

Potsdam Icers Lose Two In Tourney

BY DAN WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

A slumping Potsdam High hockey team placed last in the four-team Potsdam Booster Club Tournament field last weekend, losing to St. Joseph's (Buffalo) and Section 2 power Shenendehowa.

The Stoners, now 8-5, will travel to Salmon River Wednesday and Massena Saturday in two crucial NAC contests.

Potsdam had trouble scoring Fri-

day night against St. Joseph's and had trouble stopping Shenendehowa Saturday afternoon in the tournament consolation game.

Shenendehowa erupted from a 2-2 first period tie to score four goals in the second stanza, taking a 6-2 edge into the final 15 minutes of play. They won 7-4, withstanding a furious Potsdam comeback try.

"We didn't play well at all Satur-

day. The close overtime loss to St. Joe's the night before took the wind out of our sails. That was a game we should have won by three or four goals. Basically, the puck hasn't been going our way lately," said Potsdam Coach Jerry Patterson.

Leading the way for the Plainsmen was senior captain Phil McCarthy, who scored three goals. Kip Lebel, Rich Denicourt, Mark Bigwarfe, and Cory Varney tallied the four Stoner scores. Goaltenders Ed Thomas and Dave Pennington combined to stop 23 Shen shots.

"It was a close first period, but then we took a vacation during the second period and watched them do whatever they wanted. We started to get things together in the third period but a bunch of penalties stopped our momentum," said Patterson.

Canton won the tourney defeating St. Joe's 6-4, after blasting a lackluster Shenendehowa squad 9-2 Friday night.

The Golden Bears' Chris Wells was named tourney MVP. Others named to the all-tourney team were Potsdam's Mike Warden, Shenendehowa's McCarthy, St. Joseph's Rich Sander, and Canton's Greg Carvel, Andy Firman, and Chris Kenyon (goalie).

In Friday's first round action, Potsdam lost a heart-breaking 4-1 to the Bears in a 20-minute game. "I heard about the game before game time, thanks to an assist from Varney. Thomas had 18 saves," Patterson said. "We outplayed St. Joe's. They didn't have many

high percentage chances but scored on two of them. Our kids are frustrated, they're pressing and breaking down a bit psychologically. But I still have plenty of optimism for this team. The bounces will start going our way. We've got to find some goal production in the big games."

The Stoners had no trouble scoring goals last Wednesday against Northeast Clinton, winning 10-3.

Scoring for Potsdam were Denicourt (2-2), Rob Scott (1-3), Bigwarfe (1-2), Dan Carey (1-1), Mike McNamara (1-1), Craig Conroy (1-1), Dan Adams, Varney, and Lebel. Thomas registered 32 saves.

N-N Splits NAC Games

Todd DeFayette tallied a hat trick to give St. John's all the firepower needed to upend Norwood-Norfolk 3-2 Saturday.

DeFayette's third goal, the game-winner, came with six seconds left in regulation.

Scoring the N-N goals were Chad Fayette and Lou Flacco. Rick Garand stopped 14 shots for the Irish, while Gary Gushlaw prevented 20 shots from entering N-N's goal.

Phil Jenner and Fayette each contributed two goals last Wednesday to pace the Flyers to an easy 7-2 win over outmanned Lake Placid.

Gushlaw was impressive in the nets, stopping 28 shots, while two netminders for Lake Placid—Jarrod Colby and Mike Ryan—each made 10 saves.

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NIFTY PASSING—Potsdam High's Kelly Norman gets off a pass in traffic under the basket during the girls game last week vs. Canton. (Dan Williams photo)

Bears Victory Parade Continues

Adding three more wins to their nation's best win streak, the Potsdam College men's basketball team now has a 14-0 record this year and an impressive 46 game win skein.

Potsdam hosts SUNYAC East opponents New Paltz and Albany State this weekend. Albany State is 11-4 this winter. Game times are 8 p.m. both nights.

The Bears defeated two SUNYAC East rivals, Binghamton and Cortland last weekend, and outlasted the always-tough Hartwick Warriors last Tuesday.

Against Cortland State Saturday night in Maxcy Hall, a 61-47 win for the Bears, Potsdam started fast and then stalled for 25 minutes before resuming their high-powered play late in the game to repel the strong Red Dragon upset bid.

Potsdam roared out to a 9-2 lead after the first five minutes, but then became trapped in a delay-type offensive ploy by Cortland. All of a sudden, the Bears weren't doing the things necessary on offense to get good shots.

Cortland used up 35-40 seconds off the clock on every possession and hit some long-range bombs to get back into the game. Potsdam led 27-26 at the half.

As the second half started, things still hadn't changed for Potsdam. Cortland scored the first six points of the second stanza to take a shocking 32-27 lead over the Bears with 15 minutes to play.

