Shamrocks hand Rangers 1st loss

HOCKEY

Redford Catholic Central wrapped the its regular-season with a 6-2 win Monday over previously-undefeated Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central at Redford Arena.

The Shamrocks, 22-1-1 overall, outscored Central 6-1 in the second period after a 1-1 tie through the first 15 minutes.

Sophomore Ben Dunne played the first 2 1/2 periods in net, surrendering three goals. Andrew McCoy played the remaining minutes.

Senior Keith Rowe scored two goals and Todd Bentley, Pat O'Dea, Brad Holland, David Moss, Joe Hillebrand and Joe Moreau scored one goal each.

Nathan LeWarne, Ryan Yost, Holland and Rick Buttery had two assists apiece. Brandon Kaleniecki, Moss, Jim Spiewak, Moreau, Rowe, Chris Morelli, Dunne and Erik Hawkins contributed one each.

On Saturday, the Shamrocks beat Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, 2-1, in a non-league game at Redford Arena.

CC scored two goals in the second period after a scoreless first period. Dunne gave up one goal in the third.

Holland opened the scoring, assisted by Bentley and Moss. Kaleniecki scored the second goal, assisted by Yost.

STEVENSON 5, BROTHER RICE 3: Livonia Stevenson outshot Brother Rice, 32-10, but it took a spectacular four-goal night by Mark Nebus to overcome the Warriors.

The Spartans held a 3-2 lead after the first period, with Nebus scoring twice and assisting on John May's goal, and outscored the Warriors, 2-1, in the second period. The third period was scoreless.

Ryan Sink assisted on Nebus' first tally while May and Mike Nebus assisted on his second. Both Nebus brothers assisted on May's goal.

Brendon Peters scored for Brother Rice to cut the margin to 3-1, with assists by Erik Meier and Sean Clark. The margin was 3-2 when Clark scored, assisted by Meier.

Stevenson hiked its lead to 4-2 when Nebus completed his hat trick to open the second period scoring. Jason Gildersleeve and Jon Kotulski drew the assists.

Brother Rice countered with a Jason Tooles goal off an assist by Jim Healy.

Nebus notched his fourth goal to round out the scoring. Willie Wilson and Dan Cieslak assisted on the score.

Harris had Kevin Marlowe in goal for the first two periods and he faced half the Warriors' shots. Chris McComb worked the third period and faced the other five shots.

Stevenson finished the regular season with a 19-2-2 record.

WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Thursday, Feb. 25

(CHSL Playoffs at Schoolcraft)

Cabrini vs. Benedictine, 6 p.m.

Brother Rice vs. Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 26

Franklin at Farmington, 7 p.m.

Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Belleville at Wayne, 7 p.m.

Southgate at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Annapolis at Thurston, 7 p.m.

Redford Union at Crestwood, 7 p.m.

Clarenceville at Hamtramck, 7 p.m.

Luth. W'sld at Harper Wds., 7 p.m.

Huron Valley at Roeper, 8 p.m.

(Western Lakes Playoffs 1st Round)

Northville at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.

W.L. Central at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.

Harrison at Ply. Salem, 7 p.m.

Canton at John Glenn, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Borgess at Muskegon Hts., 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 28

(CHSL Finals at U-D's Calihan Hall)

C-D Division final, noon.

East-West final, 2 p.m.

Central-AA final, 4 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

DISTRICT TOURNEY PAIRINGS

CLASS A

at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA

Thursday, Feb. 25: (A) Livonia Stevenson vs. (B) Redford Catholic Central, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 26: Livonia Churchill vs. Livonia Franklin, 3:30 p.m. Redford Unified vs. A-B winner, 5:50 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Trenton regional final Saturday, March 6 at Kennedy Arena vs. Trenton district champion.)

at PLYMOUTH'S COMPUWARE ARENA

Friday, Feb. 26: (A) Bloomfield Hills Lahser vs. (B) West Bloomfield, 5 p.m.; (C) Southfield Unified vs. (D) Birmingham Unified, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27: Farmington Unified vs. Birmingham Brother Rice, 11 a.m.; A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the University of Detroit-Jesuit regional final Saturday March 6 at City Sports Arena in Detroit vs. Grosse Pointe South district champion.)

