

Eagles mirror cage opponent

By C.J. Risk

staff writer

basketball

The similarities are abundant. Both St. Mary's College and Northwood Institute enter the NAIA District 23 basketball playoffs intent on putting an end to Siena Heights' district domination.

Both teams rely on strong inside play provided by senior forwards. Both have impressive freshmen on their front line, freshmen who were district leaders in an important statistical category.

And both are very familiar with their first-round opponents, having defeated them twice this season.

The teams the two district foes will face in the first round are each other. Northwood (18-15 overall) plays at St. Mary's (23-12) at 7:30 p.m. tonight. The winner advances to the district final against the Siena Heights-Grand Rapids Baptist winner at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. If Baptist upsets Siena Heights, St. Mary's would be host Wednesday.

There's another common element for Northwood and St. Mary's: Both could be without important starters at guard. Northwood's Jeff Williams, a senior averaging 12 points a game, injured his knee and is out. St. Mary's junior point guard Denny Butcher (9.4 points) had arthroscopic surgery on his knee Tuesday and is doubtful.

WHICH MEANS there's something both coaches will be juggling their lineups. Even if Butcher is available (he worked out Friday), his effectiveness will be limited.

So Jeff Suspek, Terry Koerner and Garth How-

ard will have to pick up the slack for the Eagles. Depth could be a problem, but if they can stay foul-free, they could pose a problem — Suspek in particular.

In St. Mary's 86-83 victory at Northwood January 27, Suspek pumped in eight points during a decisive 14-2 run. He finished with 16. In the Eagles' 90-77 triumph at Dombrowski Fieldhouse Feb. 22, Suspek collected 20 points.

There are lots of weapons — again, on both teams: St. Mary's has 6-foot-4 senior forward James Lakes, Jr., Eagles' leader in scoring (14 points) and rebounding (8.7). The Northern counter with 6-5 senior Mike Urbanus (19.7 points, 6.4 rebounds).

Others to watch for the Eagles are 6-8 freshman Jeremiah Jerchow (13.2 points, 7.6 rebounds), who led the district in blocked shots with 4.5 a game; Howard (11.7 points); and Suspek (10.3 points).

Northwood also features 6-9 sophomore point guard Freddie Darrough (15.7 points) and 6-7 freshman center Trent Matthews, the district's rebounding king (9.0 per game).

SENIOR TERRY HARRIS, sophomore Kenny Houston and Urbanus will each try to fill in for

Williams. But if Urbanus moves outside — Williams was the Northern's top three-point shooter — who will fill in for Urbanus?

"Urbanus is the key player for them," said Donahue. "He's one of the best in the district. We have to control him."

St. Mary's lost its first two meetings with Northwood, 86-81 at the Grand Valley State Tournament Nov. 17 and 102-83 at Northwood's tournament Dec. 15.

Donahue doesn't expect any surprises tonight. "There's nothing magic about it. We've got to do the same things that made us successful in the past."

"We'll pressure them, because I think they're susceptible to pressure."

Should St. Mary's get past the Northern, Siena Heights — with its 27-6 record and 16-game winning streak — looms. Baptist, the Saints' first-round opponent, was 12-20 overall and should fall. "I think they're just too strong, too good a rebounding team (for Baptist)," said Donahue of Siena Heights. "Their strength is their big guys."

That includes three seniors: 6-5 Mark Merriman (18.4 points), 6-6 William Cribben (7.5 rebounds) and 6-8 Brett Nettling. A fourth senior, 6-2 Bernard Loudemill, fills in at point guard and is a good offensive rebounder. In addition, Jennie Green comes off the bench to add firepower, and Craig Tanis can shoot — he scored 30, with six trips, against St. Mary's Feb. 12.

So the Saints will be formidable, particularly on their homecourt. But for St. Mary's, Northwood's first.

Foreign aid boosts St. Mary's

By C.J. Risk

staff writer

In case you've never seen it, the site upon which St. Mary's College rests is as picturesque as any imaginable. Take a short drive down the narrow lane separating Orchard Lake from a row of magnificent homes, then stop and turn through the gate onto the campus.

Yes, it's quite lovely. But would the sights be worth leaving home for? And traveling several thousand miles to live there? Particularly when those sights are in a foreign land, with a foreign language?

Easy to answer, no. But Jesus Jerchow didn't migrate from Farum, Denmark to Orchard Lake to sight-see.

"First of all, for basketball," Jerchow said when asked why he left his home to come to America. "It's a big sport in Denmark. The competition here is fantastic."

IN HIS FIRST year at St. Mary's, Jerchow has been nothing but fantastic. The 6-foot-8, 26-year-old freshman forward has played all 35 games for the Eagles and is their

second-leading scorer, averaging 13.2 points a game while making 55.8 percent of his floor shots. He is also second on the team in rebounding, getting 7.6 a contest.

