



COREY DALESKI
Sports Columnist

"They signed Mariucci!" It echoed with great anticipation throughout Detroit and the state of Michigan when it was official that Steve Mariucci was the Lions new coach last February.

Detroit fans everywhere had the preconceived notion that this would be the year of redemption, and why not?—The Lions accomplished something truly significant that had been lacking throughout the teams anemic history: signing a distinguished coach with an impressive track record. Lions fans envisioned immediate success.

In San Francisco, Mariucci inherited a team with outstanding playmakers and a team loaded with potential. Players like Steve Young, Terrell Owens, Garrison Hearst and Jerry Rice. It took Mariucci only six games in 1997 to get as many victories as former Lions coach Marty Mornhinweg got here in two years.

This season is at the midway point and already the Lions playoff chances are done. Finished. Through.

Hordes of bewildered Lions fans are witnessing bad football all over again.

Quick question: Who spiked Steve Mariucci's coffee with Mornhinweg's DNA? Is this the second coming of the Mornhinweg fiasco?

It certainly conjures up distasteful nightmares endured by Lions faithful throughout the Mornhinweg era.

Joey Harrington was pulled late in the second quarter after completing only 5-13 passes for 30 yards with two interceptions against the Cowboys last week.

Enter Mike McMahon. The third year quarterback from Rutgers replaced the embattled Harrington and the sold-out crowd eagerly awaited the performance of the second-stringer.

McMahon did little to impress. He finished 5-20 for 51 yards with an interception and a fumble. Not exactly Hall of Fame numbers.

Following the Lions terrible performance against the Cowboys, Mariucci blamed himself for the loss, saying, "I take full responsibility, for the situation, for the energy, for the preparation."

And he should. The Lions were outplayed, out-coached and out-foxed.

Hoops Season Set To Tip Off

2003-04 Men Looking For Repeat Of Last Season Glory

Photo By Chris Gilmore

COREY DALESKI
Sports Editor

Last year's unforeseen run by the ACC men's basketball team was a resurrection of sorts: they won 20 games—their most in five years. Also, it brought back an aspect that seemingly had been missing the last few years: legitimacy.

"Last year was certainly a good history for the kids returning this season," coach Frank McCourt said during practice last week.

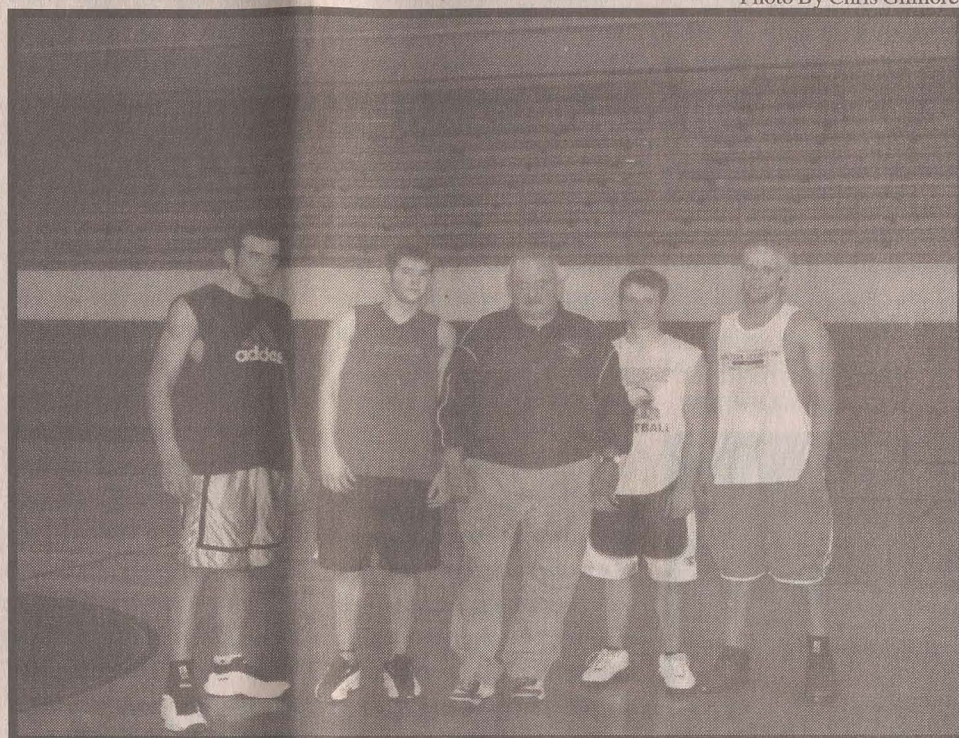
With just seven player's returning from last years team, McCourt realizes that there is a cause for concern, if their intentions are to duplicate, if not exceed last seasons win total.

