

Sports

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(F1C)



Brad Emons

AAU basketball clash a classic

ROCKY WATKINS hasn't had much to smile about lately. The last two winters with his Schoolcraft College basketball team have been dismal. Those teams, both below .500, were nothing to shout about.

Watkins also coaches AAU basketball during the off-season. Last year's team was a disaster. For the first time in almost a decade, his Detroit AAU 19-and-under squad failed to make the nationals.

That team, led by Mr. Basketball Demetrius Gore, was knocked out of the midwest zone tournament in Anderson, Ind.

You couldn't help but notice last weekend that Watkins was nervous when he loaded up three vans for a trip to the state tourney in Grand Rapids.

Watkins usually takes his team directly to the zone tournament and then to the nationals, but for the first time ever there was opposition at the state level.

KALAMAZOO was sending a team loaded for bear.

Watkins was facing the likes of Roy Marble of Flint Beecher, B.J. Armstrong of Brother Rice, 6-foot-10 J.P. Oosterbaan of Kalamazoo Christian, John Jimmerson and Kevin Brown of Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills, Mark Brown of Hastings, Loy Vaughn of East Kentwood, 6-9 Mark Hughes of Muskegon Reeths Puffer and 6-8 Brad Sutton of Grand Rapids Union.

Oosterbaan, Hughes and Vaughn are going to Michigan, while Armstrong and Marble are headed for Iowa. Jimmerson signed with Marquette, Brown with San Diego State, Sutton with Missouri and Brown with Michigan State.

Watkins' arsenal was just as spectacular for Sunday's championship final at Ottawa Hills — Mr. Basketball, Glen Rice of Flint Northwestern; Redford Catholic Central's John McIntyre; Terence Greene of Flint Central; Darryl Spinks of Detroit Finney; Ken Rice of Detroit Kettering; Jarvis Walker of Dearborn Heights Hobichaud; Rodney Heard of Detroit Clio and Pollis Robertson of Wayne Memorial.

BUT WATKINS held three trump cards — all juniors — 6-10 Terry Mills of Romulus, 6-8 Willie Burton of Detroit DePue and guard Anthony Pendleton of state champion Flint Northwestern. What happened Sunday afternoon may never happen again when it comes to AAU basketball.

Mills, the nephew of Piston John Long, was the class of the field in a high-powered game that was certainly worth more than the \$3 admission charge.

Scoring in the clutch (inside and outside), rebounding, blocking shots and making blind passes, Mills led all scorers with 32 points as the Detroit AAU squad beat Kalamazoo, 125-115.

"I haven't seen a performance like that since Chris Mullin beat us in the nationals," Watkins said.

Stalking the court like a mad stork, Mills is simply the most talented player to come out of this state since Magic Johnson.

And not far behind is the finesse-like Rice, who scored 27 points and drew the oohs and aahs from the crowd.

Greene, who played a strong second half, added 13 points, while Burton, a monster on the boards, added 11. Pendleton, meanwhile, stormed the court like a paratrooper.

THERE'S BEEN some criticism of Oosterbaan, but after Sunday's showing, he proves he belongs in the Big 10.

He led the Kalamazoo team with 20 points. Hughes added 17 with Marble and Jimmerson adding 16 each.

The game was played above the rim all afternoon.

The thing that sticks out about this Detroit AAU squad is that they play unselfishly, passing the ball almost to a fault.

That's a far cry from last year's team, led by Gore and Jackson's Gary Thompson, who held a one-on-one contest most of the tourney.

Gore and Thompson may have had a hard time finding playing time on his year's Detroit team. Heard, a talented guard going to Kansas State, never got into the lineup Sunday.

Watkins likes the character of this group, similar to the team in 1975 that won the nationals, led by Magic.

"That team had toughness and this team is the same, and they're talented as well," he said. "They take things seriously."

