

# Madonna cagers' priority: survival

By C.J. Rieck  
staff writer

There is one basic ingredient missing from the Madonna College women's basketball program: a goal.

Just what is it that the Fighting Crusaders hope to accomplish?

The most obvious answer is survival. But it isn't much of a goal; it's like playing four-against-five with every game on the road — a can't-win situation.

The problem with Madonna College's basketball program is the foundation, which is closer in consistency to jello than cement.

"We aren't going to win any national titles here," said a realistic Bob Belf, the second-year head coach. "We just don't get the support. I'm not sure they know what they want to do with their program."

HISTORY SUPPORTS Belf's contentions. Solid support for athletics has long been lacking at Madonna. The volleyball program, under the guidance of Jerry Abraham, enjoyed a superb season and appears to be flourishing.

But the men's basketball team folded after last season when coach Bob Whitlow, after a

promising first season, resigned, citing a lack of administrative support. It was restarted, according to athletic director Ray Summers, next season.

The women's program remained in limbo as well. Belf said, until Aug. 10 when the administration "decided they wanted to put a program together and they gave me some money to do it."

That did not give Belf much time, however, to recruit a team. The schedule was lacking, too. Madonna did not start its season until Dec. 29, when it played at the Albion College Tournament.

THE CRUSADERS were 1-3 going into Tuesday's game at Concordia, losing 61-56 to Albion; beating Spring Arbor 76-51; and losing twice on their trip to Kentucky last weekend, 80-64 to Lindsay Wilson and 72-49 to Cumberland.

"One of the teams we played in Kentucky had played 14 games before ours," said Belf. "We're in November shape right now, and we'll have to get into January shape real fast."

Belf has nothing but good things to say about his team, which increased in number to nine Tuesday with the addition of Michelle Dykinski, a 5-foot-10 junior forward from

Schoolcraft College and Harper Woods Regional, and Megan Armstrong, a 5-2 sophomore guard from Waterford Kettering. Both became eligible for winter semester.

The Crusaders numbered just six for the opener against Albion; there were seven for the next two games.

"They're good kids," said Belf, a 1980 graduate of Albion who played at Bloomfield Hills Lakeshore through 1976. "And they're working their butts off. But they're all perimeter players. There is no real post-up (threat). I need a kid who can be a defender in the middle."

HE'S HOPING Dykinski, a strong rebounder at 6'2", will help the inside game. Leading the team's offense is 5-5 senior guard Becky Poszywak, a former Livonia Ladywood & SC player, with a 15 points-per-game average.

Lisa Kline, a 5-9 junior forward from Waterford Kettering and Oakland CC, is scoring 12.5 per game and Karen Boluch, a 5-11 sophomore forward from Plymouth Canton, is averaging 12 points.

Other team members are Theresa Ternes, a 5-8 junior forward from Westland John Glenn; Jill Burt, a 5-7 freshman guard from East Jordan; Lyndel Ingalls, a 5-7 sophomore guard from Gladstone; and Holly Murphy, a 6-6 sophomore forward from Marquette.

All but Burt attended another college. Boluch and Ternes both played at University of Michigan-Dearborn and transferred; Armstrong and Ingalls were at Northern Michigan; and Murphy was at Lake Superior State.

"THEY'RE ALL coming from situations they didn't like," said Belf. "Either they didn't like the school, or they didn't like the coach, or they didn't like something."

"I've tried to make this fun for them. If they look forward to playing and to practice, they're going to play hard."

So Belf has used an up-tempo style and tried to "play to their strengths." He also refuses to be what he termed "a babysitter." He does not have a confining program, with every athlete's move on and off the court pre-planned.

"I don't want to tell you we're a great team, but we do have some talent," he said in summation. "We do have some ability."

He then added, when asked what kind of program Madonna's could become: "We could be a middle of the road GLIAC (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) team."

Mediocrity is hardly a lofty goal, but with a program mired in uncertainty, what else can be expected?

## S'craft men fall apart in 2nd half

A depleted Schoolcraft College men's basketball team couldn't sustain two good halves of play Saturday, losing to host Macomb Community College, 82-61.

The Ocelots, who lost four players prior to the game due to academic ineligibilities at the mid-semester break, trailed by only two at halftime (38-36) before the host Monarchs pulled away for the victory in the second half.

