

Bears' 16-0 Start Equals Best Ever

Prepping for their season-long awaited showdowns with Hartwick and Albany State this week, the Potsdam College Bears remained undefeated with two easy wins last weekend over league foes Binghamton State 91-51 and Cortland State 97-58.

Potsdam, under the watchful guidance of Jerry Welsh, who is three victories shy of the magical 500-win milestone, is now 16-0, tying their best start ever. The Bears are still ranked number one in the NCAA Division III poll, and are making a shambles out of their league opponents.

But all of that glitter and glory could end this week if the Bears aren't careful. Hartwick enters Wednesday's battle with an impressive 10-2 mark after losing to Stony Brook and Rochester last week. Leading the Warriors, who lost to the Bears by one point in last year's NCAA Regional, is sophomore guard Tim McGraw. McGraw is averaging nearly 19 points a game and has not missed a free throw attempt this year (going into last weekend's contests).

Albany State is no stranger to Bears fans. Some of the most memorable games in Division III were played by these two bitter SUNYAC East rivals. The Great Danes are 9-4 and are led by junior forward Adam Ursprung and senior guard Doug Kilmer. That game is slated for Saturday night at 8 p.m.

Bears Smoke Cortland An incredible burst from the starting blocks lifted Potsdam to an easy 97-58 win over Cortland Saturday afternoon. The Bears led 41-16 after 11:00, before settling for a 53-36 halftime lead. Cortland's long-range shooting helped close the gap a bit.

But it was too much for Brendan Mitchell and Roosevelt Bullock for the Dragons, who fell to 2-12. Mitchell scored 18 points, grabbed five rebounds, blocked two shots, and had two steals to pace the Bears. Bullock added 16 points and four steals, John Leonard and Troy Turner netted 12, and Tim Harris hit for 10 points in the rout.

Potsdam shot 56 percent from the floor, including a blistering 84 percent in the first half. The Dragons connected on 42 percent of their field goal attempts.

The night before, against Binghamton State, Potsdam pulled away from a close game midway through the first half and crushed the Colonials 91-51.

The Bears' pressure defense forced 30 turnover and limited Binghamton to a measly 35 percent shooting performance.

Leading the way for Potsdam was Bullock with 19 points, seven assists and one steal, Steve Babiarz with 16 points and two steals, and Mitchell with 18 points, nine rebounds, three assists and Turner continued their hot shooting by combining for 20 points on duplicate 10-point efforts.

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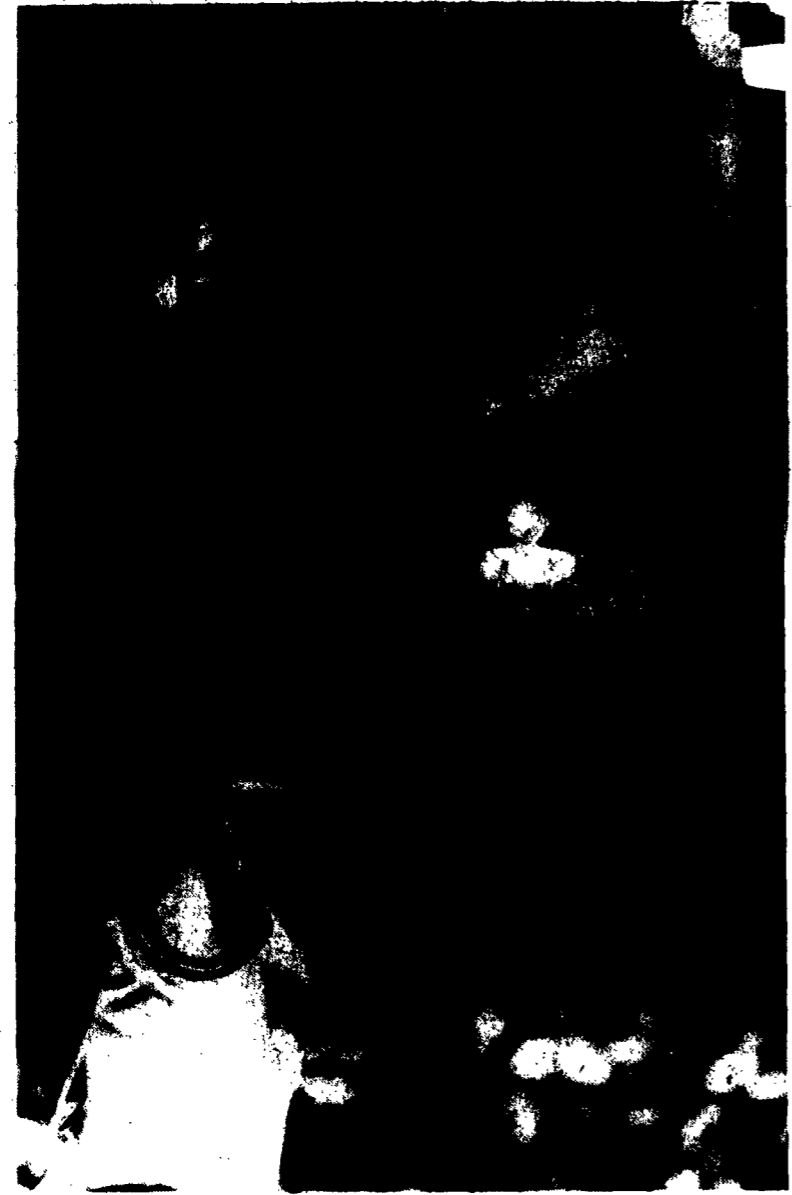
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LOCAL STAR — Clarkson's Steve Williams, of nearby Winthrop, puts a shot on St. Lawrence goaltender Scott Yearwood. The Saints came from behind to defeat the Knights 6-5 in overtime. (Gary Mikel photo)



