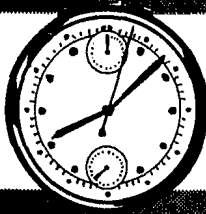


Local Cage Play-off Chances Hinge On OFA Game



Courier and Freeman
SPORTS

MIKE KNAPP

... on the sidelines

Early this winter I wrote a column reviewing the various high school and college basketball teams in the area. I predicted at that time that the cage squads would hold their own in all cases, and that the hoop sport might very well take away some of the spotlight from the more popular and attention-getting sport of hockey. Now with regular seasons just about to draw to a close, and several tournaments and play-offs on tap, I think it is safe to say that the accomplishments of these teams have not disappointed me or made a liar out of me. The proof is all there.

Talk of basketball "success" and you talk about the Maroon and Grey of the State University College here in Potsdam. Everything was new when coach and players met for the first time last fall. Lou LaGrand had come from Columbia University. He had been told there was some material to work with, but he had also been warned it would be rough. Rough? LaGrand reports it was plenty rough, but the record now stands 12 straight wins with a superb 15-3 record. The Potsdam State team has not lost a game since before Christmas, and there's more. The local cagers will compete in the State University tournament at Cortland State next weekend, and predictions around the state are that the LaGrandmen may pull the upset of the year.

The success of the Potsdam team is a big story. It's more than just a win streak or a good record. It's the prestige that comes with such achievement, and the happy prospects of an easier recruiting program, and the guarantee of returning players. It's also increased "school spirit" — a most important by-product, and this winter I'm informed that Potsdam State fans have been packing the gym to overflow for every contest. As a matter of fact, there has apparently been a minor revolt. A State girl and Clarkson man have a Friday night date. The teacher takes her by the arm and unconsciously starts dragging her down Pierrepont Avenue toward the hockey arena where the Golden Knights are playing. Suddenly, there is a balk and a protest. "No, I want to see the basketball team play," she says. "The teacher gulps and wonders what horrible punishment awaits him for being disloyal?"

Meanwhile, the Potsdam State team continues to gain statewide and even national recognition by virtue of the fact that it is second in defense among the nation's small-college teams, according to ECAC statistics. LaGrand taught his men defensive basketball well, and it has paid off. It is not surprising to see them as second in the nation in defense when you see the score of their game last Saturday against Maritime, 64-27. That's defense all right.

So Potsdam State will enter the Cortland tourney next weekend prepared for all opponents. Regardless of what happens at that event, all State students and all sports fans in the area should be proud of the job which this plucky team has done this season — their best in many years.

However, the State team is not the only college quintet in Potsdam having itself an excellent season. The Golden Knight cagers, under Coach Al Chadwick, now possess a brilliant 10-4 record — the best basketball mark in that institution in a good long while. Although Al has been at Tech several years longer than LaGrand has been at State, he too has built from scratch, and the results finally came out this season. In essence, it would be hard to compare these two collegiate teams. It is a fact that Clarkson plays a rougher schedule than State, and has knocked off some of the top small-college teams in New York State, including Siena College, University of Rochester, Hamilton, Alfred, and Hartwick. It would be hard to say that Tech is the better team on this basis, however.

Like State, Clarkson's personnel has been pretty well balanced this year. However, two outstanding players deserve recognition — co-captain Carl Putnam and Dick Heroux. Putnam, whose play for Clarkson improved each year he performed here, reached his peak this season, and should be in the running for All-East honors. He is still averaging 20 points a contest. Heroux, a scrappy Junior, has been the big surprise for the Tech five this winter and shows great promise for the future.

Con Elliott reviewed the Potsdam High hoop team last week, so I won't take time to do it here, except to say that they deserve the admiration of all of us for their efforts. As Hal Gillette said last week, the Northern League has been the tightest this year it has been in many moons. And it has been anyone's race and still is. Potsdam has held its own, and almost came up with "the big one" last Friday against Tupper Lake here, losing finally in overtime. They did pull the poke out of the fire Tuesday, however, by beating Canton. The boys advanced with the season, and were doing well in the middle part. Then with three games left, they found themselves face-to-face with the three leading teams in the loop — Tupper, Canton, and OFA. No easy task! Playoffs or no playoffs, you've done well, men, and good luck Friday!

