

Lutheran North tops Christian

Cold spells doom Eagles

It wasn't much consolation, but Southfield Christian defeated Bethany Christian, 54-40, in the loser's bracket of the Lutheran North holiday tournament last Saturday.

Southfield Christian, coached by Bruce Calderwood, has won only two games this season. Both victories have come against Bethany — a new school in its first year of varsity competition.

Lutheran North, the eventual winner of the tournament, dropped Christian, 49-38, in the opener Friday night.

Several times this season Christian has outplayed its opponents in the first half only to lose the game because of a second-half scoring slump. The Lutheran North game was no exception.

Christian led, 9-8, after one quarter, but then Lutheran North began its comeback and Christian began its demise. Actually, the Mustangs can credit their comeback to Gary Bantlin. He came off the bench to sink three quick buckets at the end of the second quarter and send North to the locker room with a 22-21 lead.

The second half belonged to the Mustangs as they held the Eagles to six points in each of the last two periods and outscored them 27-12 in the second half.

ROB SPAULDING led all scorers with 17 points. Bantlin continued his hot scoring into the second half, finishing with 10 points. Tom Marks and Graham Nash led the losers with 11 and eight points respectively.

Against Bethany, Calderwood's club jumped to a 14-4 lead after one quarter and stayed in front for the 14-point win. Gary Spruill led the winners with 16 points. Eric Larson and Scott Newport added 10 and nine points respectively.

Bethany, which is winless in seven starts, got 15 points from Dave Phillips. Bethany is coached by Dave Guthrie, who guided Southfield Christian's track team last season.

Lutheran North won its own tournament by beating Oakland Christian, 66-54. Ron Spaulding, Rob's twin brother, tallied 18 points for the winners.

Southfield Christian will try to make it three straight over Bethany when it travels to the Troy school for a Jan. 7 game. The contest begins at 7:30 p.m.

LUTHERAN NORTH
(49): Rob Spaulding, 7.

3-4, 17; Gary Bantlin 4, 2-3, 10; Phil Wingfield 3, 3-4, 9; Ron Spaulding 2, 4-6, 8; Bill Johns 1, 1-2, 3; Steve Misch 1, 0-2, 2. Totals: 18, 13-21, 49.

SFD CHRISTIAN
(38): Tom Marks 5, 1-2, 11; Graham Nash 3, 1-4, 7; Gary Spruill 1, 2-4, 4; Eric Larson 2, 0-0, 4; Scott Newport 2, 0-0, 4; Greg Quiggle 1, 1-4, 2. Totals: 14, 5-14, 33.

SFD CHRISTIAN
9 12 6 6-33

SFD CHRISTIAN
(34): Gary Spruill 8, 0-0, 16; Scott Newport 4, 1-2, 9; Tom Marks 3, 1-4, 7; Eric Larson 3, 0-0, 10; Graham Nash 3, 0-2, 6; Greg Quiggle 2, 0-2, 4; Brian MacDonald 1, 0-0, 2; Dan Hendon 0, 0-1, 0. Totals: 26, 2-11, 54.

BETH CHRISTIAN
(40): Dave Phillips 6, 3-4, 15; Jeff Rozell 6, 2-5, 14; Martin Jones 2, 3-5, 7; Mark McKillop 1, 2-4, 4; Paul George 0, 0-0, 0; Barry Workman 0, 0-0, 0. Totals: 15, 10-17, 40.

SFD CHRISTIAN
14 11 14 16-54
BETH CHRISTIAN
4 10 14 12-40.

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Rice trips Pioneers

Brother Rice basketball coach Bill Norton is a master mechanic.

In early-December, the Warrior round-ball machine had shown signs of sputtering. Now, Norton's squad has put two, back-to-back victories together and the situation is looking much brighter.

The latest triumph came last Friday night as Brother Rice defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer 65-60. A week earlier Rice won over Bloomfield Hills Lahser.

Rice seemed doomed to defeat as Pioneer led by a convincing 12 point margin with less than two minutes remaining in the contest.

But, thanks to three-point plays by Tom Henry and Kevin Hart and some quick offense the Warriors reeled off the final 13 points.

Henry added a pair of free throws in the last 10 seconds to sew up Rice's fourth victory of the season.

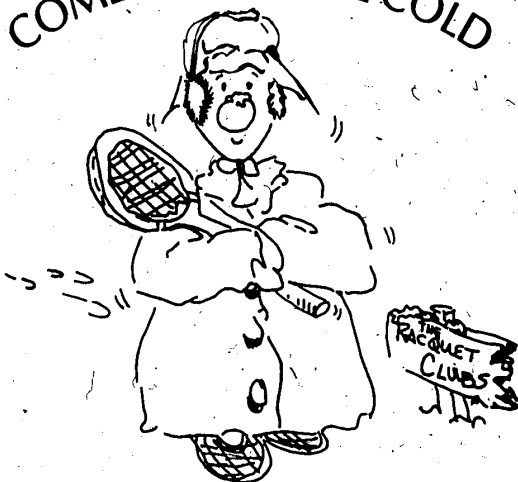


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