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By Flash Gordon

Sports Ghost - Writer The M-AC Cavaliers split four Region X Conference games heading into last weekends back-to-back road games at Salkahatchie and Columbia.

The Cavaliers went into that game with a 15-7 record and a 7-3 conference mark. Despite losing to North Greenville 99-69 on last Tuesday,

Montreat-Anderson still has a good shot at getting a bye in the opening round of the Region X tournament that will be played in Banner Elk on the campus of Lees-McRhae March 1-3.

Against North Greenville, Darryl Harris and Richard Smith tied for top scoring honors with 15 points for the Cavaliers. The Mounties used an aggressive man-to-man defense that shut down the Cavaliers offensive punch. Montreat-Anderson cut the lead to 11 points twice, but each time North Greenville was able to bounce back to take a commanding lead.

On a positive note, the Cavaliers turned in excellent performances, beating Columbia Junior College and Louisburg College in back-to-back games that were played at home (January 26-27).

The Cavaliers have six players averaging in double figures. Heading into the game against North Greenville,

Montreat-Anderson Coach Steve McNamara said, "It is pretty tough to stop a team that has such a balanced scoring attack.

"I've been pleased with our defensive play," McNamara said. "We know we have to play good defense because we don't have the size of other teams. We are getting after people and we are taking the ball away and scoring.

On January 26th, it was a nip-and-tuck battle all the way before the Cavaliers finally defeated Columbia, 83-80. With 10 seconds left to play point-guard Ethan Davis fired a pass to Mark Dean and the 6-9 freshman dunked the ball and was fouled. He made the free throw and that was the difference.

Montreat-Anderson saved its best effort in last Saturday's (January 27th) game against Louisburg. The Cavaliers went into over-drive in the second half, hitting a school record 13 three-point shots.

Freshman guard Dave Bruce came off the bench nailed and seven-out-of-eight

three-point shots. At halftime the game was tied 48-48. In the second half Montreat-Anderson showered Louisburg with

three-point bombs for a 101-87 triumph.

Bruce finished with a career-high 26 points. He was followed by Richard Smith with 16 points, Travis Ross (who was three-for-three from three-point land) with 16 points, Mark Dean with 15 points and Greg Pounds and Jason Petty with 10 points each.

In the game against Columbia, Petty led the Cavs with 19 points, while Richard Smith hit 16 points, Ross and Dean had 11 and Ethan Smith had 10 points.

The loss for Montreat was against Anderson on the road on January 23rd.

Cav's Performance

By STEVE MCNAMARA

January 23 at Anderson, Anderson College slipped by M-AC in the final minutes to post a 84-79 victory. The Cavs hung tough on the road and had an opportunity to send the game into overtime during the last 20 seconds but were unsuccessful.

Montreat overcome a 40-36 lead by Anderson at the half, and led the better part of the second half. Anderson rallied with 2 minutes left scoring 5 points in 10 seconds. The Trojans made the front end of a free throw situation. The second shot was missed but Anderson was able to tip it in to tie the at 73-73, before stealing the inbound pass and converting the lay-up to put them in for good.

Richard Smith has an outstanding night for the Cavs scoring 19 points and grabbing 8 rebounds.

January 26 Home Columbia Mark Dean's late basket and free throw with 10 seconds remaining gave the Cavs a 83-80 victory over visiting Columbia. Darryl Harris came off the bench to get the Cavs running early in the first half as they raced to a 41-34 halftime lead.

The Cavs then had to withstand a late Columbia rally. Mike McNeals jumper with 29 seconds left the game tied at 80. M-AC worked the ball around before finding Dean open cutting to the basket. Jason Petty paced five double figure scorers with 19 points. Richard Smith added 16 with Travis Ross and Dean adding 11 a piece. Ethan Smith hit for 10 points and also dished out 9 assists.

January 27 Home Louisburg

Six Cavaliers scored in double figures to lead a balanced attack as M-AC stung region 10 foe Louisburg 101-87.

