

Potsdam State Wins SUNYAC Title

More than 2,800 people jammed the Maxey gymnasium Saturday night to watch Potsdam State take its third consecutive SUNYAC basketball title by drubbing visiting Plattsburgh 80-62.

Besides vaulting the Bears into a three-way tie for the conference crown with Plattsburgh and Albany, the win gives Potsdam an automatic bid to the NCAA Eastern regionals this weekend at Stony Brook.

Sophomore guard Ed Jachim led a balanced Potsdam scoring attack, hitting for 17 points while assisting on six Bear baskets. Terry Hunter added 16 points and five rebounds with John Snyder coming off the bench to contribute 15 points and five rebounds in turning in his most impressive performance of the season.

Snyder hit four of five field goals and shot seven of eight from the four line, while scoring many key points for the Bears.

Center Derrick Rowland also hit double figures for the winners, pumping in 14 points.

This Week In The NAC...

Indoor Track Season Concluded

BY NEIL THOMPSON

The Section 10 Indoor Track championships last Friday at the St. Lawrence University field house provided an exciting finish to this season's indoor track action.

Although Potsdam Central School finished well behind the meet winners, gathering only 20 points, the Potsdam squad did get to see seven of nine participating team members place in the competition, and two of the Potsdam squad will advance to the state meet.

Bob Hastings came in third in the 60 yard dash, and finished fourth in the 300 yard dash.

Jack Short came in third in high jump competition. But coming in third ruined what had been an undefeated season for him.

Thor VanDiver finished fourth in the two mile run, and Kevin Smutz came in fifth in the long jump event.

Mikd Branden placed fifth in high jump action.

Plattsburgh's Kevin Baldwin was the game's high scorer with 19 points. Tony Petroni added 11 for the losing Cardinals.

Swim Team

Overall team depth will be the key for Potsdam State's male swimmers and divers as they attempt to capture their third consecutive SUNYAC swimming crown this weekend at Geneseo.

Currently ranked third behind Cortland and Geneseo, Potsdam enters the competition following a gruelling dual meet season that left the Bears at a deceptive 6-5.

Coach Jim Kelly stressed that the team has swum faster times than last year, but has fallen victim to a tough schedule that included powers Colgate and St. Lawrence, and a Queens University team loaded with top Canadian stars.

Led by three-time conference champion Mike Spencer (100 yard butterfly), Potsdam will be counting on strong performances in the preliminary rounds if they are to stop Cortland and

Geneseo. Versatile Mike McCormick, breast-stroker Bob Ryan, freestyler Greg Jones, and Dan Matthews (butterfly) loom as the Bears' top prospects for individual conference championships, but Coach Kelly is counting on a strong overall showing from everyone, hoping to score points in each of the 18 events.

Having lost only two performers from last year's championship team, Potsdam will be anchored by 11 returners to the SUNYAC finals, along with junior walk-on Greg Jones and freshmen Dave Harvey, Mike Wessing, Brian Weischedel, Andy York and Dave Miller or Mike Mortimer who will be making their first appearance for the Bears.

Coach Kelly said he believes that this year's team has greater overall depth and may pull some surprising finishes in freestyle and backstroke races, traditionally regarded as Potsdam's weaker events.

Tammy Belshaw had a good day, finishing first in the girls shot put event, and remained undefeated for the whole season.

Josie Barse also had a big day, coming in third in shot put competition. Belshaw and Barse will go on to state competition at Cornell University this Saturday.

Walking away from the meet in first place were the Malone Huskies.

The Huskies, coached by Bill Shields, displaced OFA which had rules the section for the first six years of indoor boys competition and also laid claim to the girls title.

The Huskies carried the two championship trophies, which were awarded for the first time this year, back to Franklin County along with a host of individual awards.

In the boys competition, the Huskies raced away with the team title by scoring 147 points with the Blue Devils placing second at 111 and Norwood-Nor-

folk gathering 65. Tupper Lake landed 63, and Massena nabbed 18.

Basketball

Basketball action this past week saw the OFA Blue Devils take their first step towards a title by turning back a determined Potsdam squad, 79-52.

The victory over the Sandstoners sends the Devils against Canton in a Class A semi-final at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Potsdam State's Maxey Hall.

Coach Bill Merna is expecting a strong performance from the Bears, who turned in an erratic season, posting a 10-5 NAC Division record.

But Merna was impressed with the Bears play when they took Massena, 74-55 on Friday night.

The Devils are still a turnover producing man-to-man defense team, and they have a disciplined offense characterized by high percentage shooting.

Coach Merna hopes that this Friday's visit to Maxey Hall will be the first of many trips to the Potsdam State Campus, where the Devils have been very successful in recent years. A win over Canton sends the locals to the Class A finals on March 6, at 8:30 p.m. against the winner of Friday's other semi-final contest, pitting Gouverneur against Malone.

Former Northmen Return

CANTON- It will be Old Home Week for ten former Northmen who are expected to join this year's team for opening ceremonies on the ice for the National Junior College Athletic Association Hockey Championship, March 9 and 10, at Amilton Arena.

Former Coach Ron (O'Be) O'Brien and the ten stars of yesteryear—spanning the years 1964 through 1974—will step onto the ice to drop the symbolic first puck for the opening game on March 9 at 5 p.m.



PUTS IT UP—Potsdam State's Jack Bissetta, in light uniform, drives in to sink a layup shot as SLU's George Hughes (50) and Drew Skonberg (44) move in. The action was captured during last Wednesday night's varsity game between the two neighboring college rivals. SLU won the contest 66-61. Potsdam State went on later in the week to capture the SUNYAC title. (Hal Stokes photo)

sports

Clarkson Cagers Win Over RPI

The Clarkson varsity basketball team held on to a narrow lead as the seconds ticked away to defeat the visiting Engineers of R.P.I. 69-61 Saturday afternoon.

Sophomore forward Dave Dalrymple came off the bench to pace the Knights with 14 points. Co-captain John Farbell added 12 points, and forward Jim Nizurski picked off 11 rebounds before leaving the game in foul trouble.

The win boosted Clarkson's ICAC mark to 3-8 for the season, and 6-18 overall.

In junior varsity action, Clarkson topped Clinton Community College by a score of 80-71.

Women's Hockey

The Clarkson women's hockey team blasted 43 shots on goal and hit the red light five times to skate past the Engineers of R.P.I. by a 5-2 margin Saturday afternoon.

Sophomore forwards Kelly Priestley and Sue Stark each had two tallies for the Clarkson skaters, with senior captain Mary Bradshaw rounding out the scoring attack.

In the nets, senior goaltender Nancy Suska was called upon to make just nine saves.

Coach Ron Frazer's "Blazers" now sport a 9-5-1 record.

Clarkson Cagers Honored

Two members of the Clarkson College basketball team were honored by the ICAC (Independent College Athletic Conference) for their performances last week.

Bill Cassidy, a 6'4" forward, scored 63 points and hauled down 54 rebounds in four games, including 23 points against the University of Rochester. He is a native of Stormville, N.Y.

Jim Nizurski came off the bench to pace Clarkson's 75-68 upset victory over Ithaca College with 15 points, 10 rebounds and the tying free throws that sent the game into overtime. A 6'5" forward, he hails from Lackawanna, N.Y.

Marathon Winners Named

The "Little Logger Marathon", sponsored by the Tupper Lake Chamber of Commerce, held Feb. 18, was shortened from 25 miles to 13 miles, due to extreme cold.



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