

Marlins hold off Lady Pilots

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ON THE STRENGTH of the tremendous long-range shooting of Carol Smith and the inside quickness of Margaret Jackson, the Pilots pulled within five, 25-20 by halftime. Smith had eight second-quarter points (18 total) and Jackson had four, 10 in the half.

If the third quarter belonged to anyone, it was the officials. The whistle was blown 23 times in those eight minutes of play. Ten fouls were called and 13 violations of one kind or another were cited — eight went against the Marlins.

Mercy took just six shots in that quarter, but thanks to the poor shooting of the Pilots (three for 13), escaped with a 34-26 lead.

the third quarter to keep the Pilots close. He hit the first two shots of the fourth quarter. That made it 34-30 and Baker called timeout.

After the pause, Rosowski, DeMattia and Annette Ruggiero, with a Pilot free throw mixed in, scored to put the Marlins back up 40-31.

NORMALLY, THAT lead would have been comfortable for Mercy. Except on this night, the Marlins lost their touch from the free throw line. The Marlins went to the line 12 times in the fourth quarter and hit just four shots. In total, the Marlins were eight for 22.

"I think if we would have shot 50 or 60 percent from the line, we wouldn't have had to deal with any pressure

down the stretch," Baker said. They shot just 33 percent and dealt with enormous pressure down the stretch.

Ironically, the Pilots never got within eight points of the Marlins. They certainly had enough chances. However, the Pilots could hit on just four of 21 shots in the final quarter, and many of those were from underneath the Mercy hoop.

ANOTHER REASON the Marlins were able to sustain their lead was a deftly executed four-corner stall. Basford, Ruggiero and Ford all took turns keeping the ball away from Pilot defenders and forcing fouls.

In the end, it was Ford, the seemingly-silent-but-smooth sophomore,

who put the lid on the Marlin win. After the Pilots pulled within eight with 2:43 left and had missed several opportunities to get closer, Ford hit a pair of clutch free throws.

After Ruggiero hit two big free throws with 15 seconds left, Ford fed it with a steal and an uncontested layup.

As is the Marlins' method, they used a balanced offensive attack. After Basford's 17 points, Ruggiero had nine, Ford eight, and Rosowski and DeMattia each had six.

The Marlins (23-2) will meet (fill in school) at 7:30 on Wednesday night, again at Southfield High, in the quarterfinals. The winner will advance to the semifinals Friday at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.



Larry Baker, Mercy head coach, give some instructions to pilot guard Annette Ruggiero during Thursday's regional championship game.

Rocks to test Mercy Wednesday

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ON PAPER, there are certain areas, certain intangible areas, in which Mercy and Salem match up very well.

Like coaching. This game will showcase two (three, really) of the finest coaches in the state, Larry Baker of Mercy and Fred Thomann and Bob Bloch of Salem.

Both teams will be well scouted, both teams will be more than ready to play, the game plans will be sound, and if there's a weakness to be exploited on either side, it will be exploited.

IF ANY team plays a better, more aggressive man-to-man defense than

Salem, it's Mercy. If there's anyone better than Mercy at taking advantage of the talent it has and making up for the talent it lacks, it's Salem.

These are two excellent teams. The game will be a thriller.

"I think you have to put points on the scoreboard against Salem because they will be very selective about their shots," Baker said. "We will have to score to put pressure on them to be less choosy."

"And we have to find a way to go to our big people."

Said Thomann: "We are really excited to have the opportunity to play Mercy. They are a good, skilled team with tremendous size and tremendous

'team' players. It's a challenge to play against the best. And we're excited to have the opportunity to play them."

Though the teams haven't faced each other much in recent years, one senses a fierce rivalry. Though Thomann denies it, there may even be some bad blood between the teams. Several players from Plymouth, most notably point guard Annette Ruggiero, have gone to Mercy instead of Salem or Canton.

During Mercy's regional championship game Thursday, the Salem team is in the stands cheering loudly against Mercy.

"NO, I don't think any bad blood exists," Thomann said. "I think it's more of a neighborhood thing. They are in our area, they are like an area team. Our team rooting for Mercy to lose is like us rooting for Stevenson to beat Bentley — because that would help us out in the league."

"Both teams are quality teams and they accept the challenge of playing as hard as they can."

The winner Wednesday night advances to the semifinals in Kalamazoo, Friday night.

Game time Wednesday is 7:30 p.m. Southfield High School is located on 10 Mile at Lakser.

— Chris McCosky

OCC men face early misfortune

By C.J. Rissak
staff writer

Time does something to people. Changes them.

