

# Off-court decisions taking center stage

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Saturday to reach that magic number. Still, one never knows what enters into such decisions. For instance, there's the star factor. OU's second-leading scorer, Johnny Johnson, quit the team two weeks ago. That may affect the selection committee's decision. If they think OU isn't up to par.

Something else may cloud the picture further. WSU has asked the league to make a ruling that may change the outcome of Saturday's OU-WSU game, which OU won 61-60. The protest involves what WSU officials term an incorrect rules application on John Henderson's game-winning shot.

WSU's Maurice Macon blocked the shot, but an official ruled Macon slapped the backboard, a violation that earns a technical foul. The rule states the Pioneers should have had a free throw and the ball out of bounds with four seconds left. Instead, the official treated it like goaltending.

If OIAAC officials rule in favor of WSU, the final four seconds might be replayed. The league's decision is bound to have an impact on the NCAA II tournament committee's selection. If the league is slow making its ruling, the committee may decide to eliminate both from consideration.

Who can tell what will happen? But it seems certain a decision will go beyond the black-and-white facts that usually govern such matters.

**EXAMPLE NO. 3:** St. Mary's College and the NAIA District 23 tournament. The Eagles are out; they will not qualify. And the way they are playing currently, that's a shame.

There's some pre-season politicking that may have cost St. Mary's a berth. The Eagles are hot, with four wins in their last five games — all against district opponents. With two district games remaining — one at home against Saginaw Valley State, which is ahead of the Eagles in the NAIA power ratings — it seemed St. Mary's might still have a shot at the playoffs.

Problem is, the verdict was in before all the evidence was presented. Cutoff date for tournament consideration was last Sunday before the Eagles finished their schedule. Whatever St. Mary's does in its last two games won't matter.

Despite the off-court shenanigans, the Eagles can blame no one but themselves for their miseries. They lost 12 of 14 games in one stretch, including seven in a row.

The same can't be said for John Glenn, which won't get the chance to defend its WLAIA title because it lost the flip of a coin. Or for OU, in the midst of its finest season ever.

The point is, it's painful to lose games on buzzer shots. But to lose after the buzzer sounds hurts even more.

## 2 Falcons reach regionals

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oneer's Jason Palmisano.

Another impressive OC grappler was Yeager, who scored three straight pins at 1:09 before defeating Novi's Brett Keir in the final, 4-2. Yeager is 44-4.

Krueger, a steadily improving sophomore, won his class by defeating CC Invitational champ Brian Clemens, of Livonia Churchill, 7-1, raising his mark to 33-11.

Lemanski, meanwhile, took the 155 title with a 12-7 win over Jerome Farmer of Pioneer. Lemanski is now 35-12.

Other CC qualifiers included Jim Raglow ('86) and Chris Rodriguez ('85), each finished second; and Luke Martindale ('89) and Ted Rieple ('85), both taking fourths.

**SALEM, WHICH JUST edged Novi by two points in the battle for second place in the team standings, will be sending six to the CC regional including trips to the regional.**

Krause lost for only the second time this year, falling in the final to Lathrup's Jason Horowitz, 16-7.

Livonia Stevenson, sixth in the team standings, made one of its better showings in district action. Spartan coach Don Berg will be sending David Wojciechowski (105), Tom Tokars (138), Jared Wilkinson (145) and John Economou to the CC regional.

**PLYMOUTH CANTON** regional qualifiers include Tom Flores ('88), Dan Dewey (155) and Jim Crews (128).

Windsor, 6th, two through, including 125-pounder Rob Woodbeck, who upset OC's Jason Wiebeck in the quarterfinals, and 125-pounder Todd Jacobs.

The only Observerland grappler to qualify from the Salem district was Franklin's Tim Downey (119).

Saturday's finals are scheduled to kick off at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.

## Stevenson reigns in WLAIA

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Churchill went 8-0 in pool play before losing to Western in the semis.

"We played about as well as we could play," said Churchill coach Mike Hughes. "We have some good kids who play very hard. But we don't have the kind of athletes that Walled Lake Western has. They certainly deserved to win. They were the better team."

Westland John Glenn missed getting to the semifinals by one game. The Rockets had the misfortune of

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# Wildlife funds serve well

**I** COULD see the unrest on his face as I approached his little stand. He had that look of desperation. His eyebrows were raised high on his forehead and his cheeks and nose were parched from the afternoon sun. He even drooled a bit as he spoke to the people passing him on the street corner.