Finally, let's not forget our neighboring hoop celebrities, Madrid-Waddington and Colton-Pierrepont. Madrid breezed through its season undefeated until the last contest when Heuvelton did the trick. Tonight the Yellowjackets will defend their Valley League crown in the teeming Clarkson gym against arch-rival Lisbon, and it always seems to come down to this. Madrid will probably win and keep its domination of Valley League sports. Colton, on-the-other-hand, has fought for each victory it has received and made the playoffs by the skin of its teeth, defeating Parishville 62-60 last Friday. Colton will participate in the Oswegatchie League play-offs which begin Saturday in the Clarkson gym.

Well, that pretty much takes care of the hoop picture for now. For all the tourney teams, all I can do is wish "good luck", and be proud of the splendid job which all basketball squads have done this winter. Who says the hoop sport is dead in this area? Don't believe it.

Tech To Face Eagles, SLU In Vital Tilts

By Bill Cleverly
Clarkson Tech Icemen will face the crucial test of the season tomorrow night and next Tuesday night when they meet respectively the Boston College Eagles and St. Lawrence here at the Tech Arena.

The outcome of these games will make a great deal of difference in the round robin play-offs for ECAC tournament bids and eventual NCAA invitations.

Clarkson has met Boston College twice this season and split the meets. The Knights took the first contest in Boston in a 3-0 shutout and dropped to the Eagles in the finals of the ECAC Holiday Hockey Tournament 3-1.

Clarkson has met the Larries once so far this season and lost in a 3-2 overtime battle. In order for Clarkson to gain the Tri-State championship, it must defeat the Larries on Tuesday night and then the Larries must drop their final contest to R.P.I. Otherwise the Tri-State League will end in a two-way tie between Clarkson and St. Lawrence.

Eight teams are selected for the round-robin of the ECAC tournament which begins Mar. 5. The top four teams will play on home ice. Wins for Clarkson in these last two games will probably secure them number one position in the East, which means that they would meet the eighth ranked team on Clarkson ice on Mar. 5.

At the present time the matches between these three teams Clarkson, B.C. and St. Lawrence, looms up as the most important battle in Eastern Hockey. Clarkson would like nothing better to head for ECAC tournaments, and the same goes for B.C. and S.L.U. Boston College, hosting the NCAA Tournament at its own McCue Forum, has its eye firmly fixed on ending it that tournament, but first it has to get by two determined North Country teams, who will be looking for repeats of last years births in post-season tournament hockey.

"Hat tricks" by Arnie Lawlor and Corby Adams gave a slow-starting Clarkson team a 7-3 victory over the Engineers of R.P.I. last Saturday night before a packed house of screaming hockey fans here.

17-3-1 Record
This win, coupled with Tuesday night's 9-1 win over Queens, gives the Golden Knights a 17-3-1 record to date with a 10-2-1 record in all-important Eastern collegiate play.

R.P.I. jumped to a quick two goal lead in the early minutes of play, but the determined Clarkson junior line evened up the score on two goals by Adams. R.P.I.'s Bob Brinkworth sent the Engineers into a 3-2 lead at the end of the first period.

Lawlor got the first of three early in the second period to even up the score and then connected again midway through the period to send the Knights into the lead. Adams sent the local team into a 5-3 lead in the same period when he lit the lamp on a shot from the blue line.

In the third period Roger Purdie and Lawlor added a little more insurance to the score when they hit for the Knights to end the game 7-3.

Fine Defense
Throughout the contest the sterling defensive play of the Knights was in a large measure, the big deterrent against more R.P.I. scoring.

Tuesday night the Knights skated to an easy 9-1 win over Queens in the second win over the Kingston, Ont. team in the season.



VARSITY TEAMSTERS — Members of the Potsdam Central High School varsity basketball team pose here for the Courier photographer. Front row, left to right are: L. Casey, R. Reed, R. Donovan, F. Sverdlow, R. Northrop, M. Mein, J. McSparran, and T. Sharlow. Second row, Coach Hal Gillette, S. Clarence, D. Duncan, T. LaVigne, C. Duncan, J. Osier and G. Blair, manager. Missing are Vic Goldsmith and Gerry McLaughlin, manager.