"We've lost an All-American, and three starting guards. So that is obviously a major concern going into this year," McCourt said.

McCourt is a coach who is meticulous in terms of details and fundamentals. He has always stressed these essential attributes to his teams in the past. And if he can get his point across this year, he likes his prospects.

"If our kids can rebound, and our guards can score, we have a chance to be very successful," McCourt said.

Asked whether or not McCourt feels any added pressure to live up to last



The Captains of the men's basketball team, standing with coach Frank McCourt (center) are (L-R) Shane Ison, Brent Wichtner, McCourt, Ryan Amesbury and Lance Edgerton.

years incredible season, McCourt said: "If you don't feel the pressure to succeed, you should get out of coaching. I always feel the pressure to succeed."

That pressure begins Friday, November 7, when the Lumberjacks open their season against Sault College in the CAN/AM Tournament held here in Alpena. Game time is set for 8 p.m. Algoma, St. Clair Shores CC and Kirtland CC will also be at the tournament.

Please see page 8 for the complete schedule.

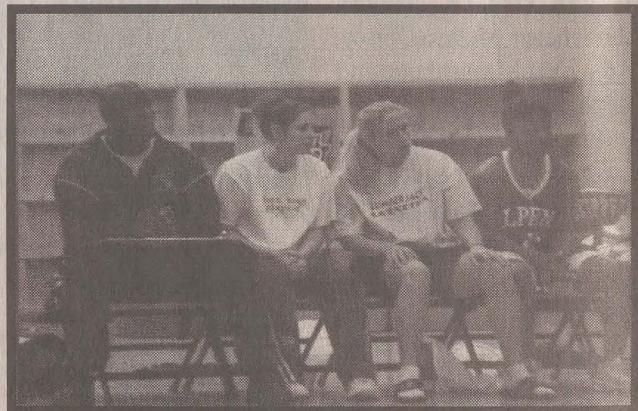
2003-04 Men's Basketball Roster

#	Name	Ht	School
10	Drew Kemp	6-0	Star Spencer
11	Brent Wichtner	6-4	North Branch
12	Sean Seivwright	6-1	West Hill
14	Jamaal Slappey	6-3	Baldwin High
22	Eric Muszynski	6-4	Alpena High
23	Lance Edgerton	6-4	Inland Lakes High
24	Keith Nowak	6-4	Alpena High
30	Matt Walker	6-2	Woodward
32	Jamaal Lawson	5-10	Westerville North
34	Deverin White	6-8	Detroit Redford
40	Ryan Amesbury	5-10	Boyne City High
42	David Freeman	6-5	Arthur Hill
44	Chris Cross	6-2	Arthur Hill
52	Shane Ison	6-8	Cheboygan High
54	Brandon Armour	6-4	Woodward

Head Coach: Frank McCourt

'No Weak of Heart': Lady 'Jacks Working Hard for Success

ACC File Photo



Women's basketball coach Bobby Allen (left) watches a game last year when he was assistant coach.

TABBI WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

For the eleven ladies representing ACC Women's Basketball team, their Sunday evening was anything but laid back and relaxing. After arriving at practice at six p.m., players ran a three-man weave. The players "weave" in and out from each other, passing the ball, until they reach the end of the court where the last lady goes for a lay-up. Coach Bobby Allen's goal: 25, and if the ladies missed even one, Coach demanded sprints, suicides, push-ups and sit-ups as a motivator for the ladies to get

the job done.

