro. The Oaks and Bloomfield Hills Lahser impress Kourtakis.

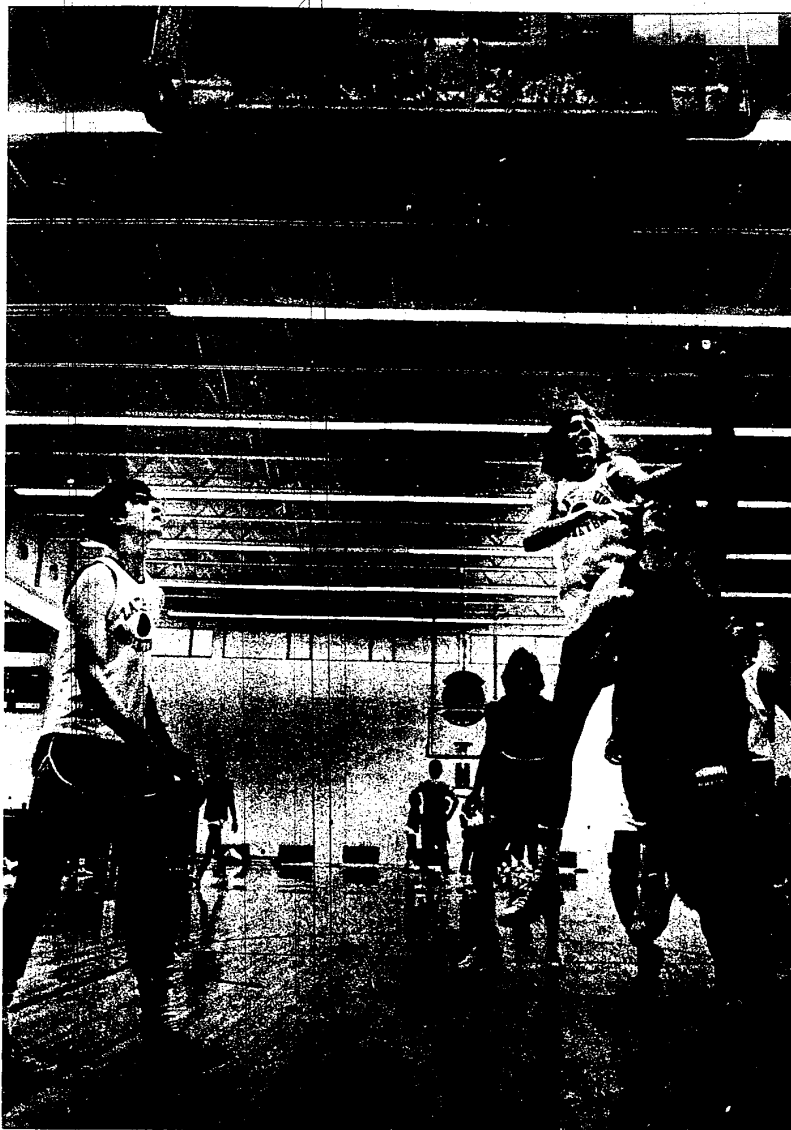
"I see Lahser and Dondro being the teams to beat in the conference," he said.

What about Lathrup? "We have a rough road," Kourtakis said. "We'll have to scrap and dive. We can't sit back on our hands."

Bob Herm, a newcomer, will coach Lathrup's reserves. He coached reserve basketball at Dearborn Heights Riverside last season. Mike Murphy will coach the Chargers' freshman squad.