But his most noteworthy ability comes on defense. Jerchow was the leading shot-blocker in the NAIA District 23. He swatted away 157 shots — about 4.5 per game. That skill was not evident when St. Mary's coach Glen Donahue first recruited Jerchow. "We thought he had the ability, but when we saw him play he didn't block a lot of shots," Donahue said. "Of course, we only saw him play one game."

It's a tribute to Donahue's eye for talent that one game was enough. The game was during a team tour of Europe last summer, when the Eagles played an exhibition against Jerchow's club team, Vasele.

Jerchow had graduated from high school and was working. "At first I wasn't into it," he said about his initial recruitment. "It was so far from home."

He changed his mind after he was selected to the Danish national team. "I had to get more skills," Jerchow

said. "I had to become more aggressive. The only way to become better was to come here."

As it turned out, adapting to American lifestyle wasn't so difficult. Jerchow already had a pretty good handle on the language. "It hasn't been hard to adjust," he said. "Everyone's treating me well."

School hasn't been a problem, either. According to Donahue, Jerchow took some high-level mathematics courses in his first semester and had a 3.75 grade point.

ANOTHER EDUCATION Jerchow is mastering is on the court. The game is played differently here. "Aggressiveness — that's the biggest difference," said Jerchow. "They play for real in practice here. I wasn't used to that. (Players) here are so much more skilled, they have all the fundamentals."

It took some getting used to. And Jerchow's initial lack of aggressiveness triggered some good-natured kidding from his teammates.

"They call me sissy and wimp in practice," he said with a laugh.

As for his most prominent skill, Jerchow cannot attribute his shot-blocking talent to anything in particular. "It's timing, jumping, and I have long arms. I've always been

good at blocking shots," he said. "It's a nice feeling. The crowd cheers and it makes me feel good."

Ahh, cheering. That's another significant difference between basketball in Denmark and the U.S. "We don't have cheerleaders," said Jerchow.

Well, that's one trait shared by the two countries: the affinity college men have for cheerleaders.

Falcons win final contest

Continued from Page 1

Western trailed 31-23 at the half, but scored back in the third quarter, outscoring the Chiefs 24-10.

Three Canton players scored in double figures: Karl Wulfe (14), Mike Stafford (10) and Brett Howell (10).

FAIRMINGTON 61, W.L. CENTRAL 51: Chris Schmid led a balanced Falcons attack in the city's bracket victory over Walled Lake Central (1-19).

Fairmington, 6-14 entering state district play, also got eight points apiece from Brian Browne and Eric Miller. Joe Sharpe led Central with 20 points. Trammie Jason Olson contributed 10. Fairmington went 23 of 32 from the free throw line, while Central was 19 of 31.

basketball

STATE TOURNAMENT

DISTRICT BASKETBALL PAIRINGS

CLASS A

WESTLAND JOHN GLENH

Monday, March 5: (A) Westland John Glenh vs. (B) Livonia Franklin 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7: Livonia Franklin vs. Garden City 6:30 p.m. Wayne Memorial vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Southern regional vs. Detroit Grosse Pointe district champion)

at REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL

Monday, March 5: (A) Redford Catholic Central vs. (B) Detroit Henry Ford 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6: Redford Union vs. Southfield 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7: Detroit Redford vs. A-B winner, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Southern regional vs. Taylor Center district champion)

at NORTHVILLE

Monday, March 5: (A) Northville vs. (B) Plymouth Salem 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7: Livonia Stevenson vs. Nov. 6:30 p.m. Plymouth Canton vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Western regional vs. Ann Arbor district champion)

at WALLED LAKE CENTRAL

Monday, March 5: (A) Walled Lake Central vs. (B) West Bloomfield 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 7: Walled Lake West vs. Farmington 6:30 p.m. North Farmington vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Western regional vs. Bentley district champion)

CLASS B

at REDFORD BISHOP GORGES

Monday, March 5: (A) Redford Thurston

vs. (B) Farmington Harrison 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6: (C) Livonia Clarence vs. (D) Redford Bishop Gorges 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Detroit Renaissance vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m. Detroit Renaissance vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Warren regional vs. St. Clair Shores South Lake district champion)

CLASS C

at ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Orchard Lake St. Mary vs. (B) Livonia Westland 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Detroit DePue vs. Southfield Christian 6 p.m. Redford St. Agatha vs. A-B winner, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Eastern regional vs. Huron district champion)

CLASS D

at REDFORD TEMPLE CHRISTIAN

Monday, March 5: (A) Redford Temple Christian vs. Detroit St. Mary of Redford 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6: (C) Oakland Christian vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m. Detroit Lutheran West vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist district champion)

CLASS E

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS F

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS G

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS H

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS I

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS J

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS K

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS L

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS M

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS N

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS O

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS P

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS Q

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS R

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS S

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS T

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS U

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS V

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY

Tuesday, March 6: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Wyandotte Mount Carmel 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 8: Taylor Baptist Park vs. (C) Allen Park Inter-City Baptist 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 9: Taylor Light and Life vs. A-B winner, 8 p.m. Detroit Calvary Baptist vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Fenwick regional vs. Redford Temple Christian district champion)

CLASS W

at ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY