

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

IT WAS THE weekend of Nov. 11. Lake Superior State College, a little school nestled within the borders of arctic Sault Ste. Marie, traveled to Big Rapids to battle Ferris State College in a Central Collegiate Hockey Association contest.

Superior was 5-4 in the young season and Ferris 3-3, with neither team looking like serious contenders for the CCHA title this year.

The two-game weekend series was not big news in the CCHA.

It was, however, big news for the captain of the visiting team.

For in those two games, Kevin Collar, a native of Farmington Hills, blew away two years of injury and frustration with sheer brilliance.

In the first game against Ferris, Collar notched his first career hat trick and tagged on a pair of assists, even though the Lakers lost a tough 7-6 decision. The next night Collar scored two more goals, including the game-winner, and added another assist in Superior's 8-5 win.

His eight-point performance earned him CCHA Player of the Week honors. It also earned him some long-awaited respect throughout the league.

people in sports

His performance during that journey impressed several college scouts. Upon graduating from Farmington Harrison in 1978, Collar had scholarship offers from Michigan State, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Connecticut, and Lake Superior.

The small-school atmosphere, the close relationship between student and professor and the solid business curriculum of Lake Superior successfully wooed Collar.

He was an instant success for the Lakers. At 6-foot, 180 pounds, Collar gave the Lakers some much-needed size and strength. And his booming slap-shot added to an already-potent offensive attack.

HE TOTALED 41 points in his freshman year, 15 goals and 26 assists. That summer, Collar played on the Great Lakes hockey team that won a gold medal at the 1981 National Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y.

That's when things started turning sour on Collar.

A separated shoulder reduced Collar's productivity measurably during his sophomore year. He netted just 13 goals and 13 assists.

"It was a real nagging thing," Collar said in a telephone interview from his home in Sault Ste. Marie. "Suddenly, I wasn't able to do the things I had always been able to do. I had to wear a harness around my shoulder and it couldn't raise my arm. So I couldn't

wind up on a slap shot."

Collar had the shoulder operated on. The next season he separated his other shoulder. And for the second year in a row Collar had to play with nagging injuries.

COLLAR FINISHED third on the team in scoring with 13 goals and 15 assists in his junior year.

But it was a frustrating experience. To many Laker fans and followers Collar was a disappointment. Many felt he didn't live up to the potential he flashed in his rookie season. Most, however, weren't fully aware of Collar's shoulder ailments.

The only thing obvious to the fans was Superior's 45-62-4 record in those three seasons.

The team never lost confidence in Collar. Nor did coach Frank Anzalone, who became head coach late last season. He chose Collar as one of his captains this season.

"Kevin is a good leader," he said. "He shows great maturity on and off the ice. He's a team-oriented player. He always puts the team ahead of himself."

AT 23, COLLAR must seem like an old man to his 17- and 18-year-old teammates.

"I feel like I have to be a leader on this team. Some of the guys are really young. I'm six years older than some of the guys on the team," Collar said.

It wouldn't be out of line to say Col-

lar is a father figure to the team. Last August Collar married his hometown sweetheart, and he and Maureen rent a home in the Soo. They often invite the younger players, who live in dormitories, over to the house for some good home-cooked meals.

"Being married has been no problem at all," Collar said. "I like it better. It's helped me relax. She's a nurse at a local hospital here. She sees all the home games and gets to come with me on the road trips — it's nice."

This season a healthy, rejuvenated Collar took to the ice for the Lakers.

"HE GOT OFF to a real fast start," Anzalone said. "But he wasn't scoring goals. He was just off a little, like a step behind. But he was skating hard and really working. Then his linemates, Al Butler and Nick Palumbo, got going and I think that picked Kevin up."

Everything clicked for Collar against Ferris State.

"That was great," he said. "It gave me a lot of confidence."

Despite a career slowed by injury, Collar has worked himself into the Lakers' record books. After the Ferris State weekend, Collar had 110 career points, 20th on the Lakers' all-time list. His 78 points in CCHA play is sixth best. His 38 career goals is third best in the school's history and his 40 career assists are seventh best.