It's the same with basketball teams. Oakland Community College's men's basketball team in particular.

"I've had asked me back around the beginning of October what our season would be like," said OCC coach Leonard Cole. "I would have said, 'Rory.'"

What Cole didn't foresee was a lamentable streak of misfortunes that turned his team's greatest asset to its weakest commodity.

First, the player Cole expected to be the team's top scorer, Edward Haggerty, a 6-8 forward from Royal Oak Shrine, suffered a severe tear of his calf muscles. Haggerty is sidelined until the second half of the season.

THEN A PAIR of sophomores Cole had been counting on as starters, 6-3 forward Charles Williams and 6-1 guard Rory Webb, failed to maintain their grades. The earliest either can play is January.

"That really hurt us," Cole said of the losses. "I felt forward would be our

strength. Now it's our weakness."

The Raiders, who went 5-17 last season and have started this year with four straight losses, have been forced to start a pair of inexperienced forwards. One is Dennis Pizar, a 6-3 Birmingham Groves graduate who has improved Cole.

"We're getting a lot of help from Dennis," Cole said. "He's learning, coming along and working hard. He's been forced into a starting role. He doesn't do anything to hurt us, but he needs experience."

"He hasn't discovered his offensive role yet."

AT THE OTHER FORWARD, Cole has used Anthony Fletcher, a 6-5 "raw talent" who didn't play basketball at Pontiac Northern, and Tom Sytko, a 6-1 swingman from Milford Lakeland.

"We're not getting any scoring from our forwards," Cole said. "That's our problem."

This means three players — guards Anton Hall and Rodney Ivey and center Tony Palmer — have been forced to carry the offensive load. Hall, a 6-1 freshman from Detroit Cooly, leads the team with a 24-point average. Ivey, a 6-2 sophomore from Detroit Henry

Ford, is scoring about 17 points per game.

Palmer, a 6-7, 230-pound freshman from Detroit Cass Tech, boasts a 15 point average. But the next player scores just five points a game.

WHAT COLE WANTS to get the season turned around is obvious. "When we get everybody back, I'll make my job a heckuva lot easier," the Raider coach said. "With three players I gave you (Hall, Ivey and

Palmer) as the keys to our team, along with Haggerty and Webb, we can play with anybody."

"Anybody" in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference includes Highland Park, Henry Ford, Schoolcraft and Flint Mott.

"Those four teams are going to be tough," Cole admitted. And so will OCC — if the right keys can be found to unlock the door separating fortune and misfortune.

sport shorts

Bloomfield Open Hunt will be literally jumping with activity this weekend.

The Bloomfield Hills club will host the Midwest Showjumping Training Session starting today and running through Sunday. The site was selected by the United States Equestrian Team.

Bertaland deNemethy, course designer for the 1984 Olympic games and former USEF coach, will be instructor for the session. Advanced riders from throughout the Midwest have been invited to participate.

The sessions run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. There is a \$5 admission charge.

For more information, call the club at 644-9411. Bloomfield Open Hunt is located at 405 East Long Lake Road (corner of Long Lake and Kensington roads, one mile east of Woodward).

WORK THAT BODY

A 4 1/2-hour exercise marathon was recently conducted by instructors from 15 of the metropolitan area's top exercise centers at the Michigan Inn of Southfield.

Representatives from the Workout Co. of Bloomfield Township were on hand as some of the 'marathon' instructors. The stage work was performed by Laura Roberts and Becki Cole, and the

other representatives were Myrna Partrich, Iris Lodar and Barbara Schiff.

"We had the high energy performance at the prime time of the day," said Partrich. "It was a really an interesting experience."

The session was attended by more than 500 people and it raised some \$8,000 for Special People Activity Center Inc. — a non-profit organization which serves the recreational and social needs of handicapped people.

• **OLY YNCA TANKERS**
The Oakland Live Yers (OLY) YNCA swim team recently participated in the Macomb Aquatic Club mini 'C' meet at Roseville High School.

Following are the participants and their finishing times.

• **6 AND UNDER:** Jamie Hogan (25-back, fifth place); Jamie Hogan (25-free, fifth place); • **8 AND UNDER:** Joshua Harris (25-back, sixth place); Roslyn Babic (50-free, first place); Roslyn Babic (25-free, first place); Roslyn Babic (50-free, fifth place); Wendy Scallon (100-IM, fifth place); Jill Greds (50-back, sixth place).

• **10 AND UNDER:** Jeff Hogan (50-fly, third place); Jeff Hogan (100-free, fourth place); Jeff Hogan (200-free, second place); Renee Pawlak (100-back, second place).

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