

Tiny Tyndale seeks cage success



Tyndale freshman Maurice Booker (32) drives the baseline against Michigan Christian College in a game played Nov. 23 at Oakland University.

By Tom Baer
staff writer

It would be a massive understatement to say that William Tyndale College, a tiny school with a strong orientation toward religious and musical subjects, is not a sports mecca.

Not one of its 340 students attends on an athletic scholarship. There isn't even a gymnasium on its two-building "campus" at 12 Mile and Drake roads in a sparsely-settled section of Farmington Hills.

Not much for a coach or an athletic director to do, you'd think. But then, Craig Mayes, Tyndale's energetic basketball coach and acting AD, has been keeping busy these days.

"It (intercollegiate sports) isn't an integral part of the school," admitted Mayes, now in his second year as coach. "Most of the men here are training for some type of ministry, or missionary or Christian-education work."

"However, we do have some pretty good athletes here, and we'd like to provide as much of a program as we can."

The school, known for years as Detroit Bible College, offers basketball, soccer and baseball for men, and hopes to elevate women's volleyball from club to varsity status this winter.

Mayes played basketball for, and graduated from, the old Detroit Bible College back when it was actually in Detroit at McNichols and Meyers.

After taking a couple of advanced degrees, he returned to his alma mater which had relocated first to Southfield and then to Farmington Hills — to coach and teach adult education classes.

TYNDALE ENJOYED its first winning record (9-4) with no post-season play in recent memory under Mayes last season, and the coach hopes for even better things for his Lancers this year.

In its six games so far, Tyndale has beaten Detroit Sacred Heart, London (Ont.) Baptist College and Detroit Marquette, and lost to Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music, Detroit Madonna and Michigan Christian College in Rochester.

The season resumes Jan. 14, a Friday, with a 7:30 p.m. game at Marquette. After the 17-game regular season, Tyndale will participate in the National Little College Athletic Association (NLCAA) tournament at Rochester's Oakland University.

Two of Tyndale's best players are senior guard Terry Juchartz from Grosse Ile and sophomore forward Dave Routledge from Canton Township. Routledge, who played high school ball at Southfield Christian, has shown remarkable improvement, according to the coach, and is averaging 22½ points and 13 rebounds a game.

"Dave was only about the sixth man

in high school, but he's developed a lot of strength and jumping savvy," Mayes said. "He's only about 6-foot-1, but he can stand under the basket, jump straight up and jam it."

Also starting for Tyndale this season are senior guard Mike Mowry, who leads the team in assists, and sophomore center Jim Swanson, who stands 6-foot-7 but lacks experience.

"Some of our players lack experience," Mayes said, "and lack of height is a problem, too. Our biggest man is 6-7, but then we drop down to 6-1 or 6-2."

TYNDALE SUFFERS when compared to some of its opponents, which have larger enrollments and more developed basketball programs, complete with scholarships.

"That's not what our program is all about," Mayes said. "We don't really recruit, although I'll occasionally go to a Christian high school to watch a game and talk to a player about our college."

"But we don't have scholarships and I can't even show a kid a gym. There's not much I can offer him other than the good education he'll get here."

A gym will be built "probably five or so years down the road," according to Mayes. But for now, the team must practice at West Bloomfield's Jewish Community Center — it's available only three times a week — and play its home games on the downsized court at Warner Middle School in Farmington Hills.

"It (Warner) is a nice gym with a good floor," Mayes said. "But it's a fast-break team and the small court hurts us. The other team can recover that much quicker."

Tyndale boasts an 11-member cheerleading squad, and Mayes said that fan interest in the team has been high so far.

"There's a lot of student interest. I'd say we had maybe 150 fans out for our first home game (a 127-85 loss to Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music). That's a good crowd for us."

Started as Detroit Bible College in 1940, the school has been in Farmington Hills since 1978, when it was moved from Southfield and renamed Tyndale after the 16th-century Protestant theologian who translated the Bible into English from Greek and Hebrew — and was severely persecuted for his trouble.

WILLIAM TYNDALE BASKETBALL

REMAINING SCHEDULE — Jan. 14, at Detroit Marquette, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 15, at Ypsilanti Fairway Baptist, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 21, Detroit Madonna, 7 p.m.; Jan. 28, Rochester Michigan Christian, 7 p.m.; Jan. 29, London (Ont.) Baptist, 7 p.m.; Feb. 4, at Niles Christian, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 5, at Emmaus, 2 p.m.; Feb. 11, at Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music, 7 p.m.; Feb. 15, at Midwestern Baptist, 8 p.m.; Feb. 18, Ypsilanti Fairway Baptist, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 23, Midwestern Baptist, 7 p.m.; March 4-5, NLCAA Tournament at Oakland University.

'We do have some pretty good athletes here, and we'd like to provide as much of a program as we can.'



Tyndale's Rob Wood (42) makes a layup against Michigan Christian as teammate Dave Routledge (30) looks on.

New year; old promises

Here are some worthwhile resolutions for the New Year.

High-school coaches will call in all their results (win or lose). If you can't do it, coach, assign a competent student and make it part of a work-study experience.

Cover more soccer and less football. And hold the state soccer championships in the Detroit area, where most of the teams compete.

Form a statewide high-school officials association.

Make athletic directors hire competent officials, not ones who are available and friendly.

Give young officials a chance at the varsity level. Experience is important, but judgment is paramount.

Make officials call girls' basketball like they do boys'.



Brad Emons

No lawsuits against the MHSAA. If you don't like their style, form your own association.

Hold district, regional and quarterfinal games in big, modern gyms, not crackerboxes. Cut out Jensen Fieldhouse as a site for the semifinals and finals in boys' basketball.

MAKE WRESTLING coaches understand the importance of good eating habits. Dropping 30 pounds to wrestle at a certain weight is ridiculous.

Have the press give Farmington Harrison football coach John Herrington the statewide credit he deserves. Why isn't he ever mentioned for college jobs?

Set some guidelines for professional baseball scouts. Some youngsters are being hurt.

Make coaches select All-Area teams based on talent and team performance instead of class standing, league affiliation and loyalty to the program.

Help coaches understand that high-school athletes are still kids with everyday problems.

Make high-school athletes realize that there is more to collegiate sports than Division I schools (How about Hawaii-Chamaine beating Virginia?).

See Antoine Joubert take his act to the University of Detroit. What a lift he'd give to the city.

KEEP EXTRACURRICULAR activities in the middle schools and junior highs. Many high-school programs have been ruined by these type of budget cuts.

Never go to the Silverdome to watch the Lions. (That wasn't me you saw at the Jets' game).

Never go to Tiger Stadium until they get somebody the caliber of Ron Guldry.

Continue to support University of Detroit basketball and Wayne State football.

Give George Perles a chance and remember Muddy Waters, the man.

Watch Livonia boxer Craig Payne get a fair decision and win a gold medal in the Pan American Games.

Make everyone realize there is more to life than sports.

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