FRESHMAN SENSATION — Potsdam College's Steve Babiarz lays in two points during the Bears' 91-51 win over Binghamton State Friday night. (Ron Robertson photo)

Potsdam College Sports Roundup

Icers Upset Top-Ranked RIT, Lose To Canisius

Registering one of their biggest wins of all time, the Potsdam College hockey team rallied from a 2-0 first period deficit to beat RIT, the top-ranked Division III team in the country, 6-5 in overtime before a boisterous Maxcy Hall crowd Saturday night.

Chuck Callahan, a junior from Hicksville, N.Y., wrote himself into the Potsdam record books with an amazing five goal performance against one of the nation's top defenses. His high-scoring antics tied a school record held by Pierre Marcoux back in the 1980-81 season.

The Tigers started strong, scoring twice in the first period on goals by Maurice Montambault and Scott Brown. Potsdam's freshman goaltender, Tim Swail, sparkled in the net throughout the game, stopping 54 shots, 21 in the first period, when he prevented an RIT blowout.

A Howie Vandermaast goal in the second period cut the Tiger lead in half, then Callahan went to work. He scored four times in the second and third periods to stake the Bears to a 5-3 lead. RIT tied the game on markers by Brown and Ritchie

Herbert late in the third period. The overtime session was a nail-biting ordeal for both teams and the noisy Bears fans. With 1:18 left on the clock, Callahan converted a Jim Van Cotar pass into the winning goal, his fifth in a row, setting off an explosion from the crowd, one of the largest at Potsdam in two years.

His winning blast was a low slapshot from the right circle which beat RIT netminder Dan Ostrowski to his right.

Ostrowski was the second goalie for RIT. He replaced starter Chet Hallice midway through the second period. The two combined for 25 saves.

Mike Henry added three assists for Potsdam, while Ted Bach and newcomer Mike Farrell each contributed two set-ups.

The Tigers, 1985's Division III National Champs, were led by freshman Brown with three goals and an assist, Herbert with one goal and three assists, and Gord Rivington with two assists.

Bears Drop Next One Exhausted mentally and physically from their emotional

win the night before, Potsdam suffered from a slow start Sunday afternoon, losing to Canisius 8-6 at Maxcy.

The Golden Griffins, one of hockey's most improved teams, scored three goals in the first 1:21 of the game and added a fourth 4:00 later to rush to an insurmountable first period lead over the Bears.

Starting goaltender Mike Trowbridge yielded three goals on four Canisius shots to place Potsdam in a large crater. After Swail replaced Trowbridge, the visitors upped the count to 4-0 before Potsdam settled in to play hockey.

Leaving off where he started, Callahan scored the first goal for the Bears and a Luc Boileau score brought the count to 4-2 after one period.

Canisius grabbed a 6-2 lead after two periods, and then the Potsdam comeback began.

Boileau, Vandermaast, and Callahan lifted Potsdam to within one, 7-6, late in the game. Callahan nailed two more goals, giving him his second straight hat trick and eight goals in two weekend games.