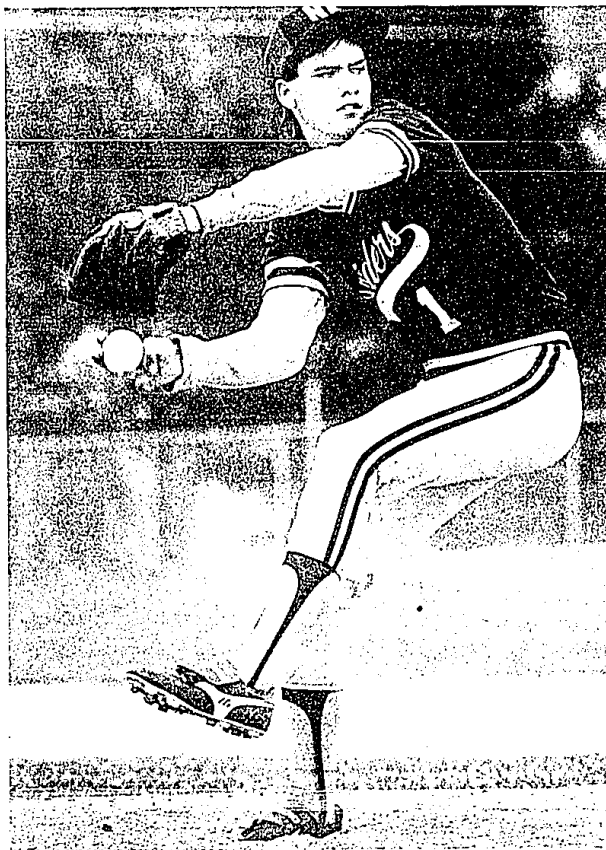
THIS WEEKEND, the Detroit AAU squad will travel to Akron, Ohio, for the midwest zone tournament. On Friday, they will face a team from Cleveland, Ohio, with the winner playing Indianapolis on Saturday.

Kalamazoo, which also qualified, is on the other side of the bracket with Team Ohio and a team from Columbus.

The top two finishers will advance to the nationals this June in Jacksonville, Fla.

On Wednesday, Watkins' Detroit AAU squad will face the Junior National Team from the Peoples Republic of China at Schoolcraft College. But the first job at hand is qualifying for the nationals.

I think Watkins can sit back and relax. He's got a good chance at reliving those Magic days. Rocky, you can at least start cracking a smile. This team won't break your heart.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Tom Cotter struck out 12 Garden City hitters Tuesday in North's 6-1 Northwest Suburban League triumph.

U.S. judo elite storm into OCC

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

There was a time, not too long ago, that Detroit was the Judo center of the United States. Hiro Fugimoto, the chief chemist for the Inmont Company, was the president of United States Judo Incorporated — the national governing body for Judo — and Detroit police inspector Donald Pohl was the USJ secretary. That was back in the late 1980s and early 1970s.

Those were the days when the late John Osako of Southfield and Otto Chanko of Windsor were winning national championships. Osako won five national titles, a Pan American games championship and was a world class referee.

Judo Affiliates of Michigan, an associate of the USJ, is bringing Judo back to the Detroit area in grand style this weekend as the 1985 Senior National Judo Championships will take place Friday and Saturday at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills.

"This is a very important event," said Noboru Saito, president of Judo Affiliates of Michigan and the tournament director. "It is one of three tournaments used to select the United States Olympic Judo team. This is the first, followed by the National Sports Festival in June and the United States Open in late October or early November."

THIS WEEKEND'S tournament will attract more than 700 of the country's top competitors in men's, women's and masters (over 30 years of age) divisions.

Among the competitors at OCC this weekend will be 1984 silver medalist Robert Berland of Illinois and bronze medalist Edward Liddle of Colorado.

The highlights of the meet are numerous. Among them:

- A large and talented group of women competitors, including several national champions, hoping the World Olympic Committee will include women's Judo among the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea.
- An exhibition of the specialized Judo form called "Kata," 9 a.m. Saturday.
- An exhibition from the highest

WHAT: The 1985 Senior National Judo Championships.

WHEN: Friday and Saturday, April 26-27. Competition begins at 9:30 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday. Finals begin at 5 p.m. both days.

WHERE: At Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus (12 Mile and Orchard Lake) in Farmington Hills.

WHY: More than 700 of the nation's best Judo competitors including 1984 Olympic silver medalist Robert Berland and bronze medalist Edward Liddle.

WHY: The National Championship is one of three qualifying tournaments used to select the 1988 U.S. Olympic Judo team.