"They (Macomb) stuck us in the second half," said SC coach Dave Bogataj. "They beat us on second shots and we did not shoot well."

Dave Rich paced Macomb, now 10-3 overall and 4-1 in the Eastern Conference, with a game-high 20 points. Handy Waters paced Schoolcraft with 17. Ed Hudson contributed 13, while Al Hudson scored nine points and added 14 rebounds.

The Ocelots are 7-13 overall and 0-3 in the conference. Declared academically ineligible for the remainder of the season, according to Bogataj, is Plymouth Salem product Jeff Elliott, along with Chris Heber of Wayne Memorial, Floyd Layow of Whitmore Lake and Sean Hansen of Berkley.

Redford Bishop Borgess product Rob Harmon, who played against Macomb, won't be eligible until he makes up required academic work.

Also missing against Macomb was starting point-guard Ken Fuster, who sat out the game with a sprained ankle.

Earlier this season, two second-year players, John Moran and Mike Mercer, quit the squad for unspecified reasons.

## Oakland CC cagers destroy Mott

This was a game between front-runners. Consequently, it was expected to be one of those that would be a last-shot heartstoppers.

So what happened?

What happened was Oakland Community College's men's basketball team stopped Mott CC a little earlier than the final buzzer. How much earlier?

"We took control about two minutes into the game," said OCC assistant coach Chris Peponis.

The final result bears him out: OCC 127, Mott 83, Saturday at OCC.

This wasn't just a fast finish by the Raiders, either. They led 64-36 at the half, completely dominating a team they had been tied with for first place in the Eastern Conference. Be-

fore the game, both had been 4-1.

THERE WERE reasons for the rout. For one, Mott's starting point guard was missing. For another, Mott had recently returned from a 16-team tournament in Phoenix, in which it had placed fourth and had defeated Kankakee (Ill.) CC, the fourth-ranked team in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

So fatigue may have been a factor. But neither fatigue nor the absence of one starter played as big a role in the lopsided loss as another reason given by Peponis: "Our kids were ready to play. Not just one guy, either. Everyone."

Seven Raiders reached double-figures in scoring, led by Ed Pasque's

22. Michael Bailey had 18, Bobby Dinges and Jerry Priesskorn netted 16 each, Tom Robertson got 14, Toine Murphy totaled 12 and Ed Whitaker had 10.

There's more, however. Pasque had six assists and four steals; Bailey had 13 rebounds; Robertson had 10 boards; Murphy collected seven rebounds, four assists and four steals; Whitaker got 10 assists and eight steals; Priesskorn nabbed seven rebounds; and Starlin Stevens came off the bench to get six points, 10 assists and six steals.

Mott was paced by Paul Neumann's 16 points. William Paige added 12. The loss dropped Mott to 11-4 overall, 4-2 in the conference.

## Ocelots overwhelm Adrian

Everything was meshing for the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team Saturday against Adrian College's junior varsity. The shots were falling and the defense was stingy, making the Lady Ocelots easy winners, 83-40 at SC.

"We just shot well and hustled on 'D,'" said SC coach Jack Grenan, whose team improved to 8-3 overall with the win.

SC hit 20-of-32 floor shots (62.5 percent) and all five of its free throws in rolling to a 48-21 lead at the half. For the game, the Lady Ocelots made 32-of-58 shots (55.2 percent) and all 10 free throws.

Barb Krug's 19 points was high for SC. Krug also had five rebounds. Tricia Lucas netted 17 points and eight boards, Tracy Osborne finished with 10 points and seven steals, and Mo Merritt collected eight points and seven rebounds.

Lisa Taylor's 12 points topped Adrian, which slipped to 2-6 with the defeat.

## swimming

### OBSERVERLAND BOYS SWIMMING

Following are the best boys swim times and diving scores recorded by area swimmers. Coaches or designated spectators should report updates to Plymouth Salem coach Chuck Olson at 451-6447 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Olson completes the list early for the Observer.

