

ACC Men looking to finish strong

Marty Mix
Sports Editor

The ACC Men's Basketball team is already half way through the long 27-game season, but more importantly they are headed into a very tight second half of their conference schedule.

Going into yesterday's game against Henry Ford Community College, the Lumberjacks had an overall record of 10-9, and their league record stood at 5-4. The team's record has been up and down from the beginning of the season.

"We need to have five guys on the floor working together at the same time instead of just one person trying to take it on themselves while the other four guys just stand and watch," Head Coach Frank

McCourt said. "We need to have complete team play if we want to be competitive."

Alpena started off the season at 2-0, picking up a pair of wins from their first tournament at home. They defeated Sault College and Cambrium College, both of Canada. The team's record was evened shortly after that when they made the first road trip to Muskegon where they dropped two games to Muskegon and Kalamazoo Valley. Alpena then picked up two wins the following weekend back at home when they defeated Olivet's J.V. squad and Ancilla, a first-year team out of the Western Conference.

The Jack's winning streak was once again halted when they returned to Muskegon and lost a pair to Lansing and St.

Clair.

Going into the semester break, the record for the men was 4-4, with two games remaining before conference play began. Last year ACC dropped a game in the finals, and were hoping to redeem the title this year.

Things looked good as they won the first game, but they again faced a tough Muskegon team and lost a heartbreaker by three points to be runner-up's for a second year in a row.

"Going into the league, this year's squad, though they are young, could surprise a lot of people because of their talent and depth," McCourt said. "The conference is where we really see how good we are because the level of competition is so intense, and we play

so many games in a short amount of time."

The Lumberjacks currently are in a tie for third place with a 5-4 record in the Eastern Conference. The men have found it rough going in the league thus far, but are hoping that after six straight games on the road that they can turn it up for the second half of league play, and end the season strong at home and on a positive note heading into the playoffs that begin in late February.

"The team has the potential to be competitive and win the majority of the games remaining, but in order for them to do so they are going to have to pick up their level of intensity," McCourt said.

Six of the next seven games are home, so the rest of the season will be interesting.

Tris pegs St. Louis Superbowl winners

By Tristram Coffin
Staff Writer

Wild Card

Ten. 22, Buf. 16

Was. 27, Det. 13

Min. 27, Dal. 10

Mia. 20, Sea. 17

Divisional Games

Jac. 62, Mia. 7

T.B. 14, Wash. 13

St.L. 49, Min. 37

Ten. 19, Ind. 16

Championships

Ten. Vs Jac. American League

T.B. Vs St.L. National League

Super Bowl XXXIV 2000

Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Ga.

The NFL's playoffs are off to the races. Who would have thought at the beginning of the year that Tennessee and Jacksonville would be meeting up to decide the American League's champion and the right to meet in the Super Bowl XXXIV in Georgia

against Tampa Bay or St. Louis.

St. Louis' season is a complete surprise considering the loss of their starting quarterback at the beginning of the season and the unproven Kurt Warner stepping in, but if you followed this season's games you would have known he is this year's league MVP and a definite super power on the offensive side.

My prediction is Tennessee defeats Jacksonville for the third time this season in a close one (24-21).

In the other game, I have St. Louis defeating Tampa Bay in a blow out (38-17).

Now for Superbowl XXXIV. I have St. Louis still on a role and defeating Tennessee in a close battle (28-21).