OF LOCAL INTEREST: The top male and female Judo competitors from Michigan including Teresa Vondrasek, a former basketball standout at Oakland University, now a member of the Women's World Judo Team.

ranking black belt in the United States, ninth-degree black belt Professor H. Ishikawa. Ishikawa won All-Japan championships in 1949 and 1950. He will be present throughout the tournament.

• A special demonstration of the older Judo art form of self defense will be staged by seventh-degree black belt Professor Ryoze Nakamura and Saito, a fifth-degree black belt. This will take place at approximately 4:30 p.m. Friday.

THE MEET will also showcase the large number of women Judo standouts from Michigan. Teresa Vondrasek of Owosso, a former basketball star at Oakland University, has recently completed a tour of Europe and Japan as a member of the Women's World Judo Team. She will be one of the featured female contestants and a likely choice for the U.S. Olympic Team.

Cindy Sovijanski of Sterling Heights is another candidate for the U.S. team. She has won both National and U.S. Open titles in the past.

Other local women competitors include Kathleen Vondrasek, Owosso, a former National High School champ; Patricia LeBeau, Dearborn, fourth place in the last two National Championships; Patricia Thompson, Detroit, a former U.S. Open champ; and Christy Gumbert, Detroit, a gold medalist at the 1984 Junior Olympics.

MICHIGAN WILL also be well represented in the men's and masters competition. Michael O'Hare of Hunt

Raiders win 3rd straight

Look who has come to life.

The North Farmington baseball team, with some impressive pitching, has suddenly won three straight after dropping its first two.

After sweeping Walled Lake Central in a double-header Saturday, 8-1 and 9-0, the Raiders came up with a surprising 6-1 victory over previously unbeaten Garden City Tuesday.

Senior hurler Tom Cotter stymied the Cougars on just 5 hits over his seven innings. He struck out 12 and walked 4.

"Cotter did an excellent job," said coach Irv Horowitz. "He finally came through after his Easter vacation. He was only in trouble in the fifth."

Bob Chwalk paced North's 11-hit attack by going 4-for-4 with 2 doubles and 3 RBI. Mike McBeth had a pair of hits including a solo home run in the third. Eric Engel also chipped in a pair of hits and an RBI.

Chwalk was the pitching star in the first game of Saturday's twin bill. He scattered 6 hits and fanned 12 in 7 innings as the Raiders won 8-1.

McBeth and catcher Mike Rudin set the tone with back-to-back homers in the first inning. McBeth's was a 3-run shot. Ed Collins had a pair of doubles

baseball

and Chwalk bagged 2 hits.

In game two, Brian McDanel blanked Walled Lake Central on just 4 hits.

North's 9-run attack was triggered by Mark Dillman (2 hits), Brian Boscaen (2 hits and an RBI) and McDanel (2 doubles, 2 RBI).

STEVENSON 4, FARMINGTON 1: Livonia Stevenson, behind the 3-hit pitching of Rob Ogilvie, handed Farmington its first loss of the season Monday.

Mike Waranaukas's 2-run single in the bottom of the fourth broke open a 0-0 deadlock. The Spartans scored 3 times in the inning and added another in the sixth.

The 3-run fourth was the only bad frame tossed by Falcon pitcher Dave Casaroli. The senior allowed just 6 hits.

Four Falcon errors contributed to the loss.

Farmington is now 2-1 in the West-ern Kistis. Stevenson is 1-2.

Falcon upset bid stymied

The score after five innings Monday was Farmington 5, Livonia Stevenson 3.

Considering that Stevenson is a state-ranked power and the best softball team in Observoland, and Farmington is a young team that would consider a 500 record a successful season — we were looking at an upset of Villanova-Georgetown proportions.

Also, it was not meant to be. Stevenson came alive, rallied for 11 runs in the top of the sixth, and beat the Falcons 14-5.

"This was a good lesson for us," Stevenson coach Lee Cagle said. "We've been relying too much on (all-state hurler Lisa) Bokovoy and we haven't been working hard enough offensively. We started to concentrate more and the result was the 11 runs."

The Falcons scored all 5 runs off reliever Kristin Bailey, although Bailey yielded just 3 hits. Bokovoy worked the first three innings and the last two without giving up a run.

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