

LOCAL SPORTS

Mercy Softball Camp scheduled

The Annual Mercy High School Softball Camp will take place 9 a.m. to noon on six Saturdays in early 2003. The camp dates are Jan. 11, 18 and 25, Feb. 1 and 15 and March 1. The camp is for girls in grades 5-12. The cost is \$50 for six sessions. For more information or to register call Sue Graves at (734) 981-5455.

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CC graduate orchestrates upset of MSU

BY BRAD EMOUS
STAFF WRITER

When he was a freshman guard during the 1999-2000 season at the University of Toledo, Nick Moore was on the losing end of a 78-33 score to Michigan State at the Breslin Center.

On Dec. 30, the senior from Redford Catholic Central High helped orchestrate one of the biggest upsets of the 2002-03 college basketball season.

Hitting four of seven three-point shots en route to a team-high 19 points, the 6-foot-1, 186-pound guard was the man of the hour as the Rockets stunned No. 15-ranked MSU, 81-76, before 14,759 at the Breslin Center.

It was only the third home loss in 68 games for the Spartans, who fell to 8-3 overall. Toledo, meanwhile, upped its mark to 7-4.

Needless to say, Moore and his Rocket teammates made a meteoric burst that Monday evening onto ESPN's Sports Center.

A win two years ago over nationally-ranked Cincinnati was another highlight, but that was pale in comparison because it occurred on a neutral floor.

"I told the guys this is something you play your whole career for, you live for moments like this," said Moore, who is



Moore

averaging career-high 15 points per game. "Nobody gave us a chance to win, but we gave ourselves a chance if we came out playing hard."

Moore, handling the point-guard position a majority of the time, was a calming influence in the second half as Toledo fought off a Spartan second-half rally.

But Moore scored 14 of his 19 during the final 20 minutes, including three big triples and three critical free throws down the stretch, to stun the MSU faithful.

"MSU has a great team and they'll win a lot of games, but we've been shooting the three-ball well and we did a good job of checking out on the glass," Moore said. "We knew everyone had to rebound. When we got up by nine in the first half I knew we were playing well."

"It was just amazing."

What he may lack in quickness, brute strength or leaping ability, Moore is able to counter with court savvy, a deft outside shooting touch and most important of all — leadership skills.

"If you look up student-athlete in the dictionary, Nick is

the definition," Toledo coach Stan Joplin said of the business and finance major. "He's not a holler guy, he leads by example."

"He knows his limits and his strengths, and that's a big plus. He's become a complete player. Not only is he a better passer, better shooter and better ball-handler, he's improved as a defender. He was not a good defender when he came to us, but he's worked just as hard on that aspect of his game."

The Ypsilanti native has increased his numbers steadily over his four-year career. He is Toledo's all-time three-point field goal shooter.

After scoring 5.3 points per game as a freshman, Moore averaged 10.1 as a sophomore and 14.2 as a junior.

This season, he is shooting 42.6 percent from three-point range and 83.3 from the free throw line. Moore scored a season-high 25 earlier this year against Youngstown State and has a career-high 31 against Western Michigan (Feb. 23, 2002).

On Feb. 13, 2002, Moore nailed all seven of his triple attempts vs. Akron to set a school record. In the process, he also tied both Mid-American Conference and Savage Hall marks.

Joplin, a former six-year

assistant at MSU, was almost apologetic for the upset of the Spartans. He had a hard time explaining the sudden turn of events following a 94-68 loss the previous game against St. Bonaventure. (In that game, Moore scored a season-low seven points.)

"I guess we'll be on a ESPN for a day," Joplin said. "I guess in the short term it's good for our players, but this doesn't mean a thing if we don't focus and come out with a good performance against Northern Illinois (Jan. 8 at home)."

Moore, the senior leader he has become, also sounded afterwards like a coach, a line of work he may seriously consider following graduation.

"This is huge, but we have to keep our focus," he said. "We have to perform. We just can't hang our hat on this."

During Moore's career, Toledo has enjoyed only one postseason appearance, that coming in the 2001 National Invitational Tournament (NIT) where the Rockets were ousted in the second round by Alabama. That means he has some unfinished business left in the Glass City.

"I'm dying to get to the NCAAs," the guard said. "This is it. I'm a senior. Obviously, I hope this is the year."

benon2@home.com.net (734) 953-2123

THE WEEK AHEAD

DOYS BASKETBALL	Thursday, Jan. 9	Wednesday, Jan. 8	Mercy vs. E. Lansing at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	Seaholm at Farmington, 7 p.m. N. Farmington at Lake Orion, 7 p.m. Farm. Harrison at Clawson, 7 p.m.	Mott, Seaholm at Farmington, 5 p.m. N. Farmington vs. Ferndale 4 Oak Park, 6 p.m. at Southfield High School. Dondoro, Lathrup at Harrison, 6:30 p.m.	PREP HOCKEY Wednesday, Jan. 8 Farm. vs. Clarkston at Leper, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Clarenceville at Lathrup, 7 p.m. Farmington and Harrison at Troy Tournament, 8 a.m.	Thursday, Jan. 9 Redford CC, Southgate at Romulus, 6 p.m. Oquad meet at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 10 Redford CC at Park Tudor (Ind.), 8 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8	BOYS SWIMMING Tuesday, Jan. 7 Churchill at N. Farmington, 6:30 p.m. Redford CC at Stevenson, 7 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 11 Farmington at Avondale Invite, 9 a.m. N. Farmington at Lakeland Invite, 8 a.m. Shamrock Invitational at CC, 10 a.m.	Saturday, Jan. 11 Lamphere at Farm. United, 8 p.m. Redford CC at Park Tudor (Ind.), 7:15 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9	Friday, Jan. 10 H.W. Notre Dame at Redford CC, 7:30 p.m. Berkley at N. Farmington, 7 p.m. Harrison at Seaholm, 7:30 p.m. Farmington at Lamphere, 7:30 p.m. Redford CC at U-D Jesuit, 7:30 p.m.	GIRLS GYMNASTICS Monday, Jan. 6 Farmington at Brook Adams, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8 Farmington at Rochester, 7 p.m. PREP SKIING Tuesday, Jan. 7 Mercy vs. Seaholm at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9	Sunday, Jan. 12 Redford CC at Culver Military (Ind.), 2 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10	GIRLS VOLLEYBALL Monday, Jan. 6 Farmington at Adams, 6:30 p.m. Kimball at North Farmington, 7 p.m. Dondoro at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m. Clarenceville at Ply, Christian, 7 p.m.	Ontario Hockey League Sunday, Jan. 5 Whalers at London Knights, 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 Whalers at Kitchener Rangers, 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10 Whalers vs. Windsor (Compware), 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 Whalers vs. Sarnia (Compware), 7:30 p.m.	

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