- Sports Calendar -

| Thursday, Feb. 23 | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 7:30 p.m. | Basketball | Finals, Valley League | Clarkson Gym |
| | | Hammond JV's vs. Morristown JV's | |
| | | Madrid-Waddington vs. Lisbon | |
| Friday, Feb. 24 | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Hockey | Junior Hockey | Arena |
| 3:00 p.m. | Wrestling | Clarkson vs. Ithaca | Ithaca |
| 3:00 p.m. | Basketball | Clarkson vs. Ithaca | Ithaca |
| 7:30 p.m. | Basketball | Potsdam vs. O.P.A. | Potsdam |
| 7:30 p.m. | Basketball | Norwood-Norfolk vs. Gouverneur | Norwood |
| Saturday, Feb. 25 | | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | Hockey | Clarkson vs. Boston C. | Arena |
| 8:00 a.m. | Hockey | Junior Hockey | Arena |
| 3:00 p.m. | Wrestling | Clarkson vs. R.I.T. & Case | Rochester |
| 3:00 p.m. | Basketball | Clarkson vs. R.I.T. | Rochester |
| 3:00 p.m. | Basketball | Potsdam State vs. Oneonta | Potsdam |
| 7:30 p.m. | Basketball | Oswegatchie League | Clarkson Gym |
| Sunday, Feb. 26 | | | |
| 8:15 p.m. | Hockey | St. Lawrence vs. Boston C. | Canton |
| 8:00 p.m. | Hockey | Clarkson vs. St. Lawrence | Potsdam |

Colton Cagers Gain League Playoff Spot

Colton High's basketball team secured a berth in the Oswegatchie League's semi-final playoffs this coming Saturday at the Clarkson gym as it chalked up a 66-62 win over Parishville last Friday night.

Colton ended up its season with a 5-5 record and third place in the League. Clifton-Fine led the League with a 9-1 record followed by Russell, 8-2; Colton; and Harrisville, 4-6. Edwards and Parishville tied for fifth place in the League.

In the semi-finals on Saturday, Knox Memorial of Russell will face Harrisville in the final game and Clifton-Fine will meet Colton in the second game. The semi-finals will begin at 7:30 p. m.

Colton led all the way last Friday night although final half scoring for the two teams was within one point of each other. Colton led 22-15 at the end of the first quarter and 39-36 at the half. Parishville poured on the coal in the third period and both teams came up with 12 points. Scoring was close in the final period with Colton scoring 15 points to Parishville's 14.

Potsdam, Norwood Ice Sextets Win Division Titles In Clarkson Event

Potsdam High and Norwood-Norfolk High were the victorious teams in the Annual Clarkson Invitational Hockey Tournament this past weekend. Potsdam took the Class "A" championship by downing Lake Placid 6-2 and Norwood took the Class "B" trophy with a 6-5 win over Alexandria Bay. This was Norwood's first victory over the Ghosts in the last 14 starts.

Friday night marked the start of the Tourney with Norwood paired off against St. Lawrence Central; Lake Placid paired with Massena and Potsdam facing off against Canton. Norwood took an easy victory from St. Lawrence Central 5-0, while Lake Placid shut out Massena 3-0. The Potsdam Sandstoners then skated to a 6-2 win over the Canton Golden Bears to gain a final berth.

Alexandria Bay started off a determined contest against Norwood the following morning. With 36 seconds gone in the first period the Ghosts' Stan Parker connected to start the scoring. Tom McCabe evened it up at 4:38 and then Hal Chopin scored to put Norwood out in front at the end of the first stanza.

2-2 Edge
Alex Bay did all the scoring in the second frame as Bruce Beany lit the lamp at 6:46 of the period. Potsdam tallied two more goals to finish the scoring. Kearns sent the disk into the net at 11:01 and Putnam connected for number two of the afternoon at 13:58 to give Potsdam the

win and the championship. Trophies were presented to the winners by Arena Director William Conroy on behalf of Clarkson College.

N-N To Host Gouverneur Friday In Season's Finale; Lose To Malone

Norwood took a 22-11 scoring edge, but it wasn't enough.

Pat Towne was high for Norwood with 18 points followed by Gary Wolstenholme with 17. Malone's Tony Harwood tied Towne for the night's scoring honors with 18 points.

The Malone Jayvees took that contest, beating Norwood 42-28.

It was Malone's big 23 points in the second period, while holding Norwood to 5, that gave them the game. The two teams battled to a fairly even 18-14 first period score with the Huskies ahead. However, after the hosts unleashed their second frame attack, they had a 40-19 halftime advantage.