Stoner Icers' Offense Back On Track

BY DAN WILLIAMS Sports Editor

Getting back on track after a string of losses to state powers Massena, OFA, and Salmon River, the Potsdam High School hockey team won three games last week, including Saturday's 13-1 laughter over Plattsburgh.

Frustrated by a lack of scoring firepower despite getting off nearly 50 shots a game over the last four outings, the floodgates burst Saturday afternoon in Pine Street Arena.

After allowing a goal by Plattsburgh's John Stewart at 3:43 of the first period, the Stoners reeled off 13 straight goals to crush Plattsburgh.

Scott Denicourt got things started for the Jerry Patterson-led club with a goal at 5:01 of the first. Three second period scores by Rich Denicourt, Ron Reagan, and Chad Emerson opened the game up and gave Potsdam the momentum and confidence needed to end their goal drought.

Third period goals by R. Denicourt (two), Kip Lebel, Tom Warden, Dan Carey, S. Denicourt, Brian Theobald, Emerson, and Dan Adams closed out the scoring for the Stoners.

The last seven scores for Potsdam came on the powerplay as the Stoners continue their awesome play when a man-up.

Six Potsdam players, S. Denicourt, R. Denicourt, Emerson, Regan, and Carey, all notched four points in the romp.

Plattsburgh's goalies combined for 45 saves, while Potsdam's Scott LaGrand kicked aside 23 shots.

"I'm pleased with the scoring opportunities we are creating for ourselves. Our 'yellow line' of Pat Roda, Dan Adams, Rob Boak, and

Brian Theobald, is really coming around. That's a real plus for this hockey team. We will need them down the stretch," said Patterson, whose club improves to 5-4 in the league, 9-4 overall.

Patterson feels his young team is maturing just in time for the stretch run. He said, "We are still prone to making mistakes in our own zone — this is something that can be corrected. Our overall play in the neutral zone is vastly improved and I think the guys are feeling more comfortable with our system now that they have a few games under their belts."

MAI, SLC Fall

Potsdam scored three times in the final period to edge MAI 5-2 Friday night at Plattsburgh State.

Reagan scored two goals at 1:22 and 9:14 and Carey added an empty netter at 14:56 for Potsdam in their closer-than-anticipated matchup with MAI. (Potsdam defeated MAI 13-1 in the Potsdam Tourney finals.)

Francis Landreville opened the scoring with a goal at 5:29 of the first period for MAI. An Emerson goal at 11:18 was followed with a goal by Luis Richer to give MAI a 2-1 lead. R. Denicourt tied the game at two with 10:29 left in the second for Potsdam.

Ed Thomas stopped 16 shots for the Stoners, and Andre Tougas prevented 45 of Potsdam's tries from entering the net.

Last Wednesday night in Brasher Falls, Potsdam used two late goals by Emerson to pull away from precarious 3-2 lead and edge St. Lawrence Central 5-2.

After a scoreless first period, R. Denicourt and his brother Scott scored two goals which were answered by a Darren Wilson

marker. Potsdam's lead grew to 3-2 when Reagan tallied the eventual gamewinner :07 into the third stanza. Steve Yandoh's goal made it 3-2 Potsdam until Emerson's clinchers at 5:25 and 13:04 of the third.

LaGrand stopped 17 shots and SLC's Premio saved 34.

Potsdam travels to Saranac Lake Wednesday and hosts Massena Saturday at Pine Street Arena.

"Saranac's Matt Laramee is as fine a hockey player as we will see this year. He has an NHL-caliber shot. We are playing them in their new arena and they will come out pumped up. The game against Massena Saturday is a key matchup for us. This game should be a real barn-burner," said Patterson.

Hoop Shoot Winners

The winners of the Potsdam Elks 2074 Subordinate Hoop Shoot, held recently, will compete in the District shoot-offs Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. in the Lowville Academy Gym.

In the 8-9 year old category, Jennifer Fayette, a nine-year-old representing Norfolk Elementary School won the girls division, while Derrick Purves, a nine-year-old representing Norwood Elementary School was the boys champ.

Wendy Doyle, an 11-year-old from Colton-Pierrepont Elementary School won the girls' 10-11 year-old category and Ben Gladding, from Norfolk Elementary School was the boys victor.

In the 12-13 year-old category for girls, A.A. Kingston Middle School's Lyn Martin was the champ, while Mark Henry won the boys title, representing Norwood-Norfolk Junior High School.