As for his future in hockey, Collar says he'll wait and see. If he gets drafted, either by the NHL or Europe, he'll give it a try. If not, he might stay on at Lake Superior as a graduate assistant.

But for the time being, Collar has just one goal in mind.

"My goal is to make the CCHA playoffs."

THE WEEK END

WATERLOO COUNTY DISTRICT
 Wednesday Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Waterloo vs. Port Hope
 Thursday Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Waterloo vs. Port Hope
 Friday Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. Waterloo vs. Port Hope

JACKSON COUNTY DISTRICT
 Wednesday Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Jackson vs. Port Hope
 Thursday Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Jackson vs. Port Hope
 Friday Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. Jackson vs. Port Hope

NOTES BASKETBALL
 Tuesday Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity vs. St. Michael's
 Wednesday Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity vs. St. Michael's
 Thursday Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity vs. St. Michael's
 Friday Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. Holy Trinity vs. St. Michael's

IT'S BEEN A rough road for Collar. He came to the Lakers after a successful stint with the Paddock Pool Saints of the Great Lakes Junior Hockey League. In the 1979-80 season he scored 32 goals and had 42 assists, helping the Saints to the league championship. The Saints finished second in the national junior tournament that season and Collar led the team in scoring in the tournament.

It's been a rough road for Collar. He came to the Lakers after a successful stint with the Paddock Pool Saints of the Great Lakes Junior Hockey League. In the 1979-80 season he scored 32 goals and had 42 assists, helping the Saints to the league championship. The Saints finished second in the national junior tournament that season and Collar led the team in scoring in the tournament.

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OLSM takes Northwood in OT

"We like playing good people," said Orchard Lake St. Mary's college basketball coach Tim Domke. "It's a lot of fun."

Sure. And "The Day After" was a comedy.

Playing good teams — like the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) squads — is one thing. But playing six of them in a 19-day span is going a little overboard.

And playing all those games on the road is sheer lunacy.

But, as Domke put it, "It's a challenge for us. We know we're going to

college sports

pick up some people in January, so I'll help us."

The people OLSM will pick up are transfer students. They won't help much now, but the Eagles did survive the first test in the long road string by edging Northwood Institute, 92-91, in overtime Tuesday.

IT WAS NO easy triumph for OLSM, now 9-3 for the season. It took six points in the final 17 seconds of regulation to knot the score, with David James and George Winn each scoring a field goal and a free throw. The Eagles' pressure defense forced several turnovers down the stretch.

The overtime period belonged to

guard Tony Scott, who scored all six of OLSM's points before Northwood got on the board. The Eagles then ran out the clock, with Northwood closing the gap in the final seconds.

For Scott, his six overtime points were all he scored in the contest. David Howard netted 26, with Larry Brun-driks adding 14 and 13 rebounds. James finished with 11 points and Greg Baker and Joe Warrington had 10 apiece.

Brian Vroman's 25 points topped Northwood. Mike Hardman had 23.

OLSM plays at Grand Valley Monday, then at Wayne State Wednesday.

Pistons' 65 Roses Club aids CFF

The Detroit Pistons are looking for a few good people — 65 of them, to be exact.

No, they aren't holding tryouts for their basketball team. What they are doing is forming an exclusive club of 65 boosters to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Membership in the club, known as the "65 Roses Club," won't come cheap. Initial fees are just \$100, but members will chip in \$20 more for each game the Pistons win. Fifty wins equals \$1,000. After 50 wins, each victory will cost \$1.

Membership in the club includes an invitation to a reception hosted by Terry Tyler, a member of the Pistons who will serve as honorary chairman of the

club; four tickets each month to one of the Pistons' games; admittance for each member and three of his (her) guests to get-togethers with Terry Tyler following the monthly games; a banquet after the season; and a tax deduction for all contributions.

Cystic fibrosis is a congenital and eventually fatal childhood disease involving malfunctioning of the liver and gradual respiratory failure.

The charity club's name comes from, or so it's said, the time a little boy suffering from the disease mispronounced it as "65 roses."

For information on the club, call 522-9616.

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