

Ex-Rock star excels on all levels

By Chris McCoskey
staff writer

MIKE MCBRIDE HAS to wonder what it takes to get a little recognition. McBride was a three-year starter on the Plymouth Salem basketball team. He was an outstanding scorer, an aggressive rebounder, a solid defensive player and, most importantly, a classic "team" player.

In his senior year, 1981-82, he averaged 15 points and six rebounds per game for a team that won league and district titles and was eventually ousted from the state tournament by a Detroit Southwest team led by Antoine Joubert in the regionals.

"Mike was like Mr. Consistency for us," said Salem assistant coach Bob Blohm. "He did a lot of nice things for us. He was a good inside player, could hit the 15- to 17-foot jump shot, played tremendous defense and became an outstanding rebounder."

ward: Olivet and Albion. McBride was disillusioned, if not hurt.

"I had hoped to go somewhere bigger than a MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) school. I thought I could play at Lake, Hillsdale, Saginaw Valley or Grand Valley, places like that," McBride said.

He asked his high school coach, Fred Thomann, to do some asking around to various colleges. Thomann got McBride a visit to Grand Valley. The results were somewhat humbling for McBride.

"I wasn't really impressed by what they told me," McBride said. "They didn't seem real interested. The coach said he wouldn't cut me as long as I was good enough to make the team."

McBride was close to saying so long to basketball. Here was a player that was a major contributor to one of the top-ranked high school teams in the state. He was named to All-Area, all-league, all-suburban, all-metro and fifth team all-state teams.

people in sports

Livonia Franklin. He once hit a 21-foot jumper at the buzzer to defeat rival Plymouth Canton.

"I had a lot of fun," McBride said of his high school days. "Fred (Thomann) is a great teacher of the game. I got tremendous experience playing under him."

Yet, this consistent scorer-rebounder, this solid, fundamental athlete, this 6-foot-3, 180-pounder, was overlooked by all but two colleges.

"I don't think I was thought of as being really an outstanding player. I wasn't like the Judge (Joubert)," McBride said. "But I thought, as far as this area goes, I was one of the top players. I thought there would be more people interested, but there wasn't."

"I don't know why. I'm not real quick, that was one problem. I don't have outstanding size and my stats weren't all that outstanding."

But, anyone who saw Salem play, es-

pecially in 1981-82, knew that McBride was a key man in Thomann's system of play and that system didn't always accentuate individual talents.

AFTER THE GRAND VALLEY visit, McBride said he put a stop to looking for a school to go to.

"I had a lot of friends and my parents had a lot of friends at Albion. I just figured I'd go there, not really thinking about basketball too much, and let whatever happens happen," he said.

What happened was McBride started for Albion's junior varsity team. He hadn't really worked out much in the summer, so his performance, in his own words, "wasn't as good as it could have been."

Then, out of the blue, came a call from Albion track coach Dave Egnatov. McBride had been a successful runner for the Rocks, specializing in the 440-yard dash. Egnatov asked him

to come out for the team. McBride obliged. He was a major contributor in Albion's undefeated league championship season last spring. It was the fifth straight league title for the Briton runners. McBride was a member of the Briton's league champion mile relay team and he also lettered in the quarter mile.

been phenomenal, hitting 20 of 29 shots from the floor. McBride was at his best last week against Concordia College of Ann Arbor. McBride entered a fairly close game in the first half. Twenty minutes later, he had tallied 18 points and pulled down 10 rebounds leading the Britons (5-3) to a rout.

YET, MCBRIDE still lingers in anonymity on the Briton bench. In the game prior to Concordia, an Albion loss to Wabash, McBride didn't get off the bench. The coach, Mike Turner, said nothing to him afterward.

Again, nothing was said to him after his 18-point performance against Concordia. No congratulations, no pat on the back, nothing.

"I really don't know what to think. I just want to play. I'll do all I can to help the team. I'm not going to make a big deal about not playing. I don't want to cause problems," he said.

Actually, McBride is quite happy at Albion. He considers track his No. 1 sport now. He works hard in the classroom carrying a 3.0 grade-point average as an economics major.

Coaches clinic set

The seventh annual Great Lakes High School football coaching clinic will take place Friday and Saturday, Jan. 6-7, at Sterling Heights Stevenson High School.

The clinic is designed for high school, junior high and youth league football coaches. On hand to direct the clinic will be Bob Leahy of the Michigan Panthers, Steve Furness of Michigan State, George Blier of Saginaw Valley State, and Ron Labadie of Adrian. Also on hand will be area high school coaches Chuck Skinner of Birmingham School, Gary Cook of Bishop Borgess, and Bill Rankin of Birmingham Groves.

The sessions run from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The fee for both days is \$20.

Reservations should be mailed to Great Lakes Coaches Football Clinic, P.O. Box 618, Sterling Heights 48078. Call Rick Bye at 268-4700 for more information.

the week ahead

FRIDAY, JAN. 6 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - W. Michigan vs. Eastern Michigan (TV) 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Michigan vs. Ohio State (TV) 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Michigan vs. Ohio State (TV)	SATURDAY, JAN. 7 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Michigan vs. Ohio State (TV) 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Michigan vs. Ohio State (TV) 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Michigan vs. Ohio State (TV)
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Rebirth in 1984

Continued from Page 11

His team began the season with three straight losses. In two of those games his team played well enough to win, but somehow, failed to get the job accomplished.

The team was defeated. He was dejected.

Then came an early Christmas present. His team traveled to Birmingham School and scored an impressive 48-43 overtime victory.

Hallelujah!

Here's what Roy had to say after

that win: "We were 0-3, but we had played two fairly good games against Northville and Stevenson. If we were 0-4 going into Christmas, it would have been hard to motivate them (the players)."

With the taste of victory fresh in their minds, the Falcons should be raring to go in 1984.

Sophomore Bruce Kratt and Tim Carruthers have combined to give the Falcons an impressive backcourt combination. Both pumped in 14 against Seasholm.

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