

# S'craft coach was still a winner



C.J. RISAK

He never really expected it. Which in itself is surprising, considering the yardstick with which all coaches are judged: wins and losses.

Dave Bogataj never won at Schriener's. And yet, the decision which led to his not returning caught him off guard. He was still recruiting for SC Tuesday.

It may seem equally surprising that his leaving is accompanied by such sadness. After all, the guy only won 70 of 231 games in his eight seasons as SC's men's coach.

That's pretty poor by any yardstick. In his best season, he managed to win only 14 games while losing 15. Hardly the stuff resumes are written with.

So the "mutual agreement" both sides came to resulting in Bogataj's dismissal was based on the simplest of reasons. And yet, he won't leave a loser. "Maybe nice guys don't win," Bogataj said.

Maybe he's right. Maybe college basketball has become such a numbers game, nothing else really matters.

Number of wins. Number of graduates. Number of fans in the stands. And, above all, number of dollars generated.

Now, at a community college like SC, expectations may be lower in some respects, but they still exist. And those can be brutally

hard numbers. Lost in that black-and-white memory isn't a major upset of a conference-leading team managed at least once a season over the past four; rather, "I'm going to miss the kids."

"It's the kids. Some kids who were successful academically, or anyone of them, to see how they grew up and changed."

And to know you played a significant part in that process; that's what gratifies Bogataj. What gets lost in the shuffle of numbers is the human side.

Bogataj didn't win much on the court, but he played the game within the rules off of it, helping players succeed academically.

Several years ago, SC officials — in keeping with the NCAA's provisions — was needed in the athletic department. Not in the victory count; rather, scholastically. Programs were instituted, tougher standards adopted, all making it harder for marginal students to survive.

Certainly they couldn't on basketball alone. Bogataj followed those rules. It wasn't easy; it's common knowledge that each season is a rebuilding one at a two-year school like SC, but for the Ocotilla it happened twice a year. That's because at the end of the first semester in early January, several players would be lost to poor academics.

One year Bogataj was forced to recruit a soccer player, Leo Hunt, who was learning the sportbook for the team, to play because he was so short-handed.

But still, he stuck to the rules

— if a player didn't make grades, he was gone. No messing with numbers or "convincing" teachers they made a mistake.

And this year, for the first time since Bogataj became coach, he survived the change in semesters without losing a player. Indeed, he actually added one.

Now, in this bottom-line world, none of this really matters; after all, this season's team was so bad (3-23), some might sarcastically suggest Bogataj would have been better off rebuilding the team in January.

"Three-and-23 is not exactly going to get you into the Michigan Hall of Fame," said Bogataj. He would say it and smile. Always that smile. Through all those frustration-filled seasons, Bogataj would keep smiling. And keep trying.

He never gave up. True, his recruiting efforts — handicapped somewhat by the academic standards imposed — were less than spectacular.

But he didn't quit. Over the years, he found a different way to measure his success. One of the inspirational notes he collected went like this: "A coach never looks at the score to see who won or lost, but counts how many men walked off the court, who started out as boys."

Using that as his yardstick, Bogataj remained optimistic right to the end. Whether or not he was a good coach caught in a bad situation, or just a bad coach, only time will tell. As Bogataj said, "Wait and see what the next guy does."

But whatever he does on the court, he'll be hard-pressed to match Bogataj's success off of it.

## Bogataj from page 1C

What's more, it wasn't improving — his teams won just 14 games in the last two years, losing 45.

Asked why he was being replaced, Bogataj said, "For change. I can see their point. They wanted to win, and I didn't win many games."

Part of the problem were the academic standards applied. Until this season, Bogataj annually lost players at the end of the first semester — in the first week of January — to grades. Which often meant reconstructing the team.

All of which pointed to Bogataj's most serious deficiency: recruiting. Those academic standards, combined with a lack of talent in bordering communities made his job more difficult.

"It's a tough place to recruit at," said Bogataj, adding that the better basketball players from the suburbs usually ended up at four-year schools.

And yet, there were some standouts Bogataj coached: Steve Hawley from Westland John Glenn, Randy Waters, Kweal McGill, Jarvis Williams, Al Hudson, to name a few. All went on to other schools and have received, or are close to receiving, degrees.

Still, as Kavanagh said, "There was no pattern of improvement in wins or losses. That's the bottom line. I have a great deal of respect for him. I would highly recommend Dave to anyone."

