

Gannon wins rematch with OU

By Steve Kowalski
staff writer

No one acted out of line Sunday during the NCAA Division II Central Region Soccer championship played between Gannon University and Oakland University.

Except for OU freshman goalkeeper Mike Sheehy, who accidentally stepped outside the goal's line while holding the ball early in the second half, Gannon was treated to a free kick and the Knights John Trenchel capitalized for a 1-0 lead.

The goal gave Gannon momentum and the Knights went on to win, 2-1, and assure themselves a second-straight appearance in the Final Four.

The game was a rematch of the Oct. 20 battle in Rochester that ended in a 2-1 loss for OU. Three players received red cards in that game and several were out of line with their behavior.

The win improves Gannon to 15-2 overall. Gannon has dominated the rivalry, which began in 1984 and has a 7-1 record against OU. The Knights are 4-0-1 in Rochester.

OU sports

"We had some incidents three, four weeks ago, but this game went incidentless," Gannon coach Bob Russo said. "I don't want to be bold and say the best team won. It was a good game between two teams with contrasting styles. I truly felt the team which scored first would win the game."

Gannon goalkeeper Terry Waldorf had his streak of seven straight shut-outs broken when OU freshman forward Brian Grant scored on an assist from Lee Davidson and Paul Phillips with 2:50 remaining in the game. Gannon had taken a 2-0 lead with 7:02 remaining when forward Mitchell Heeneman beat Sheehy to the ball and pushed it past the OU goalkeeper for a goal.

The goal which really hurt, however, was the first, because Sheehy contends he was inside the line while holding the ball and ready to punt it

away. He argued the point with an official without success.

"I'm positive I was inside the line," said Sheehy, a Farmington High graduate. "I can see the line when I drop the ball. I don't know what he (the referee) was looking at."

OU coach Gary Parsons wasn't blaming the officials afterward.

"The official normally won't call that, but Sheehy was warned about it and it's the player's fault," Parsons said. "It's always the way we seem to lose this one, on a set play or some kind of break. But I don't want to take anything from them. They're a great team."

"This certainly is a big rivalry. When your guy gets head butted (in the Oct. 20 game), breaks his nose and loses teeth, there's reason for bad blood."

OU had a chance prior to Gannon's first goal to break the scoreless tie. Mike Thornton, a freshman forward, broke in all alone on Waldorf but lost the ball wide of the Gannon net. More frustration came later when sophomore midfielder Derek Williford reentered his knee and left the game. Williford had arthroscopic surgery on the knee last month and will have more surgery in the off-season, Parsons said.

"The doctors cleared him to play," Parsons said. "But in retrospect if I would have known that would happen, I wouldn't have played him."

The loss ended OU's season at 17-3-2 overall. The Pioneers lost Vince Alberti, John Brennan and Phillips to graduation, but will return 18 others, including Davidson, who led the team with 11 goals and nine assists.

"This certainly has been a very good season," Parsons said. "I put up five, six, seven goals at the beginning of the season and these guys met about every one except the national championship. I can't complain. It's a joy to coach this team. Everyone works very hard."

college sports

In spite of a superb freshman season, the Red Sox will be a disappointment for Carrie Maier (from Farmington). The midfielder had helped Wisconsin's women's soccer team to an NCAA Tournament berth, but the Badgers were eliminated in their first match by Colorado College, 2-1 in Madison Nov. 13.

Colorado opened the scoring 20 minutes into the second half off a corner kick, but Wisconsin battled back to tie it, and it was Maier who provided the heroics. With 2:55 left, Maier took control of a free kick from teammate Jennifer Hill in front of the Colorado goal and netted it to knot the score.

Wisconsin's joy was shortlived, however; 29 seconds later, a hand ball in the penalty area gave Colorado a penalty kick, and Tami Carreen converted for a 2-1 win. Maier finished tied for third in scoring among the Badgers' with 19 points on six goals and seven assists. Wisconsin ended at 16-2-1.

THE MICHIGAN Intercollegiate Athletic Association has chosen its all-league teams for the fall, and several local athletes have been honored.

In women's soccer, sophomore midfielder Karen Carney (Livonia Stevenson) and freshman forward Jennifer Russell (Plymouth Canton) led Kalamazoo College to the MIAA championship and a berth in the NCAA Division III Tournament. Russell set a school record for goals in a season, with Carney was chosen to the all-MIAA team for the second-straight year.

In men's soccer, Kalamazoo junior defender Rob Orsuel (Livonia) was named to the all-MIAA second team. Three Farmington girls were selected to the all-league field hockey squad. Kelli Ross, a junior forward at Hope, and Cyndi Riedel, a junior keeper at Kalamazoo, were both named to the first team. Johanna Fox, a junior right wing at Kalamazoo, was picked for the second team. None of them will get the chance to repeat — the MIAA is dropping field hockey as a league sport.

NOW FOR FOOTBALL. There are a couple of award-winners at Hillsdale College with local backgrounds. The kicking award went to junior Mark Walter (Livonia Stevenson), who averaged 41 yards on 51 points. The Howard "Champ" Messenger Award went to junior outside linebacker Joe Jouppe (Plymouth Salem), who had 49 tackles — including three sacks. Hillsdale finished 7-4.

Perris State senior placekicker Tony Svaluto (Westland John Glenn) helped establish a school single-season record for field goals this year. Svaluto made four of his six attempts and teammate Mike Panasuk connected on 10-18. Svaluto also hit 20-of-22 extra points to finish with 31 points.