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

Saturday, Feb. 27

Ply. Whalers vs. Kitchener

at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 28

Ply. Whalers vs. Windsor

at Compuware Arena, 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Feb. 25

Huron Valley at Det. Urban, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27

Ypsilanti Invitational, 8 a.m.

UM-Dearborn Tourney, 8:30 a.m.

WLAA Tourney at Northville, 9 a.m.

Metro Tourney at Luth. North, 9 a.m.

TBA — time to be announced.

St. Mary's tops CC in semis

BASKETBALL

BY STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
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Orchard Lake St. Mary sophomore guard Grant Mason just got over a cold, and for Nick Moore's sake, it's a good thing.

Moore, Detroit Catholic Central's senior guard, would have been sure to catch it the way Mason guarded him in Wednesday's Catholic League A-B Division boys basketball semifinal at Schoolcraft College.

Moore didn't score until 4:53 remained in the second quarter and by then the Eaglets already had a commanding 36-20 lead.

St. Mary's combined pressure defense and outstanding shooting to go on a dizzying 25-3 run in the first half on route to an 86-73 victory.

Mason scored eight points, including a pair of three-point basket during an 18-3 run to end the first quarter, but his ball-hawking defense drew the most praise.

Moore, who has signed with Toledo, scored 20 points in the Shamrocks' 59-56 win over the Eaglets in December. He was held to 14 this time, 11 after halftime, on six of 18 shooting.

"All week the coaches drilled to me that he's the head because he's so smart," Mason said. "I planned to get out there and take the head off their team. If I could deny him the ball and keep him out of the offense we had a good chance."

The win sends the Eaglets, 15-3 overall, into the championship game at 4 p.m. Sunday at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall. St. Mary's plays the winner of tonight's game between Birmingham Brother Rice and Harper Woods Notre Dame, also at Schoolcraft.

St. Mary's made 11 of 20 shots in the first quarter and when it missed it seemed like the Eaglets were grabbing the rebounds for an easy put-back.

St. Mary's outrebounded CC 17-6 in the first quarter and 39-33 for the game. CC had 16 turnovers to St. Mary's 11.

Junior guard Jonte Jones led the Eaglets with 26 points and Maurice Searight, another junior guard, added 21. Jermaine Gonzales, still another junior, contributed 13 points.

"I don't think they ran like that the first time, or we just got back faster then," Moore said.

Senior guard Dan Jess came off the bench to score 19 for CC, including three three-point baskets. Junior guard Rob Sparks had 15, senior forward Dave Lusky had 13 and junior forward Matt Loridas 10.

Lusky led CC with nine rebounds and Loridas had eight.

Both teams like to run the break, St. Mary's just gave itself a lot more chances to do so.

"We're a quick team; we've got to go," St. Mary's coach George Porritt said. "They get out and go, too, but we knew we had to stop Nick Moore. We wanted to get off to a good start. We had to; that's the Central Division champions."

CC trailed 46-27 at halftime and 67-49 through three quarters before making a final run. The Shamrocks started the fourth on a 10-2 spurt, including a triple from the corner by Moore, to cut the lead to 69-59 and then forced St. Mary's into consecutive five-second calls.

But St. Mary's regained momentum with a 9-4 run, including six points by Charles Davis and a three by Jones to go ahead 78-63 with two minutes left.

The loss ended a seven-game winning streak by the Shamrocks, who are 13-5 overall.

"They beat us down the floor the first half pretty good and doubled Nick, kept the ball out of his hands," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Transition is our game, too, believe it or not. We have three guys who can shoot the three, and we tried to get them to spots."

Hockey *from page C1*

Ward all scored in less than a two-minute span as the Whalers pounded Otters' goalie Corey Batten with 22 shots, while Erie had just three.

The Otters' Paul Harvey narrowed the gap to 3-1 at 11:09 of the second period, but goals by Plymouth's James Ramsay and Harold Druken finished the period — and the Otters.