**200 MILEY RELAY**  
(state cut: 1:43.99)  
Livonia Stevenson 1:47.50  
Plymouth Canton 1:48.32  
Plymouth Salem 1:49.57

**200 FREESTYLE**  
(state cut: 1:49.29)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 1:49.32  
Scott DeWitt (Stevenson) 1:51.00  
Mike Guecke (Stevenson) 1:52.90  
Craig Walker (Salem) 2:06.16  
Matt Turtel (Canton) 2:02.21  
Eric Peterson (Stevenson) 2:02.40  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 2:03.00  
Doug New (Canton) 2:03.10  
Irene Mack (Salem) 2:04.36  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 2:05.21

**200 INDIVIDUAL MILEY**  
(state cut: 1:43.29)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 2:04.10  
Aaron Feder (Stevenson) 2:04.10  
Ryan Freeman (Stevenson) 2:12.60  
Eric Burch (Salem) 2:13.55  
Steve Gables (Canton) 2:15.42  
Curt Whitaker (Salem) 2:17.55  
Mark Erickson (Salem) 2:19.80  
Mark Erickson (Stevenson) 2:20.80  
Matt Erickson (Salem) 2:20.79  
Ryan Freeman (Canton) 2:23.35

**50 FREESTYLE**  
(state cut: 22.69)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 21.12  
Chris Gable (Salem) 23.21  
Tom Caraculacu (Stevenson) 24.00  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 24.13  
Amy Guecke (Stevenson) 24.20  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 24.62  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 25.06  
Shawn Macrina (Canton) 25.16  
Joe Pavluska (Stevenson) 25.50

**DIVING**  
(regional cut: six starts)  
Pat McMahon (Salem) 240.00  
Rick Atani (Canton) 170.15  
Jon Sterling (Canton) 168.70  
Steve Sathany (Salem) 167.00  
Chris Berg (Canton) 160.45  
Jon Bork (Canton) 149.65

**100 BUTTERFLY**  
(state cut: 55.59)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 52.90  
Scott DeWitt (Stevenson) 55.20  
Bryce Anderson (Canton) 56.72  
Tom Caraculacu (Stevenson) 58.70  
Albert Smith (Salem) 59.78  
Eric Burch (Salem) 1:00.25  
Mike Guecke (Stevenson) 1:04.00  
Matt Erickson (Salem) 1:04.00  
Mark Erickson (Salem) 1:04.12  
Wee Shiao (Canton) 1:05.05

**100 FREESTYLE**  
(state cut: 49.79)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 47.28  
Mike Guecke (Stevenson) 51.60  
Chris Gable (Salem) 52.83  
Joe Pavluska (Salem) 53.18  
Andy Long (Canton) 53.78  
Chris Berg (Canton) 55.65  
Ben Guecke (Salem) 55.70  
Craig Walker (Salem) 55.90

**500 FREESTYLE**  
(state cut: 4:55.79)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 4:37.95  
Scott DeWitt (Stevenson) 4:55.80  
Ryan Freeman (Stevenson) 5:15.46  
Brett Mox (Salem) 5:19.86  
Eric Peterson (Stevenson) 5:20.80  
Steve Gables (Canton) 5:23.36  
Eric Burch (Salem) 5:26.90  
Craig Walker (Salem) 5:27.23  
Joe Pavluska (Stevenson) 5:29.90  
Doug New (Canton) 5:36.50

**100 BACKSTROKE**  
(state cut: 57.69)  
Ron Onis (Salem) 55.80  
Aaron Feder (Stevenson) 58.10  
Bryce Anderson (Canton) 1:02.15  
Rick Atani (Stevenson) 1:04.70  
Curt Whitaker (Salem) 1:05.20  
Albert Smith (Salem) 1:05.62  
Dave New (Canton) 1:06.00  
Scott Hemmister (Salem) 1:07.00  
Paul Anderson (Stevenson) 1:07.50  
Brett Petroskey (Salem) 1:08.00

**100 BREASTSTROKE**  
(state cut: 1:53.59)  
Alex Guecke (Stevenson) 1:53.50  
Ron Trosen (Canton) 1:57.74  
Mark Erickson (Salem) 1:57.56  
Bryce Anderson (Salem) 1:59.01  
Eric Peterson (Stevenson) 1:59.70  
Kevin Besh (Canton) 1:59.14  
Aaron Carlson (Stevenson) 1:59.30  
Matt Wornowski (Salem) 1:59.07  
Shawn Macrina (Canton) 1:59.12

**400 FREESTYLE RELAY**  
(state cut: 2:23.99)  
Plymouth Salem 3:38.42  
Livonia Stevenson 3:34.90  
Plymouth Canton 3:38.51

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