FSU sophomore receiver Pat Pettit, another John Glenn product, led the Bulldogs in receiving yards with 497; his 28 catches was second on the

team (17.8 average) and his two TDs was first. FSU finished 6-4-1. Junior cornerback Chris Kovach, senior defensive end Matt Fraas and junior middle guard Pete Dankert (of Plymouth), all from Redford Catholic Central, have been instrumental in Holy Cross' march to fourth Patriot League title in five seasons.

Kovach led the Crusaders with 14 tackles and an interception in a 48-0 blanketing of Fordham. For the season, he had 102 tackles (third on the team) going into the Colgate game and led the Crusaders with four interceptions.

Fraas was fourth in tackles with 97, including eight sacks and six tackles for losses, while Dankert had 33 tackles, with one sack and four tackles for losses. Holy Cross was 8-1-1 entering their final game.

Yes, that was the same Brian Smolinski starting for Michigan State (in place of the injured Courtney Hawkins) who used to haul in passes at Farmington Harrison. The senior wideout has eight catches this season for 88 yards (a 10.8 average).

IN HOCKEY, Northern Michigan continues to excel. The No. 1-ranked Wildcats have yet to lose, which means senior goalie Bill Pye (Plymouth Canton) is also unbeaten. Pye is 7-0-1 with a 2.68 goals-against average and a 88.2 save percentage.

Junior teammate Mark Beaufort (Livonia Stevenson) is also playing well; he is fifth on the team in scoring with six goals and six assists (12 points).

AND LAST — but hardly least — there's Michigan State volleyball: standout Kristine Bailey (Livonia Stevenson), a senior middle hitter. Bailey led the struggling Spartans: 8-21 overall, 4-11 in the Big Ten; to a 16-14, 15-13, 15-12 win over Minnesota with 19 kills (a 2.73 average); 13 digs and three service aces.

Shooting woes hinder St. Mary's

Poor shooting cost St. Mary's College of Orchard Lake a chance to keep its good start going in the final of Southern Indiana Tipoff Classic Saturday. The Eagles converted just 33-of-105 shots (31.4 percent), which was no way to stay with a team ranked in the top 20 in the NCAA Division II, particularly on its home court.

St. Mary's didn't. Southern Indiana pulled away late in the game and rolled to a 104-82 triumph.

"It was a little disappointing," admitted St. Mary's coach Glen Donahue, whose team slipped to 3-1. "We had all kinds of chances, but our shots just didn't drop for us. We had good shots, too. As we fell behind, we forced a few. But we just didn't put the ball in the basket."

JAMES GILLESPIE poured in 18 points to lead the Eagles, all coming in the second half. Garth Howard had 15, and Jeff Suspek and Jimmy Bolden added 11 apiece.

St. Mary's led 27-18 early but couldn't maintain it. By halftime it was 43-34. Southern Indiana Rick Stein paced Southern Indiana (now 2-0) with 24 points. Gary Hrvo got 20.

In the tournament opener, Gillespie collected 29 points to trigger the Eagles' 101-99 triumph over Indiana-Furue-at-Indianapolis. Friday, Suspek contributed 19, Howard had 12 and Bolden 10. Bolden and point guard Denny Butcher also had five assists each, and Marvin Morrison pulled down 10 rebounds.

Vern Trabue's 21 points was best for Indianapolis (0-1).

ST. MARY'S opened its season by defending its title in the Gino's Plaza Classic, defeating Rosary College (River Forest, Ill.) 100-95 in the championship game Nov. 10 at Dombrowski Fieldhouse in Orchard Lake.

The Eagles scored 13-straight points in the first

half and led by as many as 18 in the second before a Rosary charge made it close at the end. Kevin Nicfield's 20 points and 11 boards paced St. Mary's attack; Howard and Gillespie added 19 points each and Suspek netted 10. Glenn Hamilton got 27 points for Rosary.

In their Gino's opener Nov. 8, the Eagles walked University of Windsor 141-100 with a record-setting performance. School marks for points and three-point field goals (16) fell in the rout. Six players reached double-figures: Howard (28), Gillespie (26), Suspek (23), Nicfield (16), Bolden and Smith (13) each. Butcher had 10 assists, while Bolden got nine. Dennis Byrne's 24 points led Windsor.

Howard was named the Gino's MVP. Gillespie was also named to the all-tournament team. St. Mary's plays at Eastern Michigan Saturday, then hosts Indiana University-South Bend at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Dombrowski.

Raiders capture tournament title

Everything blended well for Oakland Community College's men's basketball team last weekend at the Sinclair Community College Tipoff Classic in Dayton, Ohio. The backcourt was dominating and the frontcourt was productive, a combination which resulted in a tournament title for the Raiders.

OCC overcame an early Sinclair lead with 13 minutes left in the second half and held off the host team the rest of the way to claim a 98-93 victory in the championship game Saturday. Sinclair's first loss of the season after four wins was nailed down by OCC forward James Escoc (from Southfield) blocked a shot with 14 left and his team ahead 94-93.

Ed Whitaker scored in the final seconds to ensure the victory. Whit-

OCC sports

taker, a sophomore point guard, had 18 points, seven assists and five steals in the 40-minute game. Most valuable player honors. Starlin Stevens and Jerry Priekorn were chosen to the all-tournament team.

RASHIE REVIERE netted 17 points, Escoc had 15, Priekorn had 14, and Devin Bell and Steven totaled 12 apiece against Sinclair. Priekorn and Stevens led the Raiders with 10 rebounds; Escoc grabbed eight. Stevens, the sophomore guard,

was 12-of-12 from the free throw line and had eight assists and five steals.

Juan Norvell paced Sinclair with 24 points. Rodney Young had 23. Sinclair was forced to play without one of its top players, Todd Gigax, who had to sit out the team's first five games after being redshirted because of an injured knee for all but five games last season.

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