

Area college cagers earn tourney berth

You won't see Dick Enberg and "Coach" Al McGuire at court-side. Likewise, the NBC television cameras won't be there either.

They probably won't even be playing Kenny Loggins' hit, "This Is It."

But, for the Michigan Christian College basketball team, this is it. It's the National Little College Athletic Association basketball tournament, and, for the first time in the history of the Rochester college, the Warriors will be a part of it.

The NLCAA — not quite a common acronym — is the governing body for 500. When it comes to playoffs, the NLCAA doesn't carry the prestige of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) or the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). But, to Michigan Christian College coach Garth Pleasant, it's the pinnacle of the season for his Warriors.

"I know it's not the NCAA or the NAIA," Pleasant said, "but it's just as big to us."

The national tournament, which will take place March 8-12 in Oakland City, Ind., is comprised of 16 district winners. On March 8, Michigan Christian will open the tourney against the South Pacific district winner.

ABOUT 10 GAMES into the 1981-82 season, Pleasant realized the

team's goal of qualifying for the nationals was indeed a possibility. In an earlier interview, Pleasant said "I didn't think we could make, I wouldn't be here."

"Well, we made it," Pleasant said in an updated report, "and we're just elated. The kids are really excited. This is what we've worked so hard for all year."

The Warriors qualified for the national tournament after it won the Columbus, Ohio, District title during the weekend. Pleasant's troop knocked off Josephinum, from Columbus, 95-71 in the championship game.

"They were bigger than us, and that concerned us going into the game," Pleasant said. "But we were 'em down. We pressed them and ran on them, and that hurt them bad."

Mike Adams, a 5-9 guard, led the Warriors with 29 points. Lester Dodd added 16, and Ricky Brown and Rich Zelenki chipped in with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

The win lifted Michigan Christian's season record to 15-3.

LAST WEEK, the Warriors posted a pair of victories — a 76-62 win over Fort Wayne Bible College and a 105-79 shellacking over Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music.

Friday, the Warriors host Marygrove at Oakland University,

Matmen advance

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Western's Steve Barnham (pin in 4:21), Lakeland's Steve Martin (pin, 5:55) and Milford's Pete Thome (7-4 decision) were Cotter's earlier victims.

HARRISON SHOWED some wrestling talent in the recent Western Six League meet, but only one Hawk — Blackmer — made it out of the Western district.

Blackmer, a junior who is better known for his place-kicking on Harrison's Class B state championship football team, finished fourth in the 167-pound class, losing in the consolation

final to Waterford Kettering's Jeff Martin, 4-3.

Blackmer, now 23-5, dethroned Bloomfield Hills Andover's Jim Murphy (7-1) and Milford's Eric Azzoli (4-3) before losing to Western's Aldo Buttazzoni (7-2).

North Farmington placed seventh with 65 points in the team standings of the Western district. Harrison landed 15th with 18 points. Howell topped 19-team field with 129 points, and Milford was second with 115-4.

Farmington finished fifth in the Trenton district with 80 points. Trenton won with 150, Detroit Catholic Central had 121, Southgate 117-4 and Redford Thurston 94.

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