The Cavs showed no signs of leg weariness in this early afternoon contest after Friday nights tough contest. M-AC would set s school record connecting on 13-23 (56%) 3 point field goal attempts.

It was a close first half as both teams shot the ball extremely well. The score was deadlocked at 48. Richard Smith scored 16 points and Dave Bruce scored 26 points, combined for half of M-AC's total. With the score tied at 54-54 Travis Ross put the Cavs in front for good hitting on consecutive 3 point shots. Leading 76-70 with 11:35 remaining, the Cavs held the Hurricanes scoreless for the next 5 minutes. The Cavs extended the lead to 88-70, helped by Dave Bruce's two 3 point bombs. M-AC was not challenged the rest of the way.

Dave Bruce scored 26 points, and 7 assists including a school record, seven 3 point field goals. Dean added 15 points and 11 rebounds. Greg Pounds and Petty added 10 points a piece. Ethan Smith dished out 9 assists.

OUTLOOK: The Cavs next four games are all on the road. Currently M-AC stands as on of the top four region teams with a 7-2 record. The top four teams of twelve in the region receive a first round buy in the tournament.

Coaches' Comments

By MARIA FERRONE Sports Editor

Montreat - Anderson basketball has been very exciting this year. Both men's and women's have really improved throughout the year. Both coaches appeared to be very pleased with the performance of their players and the determination their players have put forth.

I had a chance to talk with Dana Bostic, the women's basketball coach. Coach Bostic attended the University of North Carolina where she received her degree in coaching.

This is her first year of coaching on the college level. The women's record so far this season is 3-6, With 12 games left. Coach Bostic is encouraged with the players on her team. The team spends two to three hours vigorously

practicing a day. Coach Bostic feels that all nine of her players have given 100% and have had great attitudes during the season. Coach Bostic says of herself that she is very demanding of her players, but they are also very demanding on themselves as well. She also says that over the course of the season the players have developed their skills by really using team work.

The women's basketball team is not at the conference level yet, but Coach Bostic would like to see them get there in the next year or two. Right now they are mainly playing junior colleges, however the players are improving and more freshmen are being recruited for the upcoming year.

The team is looking forward to playing more

Lady Cavs Cont from p.5

then fell behind by 17 points in the second half.

Lady Cavaliers' Coach Dana Bostic was pleased with the effort. "We pressed them the entire game," Bostic said. "Finally, in the second half, they could not handle the pressure."

Carol Fox was the leading scorer for Montreat-Anderson with 22 points. The senior had 11

difficult schools in the future, and building up the athletic status of Montreat-Anderson College.

This year has been very exciting for our men's basketball team. Their record stands at 13-6 as of 1-26-90. They have had no problems adjusting to the Steve new coach, McNamara, who took over around mid-season. When talking to Coach McNamara he said he was very pleased with the performance of his players. He believes that the attitude on the team had been very positive, and because of the outstanding teamwork the players have been able to come through the change in coaches without it effecting their unity and performance as a team.

With only 9 games left, Coach McNamara feels that his team can earn a first round buy in the Region X Tournament. The team is shooting for a record of 20 wins for the overall season. Coach McNamara feels these goals can be obtained through Montreat's strong 3 point offensive and the fast pace they use in defense.

Coach McNamara is not totally unfamiliar with Montreat basketball. He has been coaching college basketball for 5 years and he was also a volunteer for the Montreat team during the 88-89 season.

Next year the coach hopes to recruit more freshmen to the team. In addition to this he would like to build up the team now. As we look forward to the rest of the season, we should be very excited about the future the Montreat Men's basketball team has before them.

steals and five rebounds. She was followed by Gracie Mann, who had 15 points and a team-high nine rebounds.

Mountain's Black Melissa McFalls, Rhonda Laxton, Mann and Fox all hit key shots at the end when Montreat-Anderson knotted the score at 48-48. In the overtime Fox hit two free throws and Mann nailed a five-foot jumper that put the game away.