Kavanagh said he is accepting applications for the position. He would like to fill it as soon as possible to aid in recruiting.



Dave Bogataj: After a lengthy tenure, he was re-appointed as coach.

## Plymouth Bowl will pass into history

It's the end of the line, everybody! That's what some old-timers are saying again, this time for Plymouth Bowl.

According to manager Ron Engle, the bowling center will close on or about May 1. It's the end of the line for Plymouth Bowl.

For 32 years, it was the home of 32 lanes and many fine leagues, including the Berroughs 5 p.m. Men's League which was there when it all started, and will still be there at the end.

Let's go back in time some 32 years. It would be 1963 when then Plymouth Township supervisor Mr. Lindsey felt the township needed an entertainment place that would appeal to the younger element.

He felt a local bowling establishment would be the answer. In those days, the Plymouth bowlers originated in Detroit at a bus stop beside the Argyle Bowl.

Plymouth bowlers would wait inside the building on cold winter days. Mr. Lindsey contacted the owner of the Argyle Bowl and convinced him to build one in the township. It was a very good run of 32 years, but in business, there has to be a good reason for opening and a good reason for closing and this decision to close is one more loss for the bowling community.

The same story happened last year with the demise of Belleisle Bowl and West Bloomfield Lanes. Now it's Plymouth Bowl and Avon in Rochester Hills.

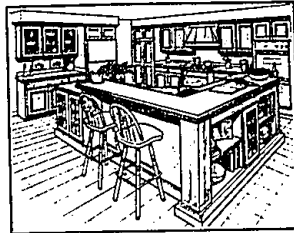
When good friends get together to bowl, good things can happen. Debbie and John Kurliak of Plymouth invited their friends Cindy and Steve of Canton out to eat and then to sub on their team in the Saturday Night Open-paters at Town 'n Country Lanes at 4000 W. 130th St. During dinner, they were celebrating the 300 game that Ron had shot at Beach Lanes back in December. Debbie and John had been at Beach Lanes 300 times, and were joking about Ron getting another one.

About two hours later, their jabs turned to reality as Ron popped another "Perfect". He followed with 284, but could not quite reach 800 for series, his next target.

- HONOR ROLL
Country Lanes (Farmington Hills): Greenfield Mizel — Tom Dow, 277-297-2327; Dale Wright, 258-8434; Kelly Good, 258-8434; Al Hartless, 918-008; Cheryl Heiser, 309-704.
Kendallwood Lanes — Carol Surdy, 213-5618; Cecil Bales, 200-7561.
Las Vegas Lanes — Jerry Shulman, 311-5899; Bradly, 214-8111.
Sherry Bradly, 214-8111.
Sandy Miller, 214-8111.
Lena Jones, 200-7561.
Sue Kubel, 268-7744.
John Herman, 258-8434; Dave Ball, 258-8434.
Leon Lake Men's — Joe Brown Jr., 253-8434; Carl Carter, 253-8434; Mike Wilby, 253-8434.
Wendy's Knights — Tom Jenks, 268-7049; Ron McKinnis, 248-841; Gary Ornes, 248-841; Scott Wright, 258-8434; Corey Ornes, 258-8434.
Wendy's Ladies — Denise Harris, 268-7049; Gary Hammond, 258-8434; Steve Dallas, 251-6111; Bob Balkin, 248-8434; Bill Bishop, 248-8434.
St. Paul's Bowling — Bob Jones, 253-8434; Brent Green, 228-8434; Mike Wright, 253-8434.
Monday Nighters — Jerry Kase, 268-7049; Bob Jones, 248-8434; Bill Bishop, 248-8434; David Korman, 248-8434.
High School — Tom Dow, 200-7561; Richard Ornes, 253-8434; Kelly Bishop, 200-7561; Jeanette Bales, 200-7561.
U.S. Bowling — Eddie Jacobson — Dennis Eder, 258-8434; Larry Stakly, 258-8434; Tom Dow, 200-7561; Sandy Maw — Paul, 251-6111; Lou Rask, 251-6111.
Peach — Keith Kingston, 268-7049; Barry Palman, 258-8434; Joseph West, 253-8434; Lynn Eilers, 248-8434; Arvin Kaul, 258-8434.