Clarkson Feeds SLU After Hockey Loss

CANTON — The Clarkson University hockey team squandered a three goal lead early in the second period as St. Lawrence University came from behind to edge the Golden Knights 6-5 in overtime at Appleton Arena last Friday night.

With the win, SLU players and President Lawrence Guilck were recipients of 100 bagels, courtesy of Clarkson President Allan Clark and The Bagelry, of Potsdam. The two presidents had a friendly wager on the outcome of the heated matchup between the North County teams. If Clarkson had won, Guilck would have provided 100 chocolate chip cookies to The Knights and Clark.

This was the fourth meeting between the two teams in the 1985-86 season, with both teams winning twice.

Clarkson's record drops to 9-7-3 overall and to a fifth place 6-3-3 mark in the ECAC.

The Green and Gold will take a

short break from the league schedule with an exhibition contest against Team Canada on Saturday. Game time is 7:30 p.m. in Walker Arena.

After taking a 4-1 lead in the opening minutes of the second period, the Knights saw their margin diminish as the Saints struck for four straight goals. St. Lawrence mounted their comeback with Scott Nickerson's tally at 16:47.

The home-standing Canton skaters continued their momentum in the third stanza as Jamie Baker scored at 2:14. A breakaway goal at 5:37 by Pete Buckeridge evened the score at four apiece. At 7:10, the Saints took a 5-4 lead when Pete McGeough knocked in a rebound.

With :23 remaining in regulation play, the Golden Knights tied the game as Junior Al Hill took a pass from Mike Harvey in the slot and scored on a spin-around shot forcing the game into overtime.

Tom Lappin gave the Saints the victory, however, on his second goal of the night, when he skated from behind the net and scored from the right side 1:17 into the extra frame.

In a penalty-filled opening period, Clarkson went up 3-1 after Lappin had given SLU the early lead with a powerplay goal at 1:31.

Sophomore Luciano Borsato struck for the Knights' first goal at :30 left. The Griff's Tony Cassiol nailed an open netter to end the Bears' comeback bid.

Vandermaast finished with three assists to go with his goal. Dan Smith picked up two assists. Swail finished with 35 saves and Trowbridge had four before being pulled.

Potsdam travels to Plattsburgh tonight (Tuesday), then spends the weekend in Brockport and Geneseo as they continue to improve their league record, which now stands at 7-9-1.

Women Cagers Split The fast-improving Potsdam women's basketball team split two important SUNYAC contests last weekend, dumping Binghamton 69-57 Friday night, and losing a tough 60-57 decision to powerful Cortland Saturday afternoon.

In losing to Cortland, one of the state's best Division III teams, the Bears gained some respect around the league. Sophomore forward Carolyn Gordinier had a great weekend, scoring 38 points in the two games, including 19 against the Red Dragons. She also pulled down seven rebounds and had six steals, vs. Cortland.

Lori Clarke added 10 and Kelly Patraw scored nine for Potsdam. Mindy Murdock pumped in 14 for Cortland.

Against Binghamton, Gordinier was once again a force underneath, scoring 19 points, pulling down 11 rebounds, and blocking one shot. Jody Heller scored 15 and freshman Trish Weeks chipped in with 10, for Addy Malatesta's cagers.

Potsdam is now 2-3 in SUNYAC Eastplay, 2-7 overall.

Swimmers Excel Led by Tom Caprio's double and fine performances from Kyle McCormick, Kevin Boyle, Chris Slocum, Pete Donahue, and D.J. Fabozzi, the Potsdam men's swim team swept Albany and Oswego Saturday in a tri-meet.

Albany fell 99-53 and Oswego was dunked 66-37 as Caprio won the 100 and 1000 free events. McCormick won the 200 free and finished second behind Caprio in the 100. Boyle registered a second in the 50 free and Donahue was third in the same event. Slocum won the 100 back and placed second in the 200 IM. Fabozzi swam to first place in the 200 breast and was second in the 200 fly.

For the women, who defeated Oswego 57-51 and lost to Albany 68-43, Jackie Miller won two events, the 50 and 100 free. Maria Dabiero and Renee Hatter also contributed solo wins for Potsdam.

Price Third At the New York State Wrestling Championships at West Point last weekend, Potsdam's Mike Price placed third in the 167-pound class, the Bears' highest individual placement since 1979.

NAC Standings

BOYS BASKETBALL

Division I: Gouverneur 7-0, Potsdam 6-1, OFA 5-2, Tupper Lake 3-4, Malone 4-3, Norwood-Norfolk 2-5, Massena 1-4, Canton 0-7.

