

Eaglets can't stop flu but CC they do

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

Orchard Lake St. Mary's boys basketball team had little defense last week against the flu, but plenty for Detroit Catholic Central senior guard Marc McDonald.

The flu-riddled Eaglets limited McDonald to 18 points Friday night in a 60-54 Catholic League crossover victory over the host Shamrocks.

The Eaglets played without sophomore center Larry Clark, sidelined by a cold. Several others had a touch of the flu, including senior center Juan Pegues, one of three Eaglets in double figures with 11 points.

The flu bug started with coach Denny Butcher, but apparently

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didn't get to guards Andre Harris and Matt McDaniel, who had the responsibility of guarding McDonald.

"I had to wear a mask all week in practice," joked Butcher. McDonald, who has signed with Loyola (Illinois), had accounted for 51 percent of CC's scoring the first two games.

"I've watched film of that young man and the quickness of his release is scary," Butcher said. "The focus of our team was stopping McDonald. Our goal as a team was to allow him no more

than 16 points." McDonald had 11 points by halftime and seven more in the second half, which is a good night for most high school players, but not needed to win. He made only two shots from three-point range.

"I heard of him scoring 30, 40 points and thought he was going to come out firing," said Harris. He wanted to play hard on him and just wanted to win. If he would have scored all their points, they still wouldn't have won."

Senior guard Kyle Jones led St. Mary's with 17 points, 11 in the first half. Mike Robinson added 15 points, nine before halftime.

The Eaglets committed only three second-half turnovers

while forcing the Shamrocks into 10. St. Mary's also enjoyed a 24-20 rebounding advantage after halftime.

Pegues was especially dominant, hauling down nine second-half rebounds.

CC's 6-foot-10 junior center Chris Young scored 16 points, eight in each half. Junior guard Joe Janna added eight.

The Shamrocks led 29-28 at halftime and 44-43 after three quarters. A three-point play and a put back by Pegues put St. Mary's ahead to stay, 48-46, early in the fourth quarter.

Juan and Mike (Robinson) switched off on Young. Butcher said, "I thought we'd win that matchup. Juan is a quality, quality player. Nothing against Young, who has a bright future,

but Juan is a little more advanced because he's a year older."

The Shamrocks trailed 52-49 and had a chance to tie, but McDonald's three-point shot rimmed out with about 2:30 remaining.

Young's two free throws cut the deficit to 62-61 with 1:33 left before Robinson's basket on the fast break put the Eagles up by three. The Eaglets made six of seven free throws in the last minute to seal the win.

The loss dropped CC to 1-2 overall. The Shamrocks are idle until Jan. 3 when they open Central Division play with a game against Redford Bishop Burgess.

"It's been a long week; they wanted it more than we did and played better down the end," CC

coach Rick Coratti said, referring to the Shamrocks' being idle on Tuesday night. "We have to get better (before facing Burgess). We're going to see (that kind of defensive pressure against McDonald) all year. We were trying to go inside more to Chris and Marc got some shots he usually makes. But that's going to happen sometimes."

In his post-game speech to the team, Butcher asked if anyone was going home on the bus. All the players were going home with their parents, leaving only Butcher and his coaching staff on the bus ride home.

With another game scheduled Monday against Detroit DePere and Butcher still fighting his cold, that was probably just as well.

Rashad helps Zebras keep Warriors winless

BY BRAD ENTONS
STAFF WRITER

Richard Rashad staged his

own coming out party Saturday, scoring a team-high 22 points Saturday as host Wayne Memorial downed Birmingham Broth-

er Rice in a non-league boys basketball game, 73-47.

The win improved Wayne's overall record to 4-1 overall, while Rice drops to 0-4.

Rashad, a 6-foot-4 senior forward, has been a varsity starter since his sophomore year, but he may have played his best basketball of his career against Rice, hitting nine of 12 shots from the floor, including a three-pointer.

Dropped from the starting lineup in last Thursday's win against Romulus, Rashad was also a presence on the boards (eight rebounds) and was a demon the defensive end (three blocks and three steals).

Rashad's a smart kid, he came up big-time," Wayne coach Chuck Henry said. "He had a really nice game. He even hit a 'three' and went to the offensive boards."

Rashad's play took the pressure off All-State guard Lorenzo Guess, who played a pivotal role in the victory.

"I've got to be consistent for the team's sake," Rashad said. "Coach (Henry) stresses every thing. I just have to be more

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competitive, play hard and stop team together."

"But I think I can have a better game coming up."

Although he didn't score his first field goal until midway through the second quarter, the 6-foot-3 point-guard Guess finished with 17 points, six assists and seven steals.

His brother LaVelle, the 6-1 sweet shooting lefty, came off the bench to contribute 12 — all on threes — while 6-2 senior forward Rodney Hurst added 13.

Rice trailed 15-5 after one quarter, but outscored Wayne 15-13 in the second period to cut the deficit to 28-20 at intermission.

The Warriors then closed the gap to 32-27 with five minutes to go in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Jason Hesano, but Henry quickly asked for a timeout to regroup his troops.

Lorenzo Guess immediately came out of the timeout to nail a three-pointer and the Zebras

were off and running, outscoring Rice 17-4 to take a commanding 49-31 advantage after three quarters.