In the third frame Malone again outscored the losers, 26-21, and with substitutes playing most of the final stanza,

Ithaca To Host CCT Five, Matmen

This weekend will show the Clarkson College wrestling and basketball teams on the road. This Friday both teams will be matched against Ithaca College opposites at Ithaca. On Saturday the Clarkson hoopers will take on Rochester Institute of Technology while the Golden Knight wrestlers will participate in a triangular match with R.I.T. and Case Institute, also at Rochester.

In the past weekend play both teams won their respective matches with the Tech basketball team beating Hartwick 62-56 and the grapplers soundly drubbing Hobart 27-3 on Saturday.

Scoring 71 percent of its shots from the foul line, the Tech basketball team came from behind to beat the Hartwick team in a very close game. Success in free throws spelled the difference between a win and a loss. Hartwick hit 23 field goals, while the Golden Knights had 20, but the home team had 22 from the foul line to 10 by the visitors. This gives Clarkson a 10-4 record for the season.

Clarkson took an early lead in the game, but Hartwick evened up the score and pulled ahead 35-30 at half-time.

In the early minutes of the second half, Hartwick kept its marginal lead. The Knights were down 36-42 when Co-Capt. Carl Putnam picked up one point from the foul line, followed by two successive one-pointers by Jules Pigliacampi and field goals by Tom Anderson and Dick Heroux to give the home team a one point lead. The game was tied up five times after that, until successive two-pointers by Anderson, Pigliacampi, Putnam and Clayt Liljequist and free throws by Putnam gave Clarkson the final advantage.

PHS Quintet Upsets Canton

Friday night is THE night for the never-say-day Potsdam High cagers. To begin with, the Sandstoners must defeat ram-paging Ogdensburg OFA here, and then they must blow a few shamrocks toward Massena to hope that the Red Raiders can upend Canton High. If this happens, the Potsdam courtmen will have miraculously gained a tie for fourth place in the tight Northern League and a chance for a play-off berth.

First, however, they will have to defeat Canton in a fourth place play-off, and to add to the confusion, if Saranac Lake should win Friday, they too will be in fourth place, necessitating a three-way play-off.

All this confusion developed Tuesday as a result of the local hoopers' 63-53 upset win over the Canton Golden Bears in Canton. The odds of Potsdam making the play-offs before that game were almost impossible, but now there is a chance. The Sandstoners have been knocking at the door for weeks now, losing an overtime heartbreaker to League-leading Tupper Lake here last Friday, and making things harder for themselves with an earlier loss to seventh place Gouverneur.

Big Day
Now the big day is Friday. A combination of a Potsdam win and a Canton loss will give the Sandstoners the tie. A combination of a Potsdam win, a Saranac Lake win, and a Canton loss will make it a three-way race.

Fred Sverdlow sent 22 points up on the big board Tuesday night to pace the Sandstoners to their all-important 63-53 win over a strong Canton squad. Bill Ramoda was top for the losers with 20 points for the evening.

Canton matched Potsdam in the first and fourth periods in the scoring columns, but a big 10 point difference held by Potsdam in the second and third made the difference in the end.

Potsdam did big scoring in the third period when it picked up 16 points to Canton's eight. The Sandstoners picked up two extra points in the second period to lead at the half 29-27. Equal scoring in the fourth period kept Potsdam's lead for the win.

100th Win
This win gave Potsdam Coach Hal Gillette his 100th win since the start of his coaching career. Gillette was extremely pleased with the victory, and complimented his team on a "good team effort," while adding that he was "proud of the boys."

The Potsdam JV's picked up a 49-36 win over their Canton equals in the opener.

Tupper Lake was hard pressed to keep its lead in Northern League play on Friday night when a determined Sandstoner team gave all they had, but had to face a three minute overtime loss, 48-46. Potsdam was leading with four seconds to go, but Tupper's Rice connected to even up the score when the buzzer sounded.

Gillette said that the team had trouble getting back into play in the overtime, and let up eight points to Tupper in the first minute. When they started to come back it was just too late.

Sverdlow was high man again as he tallied up 15 points for the home team, followed by Vic Goldsmith who connected with 11 points for the evening. Potsdam was minus Goldsmith in the Canton game. He had the flu, but should be back Friday.

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