Druken and Newman both had a goal and an assist, and Adam Colagiacomo had two assists for the Whalers. Batten faced 47 shots in the game, making 42 saves; Rob Zepp made 18 saves for Plymouth.

This weekend, the Whalers have home games against Kitchener at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Windsor at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Ambassadors win twice

The Compuware Ambassadors remained atop the North American Hockey League with two road wins last weekend, 6-4 over Team USA Sunday and 3-2 over the Grand Rapids BearCats Saturday. The victories improved the Ambassadors' NAHL-leading record to 30-10-5.

J.J. Swistak and Phil Lewandowski scored two goals apiece in Sunday's win over Team USA (10-32-1). Rob Globke had two goals in Compuware's win Saturday over the BearCats (21-25-0).

Raiders *from page C1*

have the inside-outside game, and they have good ball handling. Tom has done a nice job with that team."

After a sluggish start by both teams — their first-quarter shooting percentages were in the low teens — Watha broke a 7-7 tie with back-to-back triples in the second period. His third three gave the Raiders a 19-15 halftime lead.

"Of all the kids, fortunately, he was shooting well," Negoshian said, a reference to Watha's ability to turn a game around with his perimeter shooting. "Phil did a great job for us."

"We wanted to play Watha and Albert pretty tough man-to-man," Mikel said. "We didn't want to sag and help, because Emir does a good job of kicking it out and those two can shoot the perimeter shot.

"That meant we guarded Bridges and Emir one-on-one down in the paint, which is kinda dangerous, but we had to give up something.

"We did a pretty good job. But then Phil got away from us a few times, and it was tough for us to recover from that."

The Raiders scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and led 32-17 after Deljosevic sank his three.

But the Falcons scored the last nine to get within six at the end, 32-26, and Gilchrist came off the bench to spark Farmington in the fourth quarter.

Gilchrist scored seven straight points for the Falcons, including a three to cut North's lead to 36-33 with six minutes remaining.

"They shut down our big scoring threats, but Garlin stepped up," Mikel said. "He kept us in it for a while, but we couldn't seem to get anybody else on track from the perimeter."

Seaborn's basket with four minutes left kept it a three-point difference, 38-35, but Farmington didn't score again.

The Falcons failed to capitalize on a North turnover and missed shots on their next two possessions.

The Raiders, meanwhile, got two free throws from Deljosevic and another three from Watha to build their lead back to eight with a minute to play. Deljosevic added two free throws with nine seconds remaining.

"Give credit where it's due," Negoshian said. "(The Falcons) did a great job on Emir, but we hung in there, did some things and won the game."

North was 16-of-51 (31 percent) from the floor and 8-of-10 at the line; Farmington was 15-of-47 (32 percent) and 4-of-7, respectively.

The Raiders will play host to Walled Lake Central in a first-round WLAA playoff game Friday. The Falcons were one game and one place short of qualifying for the tournament.

"I've been in this league since it started, and I really believe this year's tournament, one through eight, is as tough as it's ever been," Negoshian said. "Anyone can win it."

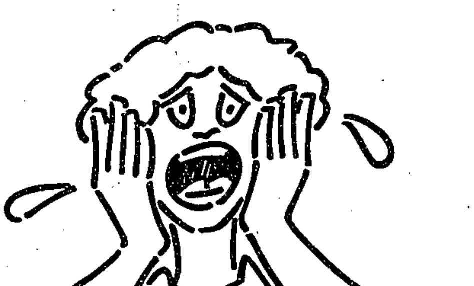
LUTH. NORTH 56, CLARENCEV. 45: Poor shooting doomed the Trojans. Clarenceville made just 19 of 53 shots Tuesday while in falling to host Macomb Lutheran North.

Sophomore center Scott Wion scored 14 points to lead the Trojans, and junior forward Rick Burack contributed 10.

David Schwark scored 23 points for the Mustangs while teammate John Blanchard added 12.

Lutheran North (9-8) upped its Metro Conference mark to 8-5 while Clarenceville (6-11) droppd to 5-8.

The Mustangs posted a 14-6 second quarter to extend its lead to 27-17 at the half. Clarenceville couldn't cut into the margin in the third period, losing another five points.



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