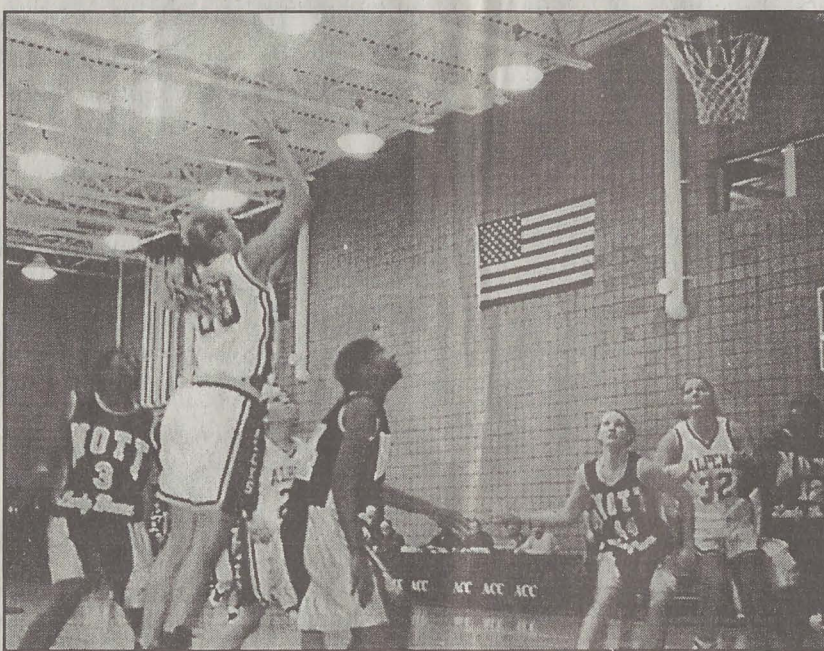


Photo by Amy Wallott

Freshman Angie Boutell (#20) takes a jump shot over a Mott defender.



Photo by Amy Wallott

Sophomore Gary Greenwood (#32) looks for a cutting Christian Adolffson (#34) during the first half of the Mott game.

Balancing sports and school creates pressure for athletes

By Katie Rapoza
Staff Writer

After visiting with some of Alpena's finest athletes, one quickly realizes that these athletes deal with a lot of pressure everyday.

Sarah Ellis, a freshman on ACC's Women's Basketball team, "said, "There is a lot of self-discipline."

Ellis feels pressure from school, making herself sit down and do her homework.

"You don't have much of a social life; the people you get to know about are your teammates," she said.

Angie Boutell is also a freshman on the team. "It's difficult to walk around knowing that I represent my college and community," Boutell said. "Being a role model is tough."

But women are not the only ones who feel the pressure. Men also struggle to balance classwork and team practice time.

Nic Greenwood, an ACC sophomore, said the balancing act is harder when an athlete is injured and misses class.

"You have to find time on your own to make up that work you did in class," Greenwood said.

Class and school is just a portion of their pressure. Other athletes added that living on their own and paying bills cause pressure as well.

ACC Women play despite injuries

Marty Mix
Sport's Editor

The ACC Women's basketball team has had many obstacles to overcome this season. They have been up and down with injury, fatigue and a number of illnesses.

The ladies started out the season with four tournaments, and three of them were on the road. The women dropped all four games in the first two on the road, but even more importantly they lost Marisa Fenner due to back problems. Fenner is scheduled to have surgery later in February.

They then traveled down to a three-day tournament held by Oakland. There were eight very strong teams there and the girls played very well. This time though, they were without sophomore Pam Rich, also out with back problems. The women beat Oakland and Sinclair, but lost to Lakeland. Their record stood at 2-5.

The next tournament was at home, and they lost their first game against Glen Oaks but beat Wayne County in the consolation game. These ladies had a tough week going into the game because of three straight days of exams, followed by three straight days of games in the Oakland tourney. They also suffered the loss of two more players. Angie Boutell was out because illness, and Laura Parks tore her ACL on her right knee. Boutell returned a few games later, but Parks is done for the season. She had surgery a few weeks

ago and is doing well. The women's team record now stood at 3-6 heading into the New Year.

Starting the New Year meant starting a very tough conference schedule. The Lady Jacks lost three in row, then picked up their first win against Macomb. They continued on their six game road trip, dropping another pair of games. Wayne County had to forfeit two games to ACC so their record was 6-11.

The women returned home, but things weren't about to get any easier as they were about to face sixth-ranked nationally, undefeated Mott team. The women refused to go down without a fight. They led the majority the entire game but Mott had too much in the end and came out victorious. The women played one of their finest games of the season, and have a lot of incentive going into the second half of their league season, Head Coach Mike Kollien said.

"Throughout this fast-paced season, these women have had to overcome many obstacles, and still try to maintain focus for the games remaining. Practice intensity has picked up these last few weeks and the girls have positive attitudes for the games remaining," Kollien said.

The women know that the rest of the season isn't going to get any easier, but they believe many of the goals that they set out for in the beginning of the season can still be reached, he said.



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