"No Weak of Heart" is one of Coach Bobby's mottos. He believes that in order to succeed as coach, he must "uphold his position which means being tough." Coach Bobby only has room for strong women on this team. The team must be committed, focused and dedicated not only to the game, but to teammates, and themselves. They must be willing to become slaves to the court for two hours out of their day, shove all of their personal baggage aside, come together and "play some ball." Coach Bobby's plan is to push the Lady Lumberjacks

to their brink. Although the players' limits will be pushed to the max, Allen is confident the hard work will instill one thing among the ladies: it will impact their lives, not only in the game and on the court, but in setting high morals and in life.

The phrase, There is no "I" in "TEAM" has never held more meaning for our Lady Lumberjacks. Adding three new team players to the returning eight, there is no single "superstar" among them. Coach Bobby and Assistant Coach Renee Shepler are pushing a team concept. They want to

implement a sense of family among the ladies. "Togetherness" is the key to the team's one big advantage that will pave the way on and off the court.

As to whether or not ACC Lady Lumberjacks will reign victoriously in our league, only time and talent will tell.

The girls begin their season on November 7 at home in the CAN/AM Tournament. The girls play Sault College, with game time starting at 6 p.m.

Please turn to page 5 for the Lady Lumberjacks complete basketball schedule.

2003-04 Women's Basketball Roster

#	Name	Ht	School
4	Tia Brown	5-6	Woodward
10	Kim Wagner	5-5	Boyne Falls High
20	Angela Boutell	5-8	Shelby High
22	Bridget Hillard	5-9	Vestaburg High
24	Joni Ames	5-3	Mio High
30	Stephanie Stanley	5-8	Tawas High
32	Vanessa Wekwert	5-4	Alpena High
34	Anna Bashans	5-5	Arthur Hill
40	Karisa Kaye	5-8	Alpena High
44	Megan Vanschoten	5-10	Alpena High
52	Lynne Grawleski	5-5	Memphis

Head Coach: Bobby Allen
Asst. Coach: Renee Shepler
Student Coach: Broderick Knight



DOMINICK MILLER
Sports Editor

Lets take a quick trip back down (recent) memory lane.

It's the top of the eighth inning on October 14th, around 10:30 at night. The Cubs have a 3-0 lead in game six of the National League Championship series. They have their ace, Mark Prior, on the hill. The Cubs are a mere five outs away from making their first trip to the World Series since World War II. Cubs fans were ready to party. There were literally millions of people watching to see if history would finally happen. Could anything possibly go wrong?

Yes. Of course. These are the Chicago Cubs we're talking about here.

With one out and a runner on second, Luis Castillo stepped to the plate. After a couple of pitches, Castillo lofted a pop fly toward the left field wall. Cubs fielder Moises Alou ran to the wall, timed his jump perfectly, was about to make the catch, but...

The dreaded 58-year-old curse, which had not really been evident the entire post season (and regular season, for that matter) reared its head and made sure that Alou did not catch that ball.

The curse this time, however, was not a billy goat, but instead a Cubs fan by the name of Steven Bartman.

He did what any fan would do: he tried to catch a foul ball. But still, it's a good thing that Wrigley Field security walked him out of the stadium after the Cubs lost the game.

Anyway, after Bartman got in the way of the potential second out, the Marlins rallied to score eight runs in the eighth inning, putting the game away.

In my life, I have only been depressed one time. And that one time was about two weeks ago, sitting in my room watching the Cubs self destruct. I think I speak for most Cubs fans on that one.

The Cubs did have one more game to play, but it was already clear that the Marlins were going to win the series. There was no way of getting around it.

Anyway, as Cubs fans are used to saying, we "have to wait until next year."

Like this column? Hate it? How about the sports section? Any comments? Drop us a line at acclumberjack@yahoo.com, and address the message to Corey or Dom.