"Donations accepted here. Nothing turned down. Give to the Wilbur G. Friggen fund and help a middle-class American reach the upper middle class. Donations accepted here."

"Middle-class American reach the upper middle class? This joke had to be kidding, I thought."

"Hey... er... a... Wilbur. What's this all about?" I asked.

"It's about the Wilbur G. Friggen fund," he barked. "I'm sick and tired of everyone trying to take my money. Contribute to this. Don't let them. They're trying to break me. They want all my money. I'm sick of it all so I started my own fund and accept donations to benefit myself before I go broke."

"Come on now, Wilbur. No one is trying to take all your money. Or just relax for a minute," I said, trying to calm this paranoid fanatic.

"Funds are set up for good reasons. They're not trying to swindle you out of your money. Funds are set up to support specific causes which otherwise would have little or no financial support."



very good cause. Don't you agree?"

"Yeah... well... I guess," I whispered Wilbur. "But what about that other one. That... well... non-game wildlife fund. Why should I contribute to that when I don't even hunt or fish?"

"That's exactly why you should," I said. "You see game animals, those which are hunted, are benefited by many projects which are funded by hunting license fees. The non-game wildlife fund supports all projects beneficial to the non-game animals, animals which are not hunted, and also many species of plants."

"BUT WHAT exactly do they do with the money?" asked Wilbur, as his eyes began to dry. "And a dollar here or five dollars there really can't help that much, can it?"

"It sure can," I reassured him. "In 1985 the fund financed nearly 40 projects throughout the state. The three-year revenue from the fund is nearly \$1.3 million. Last year alone individual donations from Wayne County totaled \$14,000 while Oakland County's totaled \$74,000. (The puzzling fact is that people in Oakland County, one of the richest counties in the nation, donated less than those in Wayne County. I can't explain why, but that's the way it is.)"

"Anyway, the main goals of the non-game wildlife program are aimed at preserving the populations of desirable non-game wildlife species and their habitat, and at increasing people's enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of wildlife and plant resources. Two of the biggest projects supported by the fund are the development of the Breeding Bird Atlas and the Natural Features

Inventory. By pinpointing species and natural features most critically in need of protection and management these two projects should help shape non-game wildlife work for years to come.

"THE FUND also supports projects which attempt to restore species that were once native to Michigan. Some of the species the Department of Natural Resources is attempting to bring back through financial support of the non-game wildlife fund are the peregrine falcon, the trumpeter swan, the blue jay, the greater prairie chicken, the wolverine and the whooping crane. They also have projects aimed at improving the numbers of existing species such as the bald eagle, the osprey, the common loon and the piping plover."

"Whoa. I never thought donations would be used for things like that," said Wilbur. "I always thought they

just used that money to give someone a raise or to buy more of those funky green conservation uniforms."

"That's not all," I continued. "In addition to these projects the non-game wildlife program is presently hosting a series of workshops, which are free to the public, on the construction and placement of bluebird nest boxes. There has been a 90 percent decline in the number of bluebirds in Michigan over the past 50 years, due mostly to the loss of natural nesting sites such as the cavities of old trees and wooden fence posts. The DNR hopes to educate people on how to help increase the bluebird population. One of these workshops will be held at the Rochester Hills Public Library, 210 W. University Drive, 2 p.m. Sunday, March 15."

"Well it sounds like they are using the money for a good cause," mumbled Wilbur. "But I've already sent in my tax form so how can I donate to the fund now. I've raised \$16.32 today and I might as well donate it to the non-game wildlife fund and try to boost Oakland County's total in 1987. We really do look bad compared to Wayne County, ya know."

"It's easy," I said. "Mail your donation to the Non-game Wildlife Fund, P.O. Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909."

## Lady Titans' Whalen named player of week

A pair of solid performances have earned University of Detroit senior Mary Kay Whalen Midwestern Collegiate Conference women's basketball player of the week honors.

Whalen, 6-foot-3 center from Livonia Franklin, collected 12 points and 17 rebounds in a 96-88 loss to Oral Roberts, then followed with a 12-point, nine-rebound performance in an 85-64 triumph over Evansville.

Whalen is averaging 12.3 points and 8.4 rebounds a game for the season. She has hit 55.9 percent of her floor shots and 68.7 percent of her free throws. In addition, she has blocked 12 shots (1.75 per game).

U-D is 18-6 overall and is tied with Oral Roberts for first in the MCC at 8-2. The Lady Titans have two conference games remaining.

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