Wayne outscored the Warriors 45-27 for the half.

"If we can get it together and play a full game, then things may fall into place," Henry said. "The whole tempo was better in the second half. We pushed the ball up and hit some threes."

The whole flow was better." Wayne made 28 of 57 shots from the floor (46.5 percent), including 11 threes, while Rice was 16 of 44 (36.3 percent), only just one of 13 in the first quarter.

"They (Wayne) are very quick and have a great player (Guess) who's very anxious for his team to win," Rice coach Bill Norton said. "They shoot the ball surprisingly well. And I didn't know that LaVelle was such an outstanding shooter. And of course Chuck (Henry) does a great job with those kids."

Rice's two inside threats, 6-7 junior Tom Marx and 6-6 junior Jon Poyer, scored 16 and 15 points, respectively, but no other

Warrior was in double figures.

"We're just not playing with the awareness you need to play efficiently," Norton said. "And why that happens is not clear. The game is for 32 minutes and so far we don't have enough awareness of where we're going. We play hard and we run hard, but right now we don't have a feel for it."

Like Wayne, Rice has played a brutal schedule. The Warriors have also lost to Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day and Flint Central.

"In my opinion — and I could be wrong — We have enough talent to play with Flint Central, Wayne and St. Mary's," Norton said. "But nobody is more talented than Country Day."

Wayne returns to action at 8 tonight at Detroit's Cobo Arena against Detroit Pershing. The triple-header starts at 4 p.m. with Detroit Mackenzie taking on Romeo. The 6 p.m. game features Westland John Glenn and Detroit Denby.

Tickets are \$5 per person.

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Central tops Western

BY JOE KYRIAKOZ
STAFF WRITER

To Walled Lake Central basketball coach Steve Emert, it was just another league victory. "It's another league game; it just happens to be an intra-city rivalry," Emert said.

Central's pinball-arcade-like drubbing Friday of crosstown rival Walled Lake Western, 94-47, improved the Vikings to 2-1 heading into the holiday break.

But Emert would rather deem this win as extremely important.

"I just don't want (beating Western) to be our goal for the season," he said.

For about 2½ quarters, the crowd received an early Christmas gift. Both teams scratched and clawed their way through defenses, dove for loose balls, added a little extra effort behind a foul; this one had the makings of a barn-burner.

Despite the physical play, the scoring came at an alarming rate. In three games before this contest, Western held teams to under 50 points in each. At the half, Central led 41-23 and was doing everything but struggling to score.

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"The game had gotten into their pace," Western coach Rex Stanczak said. "We didn't think Walled Lake Central would shoot the ball that well."

In the third quarter, both teams came out with plenty of firepower. The teams traded baskets for about half of the quarter until Central's transition game took over.

The Vikings scored 10 unanswered points, giving them a 15-point advantage. Western cut the lead to 11 before the end of the quarter, but the momentum seemed to be awaying Central's way.

"A big key was to keep the defensive intensity up," Emert said.

That they did. Central held Western scoreless for the first two minutes of the fourth, enabling them to pull far enough away to ensure a victory.

"They just out-executed us," Stanczak said. Free throws played a large role in Central's fourth quarter. The Vikings were sent to the charity stripe an amazing 29 times in

the quarter, converting 23 in a 29-point quarter.

Leading the victorious Vikings in scoring was Brad Burlingame who poured in a game-high 26 points, including 10 from the free throw line.

Todd Negoshian contributed 19 while Corey Heltch tallied 14 and Nathan Bruce added 11 points.

Western's Mike Massey scored 25 points and Mark Mitchell recorded 19. Dave Kaznecki and Josh Myers chipped in 10 apiece.

Stanczak compared the difference between his squad and Central.

"We're a solid, fundamental team," Stanczak said. "They're a team that wants to create chaos on the court and trap you. It's much to their advantage when they're able to do that."

Stanczak feels his 9-1 Warriors can still rebound from this defeat.

"We must keep in mind that it's the fourth game of a 20-game regular season," he said. "We lost one game." Both squads return to action on Jan. 2. Western travels to Rochester and Central travels to Rochester Adams.

WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL Thursday, Dec. 26 (at Palace of Auburn Hills) St. Agathe vs. N.D. Prep, 1:30 a.m. Redford Union vs. Thurston, 3 a.m. (Superintendent's Classic at Cobo) John Glenn vs. Det. Denby, 6 p.m. Wayne vs. Det. Pershing, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27 PCA at Adrian Lenawee, TBA. Bishop Burgess vs. Willow Run at Southgate Aquinas, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 PCA at Adrian Lenawee, TBA.
- GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Friday, Dec. 27 Temperance Baptist Inv., 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 UM Dearborn Tournament, 8 a.m. Ypsilanti Tournament, 8:30 a.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 27 (Schoolcraft Holiday Tourney) Concordia vs. Owens Tech, 6 p.m. Schoolcraft vs. Lakefield CC, 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), TBA. Schoolcraft Tourney, 3 & 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29 Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), TBA. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Dec. 27 Lakefield CC vs. Windsor, 2 p.m. Schoolcraft vs. Geo. Brown, 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 Schoolcraft Holiday Classic, 1 & 5 p.m. TBA — times to be announced.

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