- Farmington Schools — Andy Mumford, 248-8434; Jason LaFren, 212; Dave Huella, 272.
Youth Leagues (Press) — Scott Moscoe, 251; Robbie Wigner, 173; Kevin Zander, 268; Adam Jackson, Braden Hensman, 192; Adam Jaskial, 183/204; Amber Byrner, 147; Rogner — Carl Ehrlich, 117; Kristian St. Denis, 119.
Bel-Aire Lanes (Farmington) Our Lady of Sorrows — Chris Wehner, 253-225-0732; T. Thelen, 221-6330; Ernie Wegrzyn, 227-618; Mark Ribick, 233; Jack Brown, 220.
Early Bird Lanes — Linda Engwer, 227; Karo Wuestler, 227.
Michigan Ball Men's — K. Ruedel, 211/61; D. Derand, 237/632; L. Heng, 218-213-9238; D. Williams, 235-236/630; C. Homan, 216.
MGM Ladies — Gail Finn, 212; Donna Campbell, 212.
Bel-Aire Lanes (Farmington) Youth Doubles — Vernon Peterson, 237/225; Chris Bruggman, 254/650; Charlie Thompson, 254/7022.
Aman's Big Boy Classic — Mark Moore, 260/822; Tim Pash, 278/770; Jim Malnar, 280/727; Ron LeChavaler, 269/781; Dick Shoup, 258/721.
Farmington Elks — Dave Lewinski, 262/747; Tom Dow, 200-7561; Jerry Lyka, 213/2641; Kris Greening, 258; Al Young, 639.
Bel-Aire Lanes (Farmington) Youth Doubles — Bob Rakota, 234; Ivan Grassi, 229; Neal Drlich, 228.
Greenfield Lanes (Livonia) Thursday Scratch Ties — Ron LeChavaler, 258/770; Brian Harting, 248-235-7477; Doug Spore, 278-758-221/771.
Thursday Seniors — Dale Ulmer, 211; Bob Golin, 224; Jess Simpson, 269/657; Glenn Mear, 216; Dave Malloy, 226.
All-Star Bowlers — Cindy Wokan, 268/780; Tamika Glenn, 257/609; Sandra Ruesel, 262/622; Lisa Martin, 254/609; Louise Jackson, 254-228-258/736; Bave Behl, 268/719.
Wendland Lanes (Livonia) Motor City Bowlers — Mike Wilby, 253-8434; Dennis Allison, 685; Lynn Crum, 268/804; Jim Schow, 257/609; Bob Cooper Jr., 278.
St. Paul's Bowling — Dennis Allison, 685; Rod Florke, 248-8434; Don Gray, 224; Bob Pionat, 214; Ray Kuhl, 233/217.
Wendland Lanes — Ron LeChavaler, 277/778; Rick Bingley, 307/778; Paul Kovacs, 269/768; Terry Tamm, 704; Phil Horowitz, 275; Tom Berry, 271/737.
St. Paul's Presbyterian — Jim Day, 222/624; Guy Trubian, 218-6118; Michelle Madala, 218.
Father/Son (Dade) — Bob Magill, 227/826; Dave Gowill, 248-8434; Bob Cooper Jr., 278.
Wendland Lanes (Livonia) Sparrows — Larry Lenhardt, 208; Jan Balpacher, 258-8434.
LTP — Steve Rosenfeld, 278/713; Roger Watson, 705.
Meyers — Darlene Durkat, 254/706.

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- SATURDAY, MARCH 18
1:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company
2:00 Landscaping tips presented by Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association
4:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
5:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
7:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
9:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
1:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
3:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
4:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company

MONDAY, MARCH 20
4:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company
5:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
7:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
4:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
5:00 Landscaping tips presented by Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association
7:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
4:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
5:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
7:00 Landscaping tips presented by Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association

- THURSDAY, MARCH 23
4:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
5:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
7:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
9:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
4:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
5:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
7:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank
9:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
1:00 Landscaping tips presented by Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association
2:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
4:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company
5:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
7:00 Move to a new home or remodel your current home presented by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan
9:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
1:00 Natural gas appliances and heating and cooling products presented by MichCon Gas Company
3:00 Tools needed and the assembly of a do-it-yourself sunroom presented by Temo Sunrooms and Spas
4:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank

Regular Admission: Adults \$4.00; Seniors and Children 6-12 \$4.00; Children under 6 admitted FREE. Special Family Ticket, includes 2 adults and 4 children, \$9.00 - available only at Farmer Jack.