

# Lathrup stops Berkley, 55-46

By TOM BAER

Southfield-Lathrup's basketball team has been receiving a lot of attention this season because of a 6-6 transfer student named Bill Phillips.

But coach Jim Kourakis' Lathrup team has plenty of other talent, too. For example, there's 6-3 senior Tom O'Rourke. He's beginning his second season as Lathrup's Old Reliable. Last Tuesday, O'Rourke had a good second half to lead Lathrup to Berkley High, 55-46, in a nonleague game.

O'Rourke came scoring honors with 18 points, 11 coming in the second half when Lathrup overcame several Berkley threats and became the first team to beat the Bears in regul

lar-season play since Ferndale turned the trick in the 1973-74 season.

Berkley, with stars like Bruce Flory and Bob Pykkenen, has become a strong suburban team over the past few years. Berkley's superstars have graduated, but the Bears still play a respectable game.

"I was surprised that they'd be that strong," Kourakis said. "They really played a tenacious defense."

Lathrup opened the game by scoring first, 10-0. Berkley came back and the team finished the first quarter tied at 10 all. Lathrup took a 22-18 halftime lead before Berkley made its comeback bid.

"We just don't like success," said Kourakis, whose team opened its season with an impressive win over nonleague Royal Oak Kimball Nov. 25. "We get a few points up and we want to give it away."

"We stunk but we won by nine points. What can I say? We did a lot of dumb things. That's OK really because it's early in the season. But we're going to have to eat down on the mistakes if we want to win consistently."

Phillips, the 6-6 center, got off to a slow start but finished with 14 points and 16 rebounds to help the Chargers hold a 35-22 rebounding advantage. Forward Gary Hawthorne added eight points, six coming in the first quarter, and grabbed nine rebounds. Guard Mark Johnston provided the winners with 11 more points.

Lathrup shot 38 per cent from the field, making 23 of 59 attempts. The

Chargers made nine of 11 free throws. Phillips swished six of seven.

Berkley shot 30 per cent from the field, making 19 of 62. The Bears made eight of 12 free throws.

Lathrup plays next at home on Friday (Dec. 5) against Luca Eisenhower in the Metro Suburban Association opener for both teams.

Lathrup-Berkeley

Lathrup (85): Tom O'Rourke 9-0-18, Bill Phillips 10-6-22, Gary Hawthorne 1-2-4, Mark Johnston 8-0-0, Roger Averas 0-0-0. Totals: 23-9-11. 35

Berkeley (85): John Waring 2-2-6, Jim Steffey 2-2-6, Phil Wats 7-2-16, Tom Hawthorne 1-2-2, Jeff Dalzel 1-0-2, Bob McFerrin 0-0-0, Mike Scully 3-1-2. Totals: 19-8-12. 46

Total Pts: Early: Lathrup 18, Berkley 15. Final: O.R. Phillips (Lathrup); Gary Hawthorne (Lathrup).

Lathrup 10-12-10-23 -55  
Berkley 10-8-16-12 -46

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Southfield-Thurston

Southfield (82): Marvin Miles 4-0-8, Burk Wieland 7-3-17, Jeff McCall 4-0-2, Paul Wike 2-0-4, Mike Tyres 1-0-0, 2-0-2, Tom Folsom 2-2-10, John Vigt 4-1-2, 9-0-2. Totals: 24-16-32.

Thurston (81): Gary Aburdo 6-0-12, Steve Beck 1-2-2, Dave Beete 2-0-3, Roy Pilgrim 1-2-2, Randy Rodriguez 3-2-2, Dennis Graff 1-0-1, Mike Nagle 1-1-2, Brian Gardner 3-0-0, 10-0-0. Southfield 11-18-12-11 -55  
Thurston 12-18-12-11 -51

BERKLEY ran off eight straight points in the third quarter and ended the stanza by outscoring Lathrup 16-10. Phil Wats led the surge with eight points in the quarter and 16 for the game.

Lathrup shot 38 per cent from the field, making 23 of 59 attempts. The

final point came in the fourth quarter.

Berkley's early lead was never threatened.

After the first quarter, Lathrup

had a 51-50 edge with less than a half minute to play, and with the crowd in a screaming frenzy,

Southfield-Ruth Wieland tossed in a field goal to put the Blue Jays in front by a single point.

The Eagles took the ball out of bounds and hustled down court in an attempt to notch the equalizing points, but the locals muzzled, and Southfield nabbed the rebound and held the ball

until the final buzzer to insure the win.

"We were ahead most of the way," said a disappointed Thurston coach Bill Croteau. "and we probably played good enough so that we should have won."

THE EAGLES snouted out to a 12-11 first-quarter advantage, increased their lead to 25-15 in the second period. Thurston then changed its defense from man-to-man to tight zone in an effort to sit on its lead, a strategy which later proved to the Eagles' detriment.

Southfield began to creep back after Thurston changed defenses, and the Blue Jays managed to knot the score at half-time, 29-29. Both teams compiled 12 points in what turned out to be a low-scoring third period while the fourth quarter was even more tightly contested.

In spite of the loss, Croteau is optimistic about what he saw during his charges' opening season game. "The kids really hustled on defense, and their shooting was generally pretty good, although we did miss a lot of layups. We also had too many turn-

overs," Croteau continued, "but all in all I think we're much further along now than we were at the point last year. Realistically, we should have won tonight."

Southfield's victory ended its season at 11-1. Wieland who sank the winning bucket, led all scorers with 17 points, while Thurston was panned by Gary Aburdo and Randy Rodriguez, who scored 12 apiece.

## Players praised

Two Central Michigan University football players from area high schools have been cited for their outstanding play in recent weeks.

Bob Miller, a freshman running back from Farmington-Harrison and Mike Scully, a sophomore defensive end from Birmingham-Beechwood, received player of the week awards for their play on CMU's reserve squad. Last year, Collins was named to the Observer & Eccentric All Area first team. Miller received honorable mention as an offensive back.

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