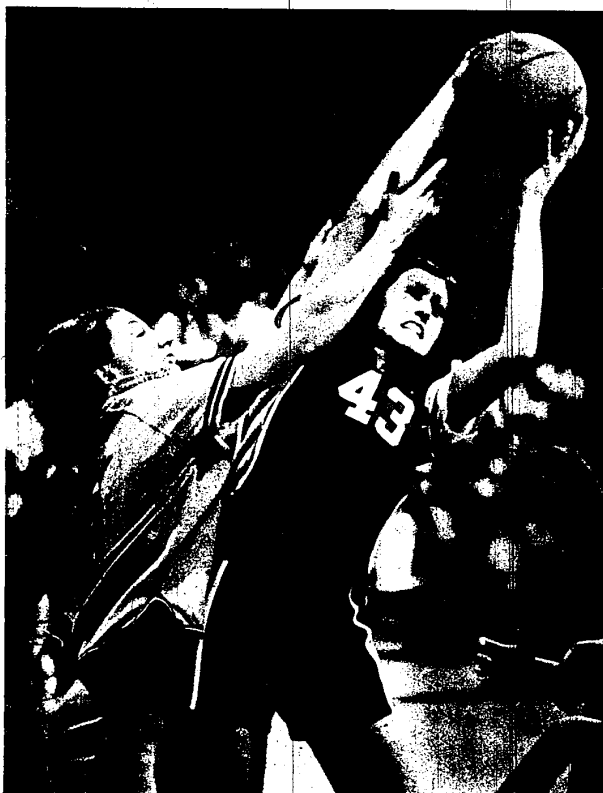
Lathrup Schedule

Nov. 26 — Kimball	H	8 p.m.
Dec. 3 — Berkley	T	8 p.m.
Dec. 6 — Eisenhower	T	8 p.m.
Dec. 10 — Ferndale	T	8 p.m.
Dec. 13 — Lahser	T	8 p.m.
Dec. 17 — Southfield	H	8 p.m.
Dec. 20 — Groves	T	8 p.m.
Jan. 3 — Dearborn	H	8 p.m.
Jan. 7 — Oak Park	T	8 p.m.
Jan. 10 — Dondro	H	8 p.m.
Jan. 17 — Adams	H	8 p.m.
Jan. 24 — Eisenhower	H	8 p.m.
Jan. 28 — Seaholm	H	8 p.m.
Jan. 31 — Lahser	H	8 p.m.
Feb. 4 — Southfield	T	8 p.m.
Feb. 7 — Groves	H	8 p.m.
Feb. 11 — Hazel Park	T	8 p.m.
Feb. 14 — Dondro	T	8 p.m.
Feb. 18 — Ply. Canton	H	8 p.m.
Feb. 21 — Adams	T	8 p.m.
Feb. 24 — March 3 District Tournament		
March 4-6 Regional Tournament		



Lathrup scrimmage includes (from left) Tom O'Rourke, John Harding and Rick Gorosh (Photo by Gary Friedman)

More previews on Thursday



Mercy's girls had trouble with Dominican's Lynn Chadwick (43) in the Catholic League playoffs

Lathrup girls stop Groves

Mercy nips Dominican; sets sights on district

By TOM BAER

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy is enjoying its best girls' basketball season ever, and Judeen Bartos is one key to the success.

Mercy beat Detroit Dominican, 63-52, last week in the semifinals of the Catholic League playoffs, but not without some clutch baskets from Miss Bartos, a 5-5 senior forward.

Mercy was trailing 43-41 going into the last quarter, but coach Rose Swidzinski's girls tightened their defense and started hitting from outside to salvage their 12th victory of the season. Miss Bartos, who took game scoring honors with 20 points, started the comeback by swishing a 15 footer which tied the game at 43 all.

About a minute later, Mercy's Katy Harte hit on another long shot to put the winners ahead for good. Good outside shooting is a Mercy trademark this season, according to Miss Swidzinski.

"This is a standard thing for us," she said. "Judeen is an excellent shooter from anywhere on the floor. She's deadly from 15 to 20 feet." Mercy's Mary Pat Hamphill, who came off the bench early in the game, scored 19 points and grabbed 8 rebounds. She replaced 6-1 center Mary Anne Thompson, who had an unusually slow scoring night with only 10 points.

"That's one thing about our team: we don't depend too much on any one girl," Miss Swidzinski said. "I'm sure if a team pulled its tallest girl, everybody would say that it's all over. With our kids, it just doesn't make that much difference. We have someone on the bench who can come in and do a tremendous job."

Dominican, which won the Class A state tournament last year, was led

by Lynn Chadwick with 18 points, and Cookie Mankowski with 13 points. Dominican dominated the rebounding, 36-28, but Mercy's half-court press caused numerous enemy turnovers.

"I feel the defense won the game for us," Miss Swidzinski said. "We were concerned about Mankowski because she's big and rough. She's potentially dangerous, and we wanted her boxed."

"Same thing with Chadwick. Everytime she had the ball, we had her doubled. We were boxing them anywhere around the key area."

The strategy worked. Miss Chadwick was held to six points in the second half. Mercy could win the Catholic League crown by beating Hamtramck St. Ladislaus, the other semifinal winner.

Mercy will play Southfield-Lathrup in the opening round of the Southfield High district tournament on Thursday (Nov. 21) at 7 p.m. Southfield High and Berkley High are also in the district.

Lathrup-Groves

Lathrup won its seventh-straight victory this season by defeating Birmingham Groves, 69-23, in a Metro Suburban Association girls' basketball game last week.

The Chargers jumped to a 23-2 lead after one quarter. Eight Lathrup girls scored in the rout. Lathrup's Pam Redine led all scorers with 20 points. Teammate Ruth Fraser added 18. Sue Collins led Groves with 14 points.

"We ballhawked," said Lathrup coach Chuck Daniels. "We put two people on the ball, and the third person goes half way."

Ferndale-Southfield

Southfield High ended its girls' basketball season with a 56-35 loss to



PAM REDINE

Ferndale High in a Southeastern Michigan Association game. Southfield, which is 5-7 overall, finished third in the SMA behind first-place Berkley High and Ferndale.

Lori Slatin scored 10 points for Southfield. The Blue Jays made too many mistakes, according to coach Sheri Gordon.

"We threw the game away," she said. "Our passes were terrible, and we couldn't control the ball. We lost on basic fundamentals, really."

Southfield plays next on Thursday (Nov. 21) in the Southfield High district tournament. The Jays meet Berkley at 8:30 p.m.