Finally, Potsdam re-grouped and resumed their fast break offense, blowing the game open with an exciting 17-4 spurt.

Leading the Bears in scoring was senior guard Tim Harris, who poured in 14 points. Steve Babiarz added 11 points, six assists, and three steals. Brendan Mitchell pumped in 10 points, ripped down 13 rebounds, dished out five assists, blocked four shots, and had four

steals in a spectacular all-around floor game, and Barry Stanton contributed eight points.

For Cortland, guard Harry Barr did most of the damage connecting for 23 points, including five three-point shots.

Potsdam had an easier time Friday night against Binghamton State, defeating the Colonial 97-73 behind five double figure scorers.

Stanton and Babiarz led all Bears scorers with 19 points each. Babiarz contributed six assists and three steals. Harris pumped in 15 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Sophomore Joe Smith scored 12 points and Mitchell added another strong 11 point, 16 rebound, six assist performance.

Potsdam shot 52 percent from the floor en route to the easy romp. Mark Jones paced all scorers with 25 points for Binghamton and Barry Goldberg added 19 markers as the Colonial connected on only 36 percent of their attempts, firing up a whopping 84 field goals.

In a classic Potsdam-Hartwick battle last Tuesday night in Oneonta, the Bears came from behind late in the game to defeat the homesteading Warriors 61-56.

Potsdam actually led most of the game (30-27 at the half) but fell behind by one with five minutes left in the game. Several key foul shots by Harris nailed down the win for Coach Jerry Welsh's cagers.

Mitchell, Stanton, and Babiarz led Potsdam with 14 points. Mitchell continued his herculean rebounding efforts with 13 caroms.

Junior guard Tim McGraw had a game-high 25 points and Mark Otlati contributed 15 points for Hartwick.

The Bears have now won 38 consecutive games at Maxcy Hall and 61 regular season contests. Their last home loss was a one-point defeat to the University of Buffalo in the 1984 SUNYAC tournament.

The Winning Edge

BY DAN WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

Two Colton-Pierrepont boys basketball players are this week's Courier-Freeman Athletes of the Week, the first after a two week layoff.

Tim Doyle and Brian Chamberlain enjoyed mirrored efforts last week in leading the Colts to a 1-1 week. Doyle scored 26 points in the Colts' win over St. Lawrence Central last Wednesday and added another 17-point night Friday during C-P's loss to Brushton-Moira.

Chamberlain also scored 26 points against SLC, but led the Colts with 19 points vs. B-M. For their high scoring efforts, Doyle and Chamberlain are this week's top athletes. Congratulations, guys.

Other Nominees

Another Colton-Pierrepont athlete deserves honorable mention this week for her efforts on the basketball court. Senior Kari Walrich scored 34 points in two contests last week, but the Colts lost both games.

Potsdam High has two athletes who earned recognition last week for their outstanding performances. Rich Denicourt, a junior on the hockey team, scored two goals and two assists in an easy 10-3 Stoner win over Northeast Clinton last Wednesday. In the consolation game of the Potsdam Booster Club Tournament Saturday against Shenendehowa, a Potsdam loss, Denicourt scored one of Potsdam's four goals. The team's leading goal scorer was valuable because of his endurance and leadership during the tournament.

Senior Andy Thacher enjoyed a banner week, breaking three school records at the second indoor track meet Friday night. Thacher re-wrote the Potsdam record books in the 600, triple jump, and as anchor leg of the winning mile relay squad.

Norwood-Norfolk's Chad Fayette, one of Division II's leading scorers, tallied three goals last week as the Flyers hockey team defeated Lake Placid and lost to St. John's.

Lynn Reed is a bright spot on an otherwise down year for the N-N girls basketball team. She is easily their leading scorer and has been battling with the best NAC players head-to-head. Last week, she pumped in 25 points out of her team's 62 total points in two losses.

Parishville-Hopkinton's fine point guard Chris Richards is another worthy honorable mention. He scored 32 points in two games last week.

Support Stoner Teams

I'm disappointed and a little discouraged in the lack of community and student support for the Potsdam High School athletic teams. Especially disturbing is the total lack of support last weekend at the fine Booster Club hockey team, which boasted a field of four state-ranked squads.

When I arrived at the arena five minutes before the game started, only a handful of people, mostly cheerleaders and parents were in attendance. The crowd picked up a bit as the game went on, but it was still awfully quiet in that arena.

The attendance at the basketball games has been okay, but certainly should be better. These athletes and coaches need the support of the community. They work hard and have achieved statewide recognition. Now, it's your turn. Go to the games, cheer for the kids. It's disheartening for them to come out on their home court or ice and be greeted with silence or cheers from the opposing team's fans.

When Potsdam hosts N-N tomorrow night, I'm certain a large contingent of vocal Flyers fans will be in Potsdam's gym. Will the Potsdam community be there?

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