Division II: Parisville-Hopkinton 4-1, St. Regis Falls, B-M at Chateaugay, H-D at Morrisstown, Hammond at Harrisville, Heuvelton at C.F. Lisbon at Edwards.

Division III: Gouverneur 7-0, Tupper Lake at Canton, Gouverneur at Massena, Malone at Potsdam, SLC at Salmon River, C.P. at M.W. P.H. at St. Regis Falls, B-M at Chateaugay, H-D at Morrisstown, Hammond at Harrisville, Heuvelton at C.F. Lisbon at Edwards.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Tuesday: OFA at N.N., Tupper Lake at Canton, Gouverneur at Massena, Malone at Potsdam, SLC at Salmon River, C.P. at M.W., P.H. at St. Regis Falls, B-M at Chateaugay, H-D at Morrisstown, Hammond at Harrisville, Heuvelton at C.F. Lisbon at Edwards.

The Winning Edge

BY DAN WILLIAMS Sports Editor

Editor's Note: The following is the last in a three-part series, "1985: The Year in Sports."

1985 will go down in history as the "Year of the Drug" in professional sports. The drug and alcohol dilemma which invades our everyday society made its way into the professional sports limelight.

The infamous Pittsburgh Drug Trials, which threatened to change the way of life in baseball, was the year's top story. Fans across the nation were stunned to find out such heroes as Dave Parker and Keith Hernandez not only dabbled in drugs, but were addicted to the substances. Curtis Strong, the so-called locker room supplier, will probably become a trivia answer in the near future.

New Commissioner Peter Ueberroth is still investigating the widespread use of drugs in his sport and has yet to come up with a solution to please everyone.

Still on baseball, it was also the "Year of the Old Men," as Pete Rose, Rod Carew, Tom Seaver, Don Sutton, and Phil Niekro enjoyed record-breaking years. Pete's pursuit of legend Ty Cobb embraced the nation in speculation, admiration, and appreciation. Somehow, Rose managed to coach his team to a second place finish AND break Cobb's all-time hit record. Next year, says Rose, he goes after the all-time runs scored record, held by guess who? Cobb.

The Kansas City Royals, an underdog to end all underdogs, shocked the Toronto Blue Jays in the AL Championship, then roared back from a 3-1 deficit to defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in the seventh game of the World Series.

It was the year of Don Mattingly and Dwight Gooden. Mattingly racked up numbers so impressive that he is mentioned in the same breath as some of the greatest Yankees of all time. This 24-year-old hitting and fielding machine enjoyed the best all-around season by a Yankee since Joe DiMaggio back in 1950.

Gooden, a fire-balling 20-year-old, became the youngest pitcher in history to win 20 games. He also led the league in strikeouts en route to a Cy Young season.

Basketball Defying his 38 years, gentle giant Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's dominating play in the NBA finals against the Boston Celtics led the L.A. Lakers to their first ever NBA title over the Celtics, ending many years of frustration. With his amazing feat, Jabbar was named Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year.

Hockey Wayne Gretzky and his phenomenal Edmonton Oilers continued their reign in the NHL with an impressive season and championship over a youthful Philadelphia Flyer unit. Gretzky was once again the Player of the Year and leading scorer as he continues his quest for the all-time scoring record. He is truly the most prolific scorer in NHL history and his team is the best offensive team ever built.

1985 was also the end of a great goalie and a fine voting man. Pelle Lindberg, the Flyers' sensational netminder, died of injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash. The league and the hockey world mourned the death of this budding superstar.

Football The San Francisco 49ers and the Chicago Bears dominated the headlines in 1985 football. The 49ers upended Dan Marino's Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl XIX. But, the Bears and the Refrigerator exploded onto the scene in the 1985-86 season, winning 15 of 16 regular season games, then shutting out two straight playoff opponents to reach Super Bowl XX with the New England Patriots, 1985's surprise team.

Tennis A precocious 18-year-old West German, Boris Becker, became the rage of the tennis world with his aggressive, linebacker-type style of play.

Becker's time will come, but for now, the king is Ivan Lendl. The 35-year-old Czech finally earned the number one spot on the men's tennis ladder, replacing John McEnroe, who dropped to number two, a position he is entirely uncomfortable and irritable with.

1986 will have to go a way to match the aura and intrigue of 1985, one of the most unique years in sports history.