



Rich Goldberg takes a break from his basketball workouts to help out with his father's baseball camp. Young Alyssa MacFarlane gets the benefit of the Creighton University basketball player's tutoring.

GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Stiff upper lip

Goldberg learns to roll with punches

By C.J. Rieck
staff writer

Whatever expectations — or hopes or dreams — Rich Goldberg entertained a year ago before embarking on a four-year mission to Creighton University to play basketball could not have matched reality.

Goldberg, a West Bloomfield resident and a Class C All-State guard at Detroit Country Day School, has traveled a circuitous route in his 10 months at CU and now finds himself basically back where he started.

Here's what happened in his freshman year at CU.

In one of the team's early practice sessions, Goldberg suffered a severe calf injury that forced him to miss four of five intrasquad scrimmages and hampered his development. The injury resulted in Goldberg's playing sparingly in CU's first 22 games and failing to make the traveling squad for all the team's trips.

With 10 games left Goldberg got his chance, playing 10 minutes against West Texas State and contributing five assists and four points. For the rest of the season he was the No. 2 point guard and continued to get 15-plus minutes a game.

• CU, 19-6 at one point in the season, lost its final six games and not only failed to get a berth in the NCAA tournament but in the National Invitational Tournament as well, despite a 20-12 mark.

• Willis Reed, the former all-pro center for the New York Knicks and CU's coach, the man who had recruited Goldberg, resigned.

• Athletic director Dan Offenburger resigned.

• Bradley University assistant coach Tony Barone was picked to replace Reed as CU coach.

• Last week CU was placed on probation without penalty by the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) for two minor infractions.

SURE, EVERY career has hills and valleys, but Goldberg's already resem-

bles the Alps, so great are the differences. He went from the injured list to being a scrub to first guard off the bench. And now, with all the personnel changes, Goldberg will . . .

"I have to start all over again," he acknowledged while taking a break from the baseball camp he helps his father, Southfield athletic director Fred Goldberg, and Carl Childress operate.

"But," Goldberg added, "so does everyone else."

Despite the fluctuations of his first year, Goldberg remains optimistic. One reason is the new coach, Barone, who Goldberg said was Bradley's tactician.

"The type of game Bradley played was a motion game, and that's perfect for me," he said. "There's no question that I'm the frontrunner to start, but no one's told me that."

LAST YEAR'S starting point guard, Vernon Moore, graduated and was drafted in the third round of the NBA draft by the Washington Bullets. That opened the spot for Goldberg, whose toughest competition will come from junior Renard Edwards.

Goldberg knows the challenge he faces won't be easy. He has given up baseball — "You've got to make a choice somewhere down the line, and basketball is my first love" — for the summer to concentrate on basketball. He lifts weights and plays in an Ann Arbor summer league.

His development will be important if CU is to remain among the MVC leaders. In the wake of Reed's resignation, all-American center Benoit Benjamin decided to turn pro, forgoing his final season of eligibility (he was the third player taken in the NBA draft), and forward Landreth Baugh may not return.

With three starters gone, Barone faces a rebuilding job.

GOLDBERG is a key factor. "The role I'll fill will be, first, to handle the ball without mistakes; second, to be a consistent shooter; and third, to shoot 80 percent from the free throw line. Those are offensive, and I think I'm ca-

pable of doing all those things.

"Defensively, I want to do whatever it takes, be that guarding their toughest outside shooter or helping out underneath. I want to play good, solid fundamental defense, which I don't mind doing, because I think that's what you have to do to win."

The changes over the past months have been neither easy nor expected.

"There were rumors even back then (Reed) was going somewhere, so we knew something was up," Goldberg said of his former coach, who ended up as an assistant for the NBA Atlanta Hawks. "I think he was just tired of all the BS. I think he would have stayed (if he knew Offenburger was leaving)."

"They didn't even talk to each other in the last year."

THE RIFT reached unmanageable proportions when Offenburger launched an investigation into the basketball program with two weeks left in the season and the team battling for a post-season journey berth. Offenburger felt, had a detrimental effect on the squad and prompted Reed's resignation.

"When he left, it was a real disappointment," the former Cougars Day admitted. "Willis was one of the main reasons I went to Creighton. I had such a super relationship with him. If I ever needed to talk to anyone, he was there. He was like another father to me. He'd scold you one day and be your best friend the next."

"He was like a big teddy bear." Yet Goldberg never considered transferring. "I felt once I signed, once I was committed, I would have to be really exasperated to leave. I like Creighton, I really do."

His goals now are simple: stay healthy (last year's calf injury sidelined him for a month), win a starting role if possible but be certain to contribute "quality minutes," make CU a winner, and keep his grades up (he had a 3.2 grade point as a freshman).

He might wish for a little stability, too, but that might be asking for too much.

Newton paces Glen's double victory

Brenda Newton won four events in two meets and set a 7-8 (age group) backstroke record to help Farmington Glen Swim Club defeat CB Swim Club 342-222 and Orchard Valley 293-268 last week.

Against CB, Newton swam the backstroke in 20.49, best in club history. Other double-event winners for Glen were Jennifer Kiel, G.T. Mell, Eric Newton, Allison Sirand, Jason Hohlner, David West, Pam Holdridge, Lauren Weary and Chris Inch.

Single-event winners were Carolyn Smith, Brad Moore, Mike Wolford, Steven Scario, Matt Cole, Rachel Stauffer, Robert Stauffer, Lori Kiel, Becky Weary, Jim Vik and Betsy Brown.

Against Orchard Valley, Glen's 40-year combined age relay team of Pam Holdridge, Lucy Cole, Becky Weary and Brenda Newton set a club record with a 1:14.25.

Double winners against Orchard Valley were Holdridge, Cole, Becky

swimming

Weary, Lauren Weary, Vik, Eric and Brenda Newton, Moore and Wolford, Jessica Vitlar, Missy Kendall, Bobby Holdridge, Sean, Rich Los, Lucy Cole and Robert Stauffer each won one event.

DECEMBER SWIM CLUB split a pair of meets last week, defeating

Woodbrooke 292-278 and falling to Beechwood 308-283.

Against Woodbrooke, Andrea Hoefflin, Sherri Richardson, Lisa Tomie, Wendell Tucker, Todd Farabee, Michael Hoefflin, Jill Murany and Scott Farabee all won a pair of events.

Chris Leland, Roxanne Bennett, Elizabeth Tucker, Dennis Sayles, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Abunassar, Tom Sayles and Catherine Tucker each won one event.

Soccer tourney slated

The sixth annual Great Lakes Women's Soccer Festival will feature a bunch of firsts.

For one, the tournament has changed formats, from whatever team wants to play to an invitational. Secondly, trophies will be presented to the top teams. And third, the tourney is sanctioned by the Michigan Soccer Association's Senior Women's Division.

It should make for better competition. Sixteen

teams will take aim at the titles available in three divisions: B (only three 19 and under players allowed on the field at one time), over 30 and open.

All games will be played at Schoolcraft College, with preliminary rounds starting at 9 a.m. Saturday and continuing until 5 p.m. Semifinals will start at 10 a.m. Sunday, with B division finals at 1:30 p.m. and the over 30 and open division finals following at 3 p.m.

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