

Lions Lose Disappointing Three

The Lions have had a tough time the last two weeks.

A 80-68 loss to the Lincoln Memorial Rail Splitters hit the Lions on Feb. 3, Gardner-Webb took a 76-75 win from Mars Hill on Feb. 5, and the Lions suffered an emotionally crushing 79-77 defeat at the hands of the Limestone Saints on Feb. 7.

Steve McDonald has proven to be a real asset to the Lion squad the past five games. McDonald has averaged 18.6 points a game since Jan. 29. He scored 17 points against the Rail Splitters, hit for a game-high 25 points in the match against Gardner-Webb and shot for 15 points in the Limestone game.

There's only one thing holding McDonald back right now: an ankle injury sustained in practice two days before the Lions were to play UNC-Asheville on Feb. 10. He hasn't practiced since the accident, but has shot some free throws to keep his form according to Coach Ronai. The ankle is still swollen, bruised and very tender, but it is hoped that McDonald will recover and be back in uniform soon. The Lions could especially benefit from the three-point shot he has honed this season.

While McDonald led the scoring against Lincoln Memorial, Pressley Boyd, Steve Dooley and Pierre Lamitte contributed 10 apiece.

The Gardner-Webb game was almost an upset for the Bulldogs. The score was

tied 73-73 with 12 seconds left in the game. Gardner-Webb's Terry Camp shot a three-point goal with four seconds to go. The Lions took a time out, came back into the game and gave the ball to McDonald. McDonald missed the three-point attempt, Dooley grabbed the rebound and missed the shot also. Todd Blondin got the next rebound, but could only manage to hit the layup shot which put the final score at a one point difference, 76-75. This was a considerable difference from the last time the Lions played Gardner-Webb. The final score then: 95-76, Bulldogs.

The Limestone Saints took a win from Mars Hill down in Gaffney, S.C. The Lions led throughout most of the second half until a charge was called on Dooley with two seconds left in the game. Harvey Morton hit both shots of the one-and-one for the nationally-ranked Saints. Joe White threw the ball down court, but it was deflected out of bounds by a Limestone player. Two seconds should have been left on the clock, but the clockkeeper apparently thought otherwise.

Dooley led Lion scoring with 19 points, Lamitte hit for 17 points, McDonald had 15 points and Blondin added 13. Anthony McPhaul was high for the Saints with 23 points.

Dooley leads season scoring with 15.5 points a game, Lamitte is averaging 13.9 points and Blondin has a 12.9 average.

Pete Baldini is leading free throw percentages with 78.1 percent, while Tony Mitchell and David Norris are hitting 73.7 and 72.7 percent, respectively.

Dooley is leading rebounder for the Lions with a total of 115, with Lamitte following closely behind with 114. Russell Foster is next in line with a total of 103 rebounds.

Jerry Brooks has 111 assists on the season, with Baldini being second highest with 89.

Blondin leads in steals with 55 and Lamitte has blocked 23 shots since he began playing in January.

Coach Ronai is pleased with his team's progress. "I've been really pleased. Progress is there," he said. "We played good at Belmont-Abbey, better against Gardner-Webb, and even better against Limestone."

"They were tough losses," he added. "But we're doing all of this with young kids who keep working hard at it. And they're not giving up."

The Lions, now 8-11, will have three games on the road coming up: Lincoln Memorial on the 17th, Barber Scotia on the 19th and Clinch Valley on the 21st. The last game of the season will be on Feb. 23 against UNC-A at 7:30 p.m. in Chambers Gymnasium.

FINAL WORD: The Lions fell to Belmont Abbey 92-82 in triple overtime Monday night.



PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

Pierre Lamitte stuffs the ball easily as a Limestone opponent watches on.

Lady Lions Contend For Playoff Berth

The Lady Mountain Lions Basketball Team is still in a contending position for the NAIA District 26 Playoffs after winning two of its last four games including one District win.

The Mars Hill team lost a game that was much closer than its final score, 87-67 on Jan. 31 at Belmont Abbey. Freshman Lavonda Wagner and sophomore Lisa McFadden provided excellent shooting in the first half to keep the Lady Lions in contention until the closing minutes. Wagner hit 18, and McFadden scored 16, while junior Holly Hough netted 12. Rebounding was led by Wagner and freshman Robin Lucas with nine each. Sophomore captain Karen Jarvis issued eight assists, a new high for the season for the team.

A home District win on February 5 against Gardner-Webb followed the Belmont-Abbey loss. 6' 3" center Lucas was outstanding with 19 points, 17 rebounds, three assists, three steals, and three blocked shots. Forward Wagner had 15 points, 14 rebounds, and three blocked shots. Point guard Jarvis scored 15 points and had eight assists again while guard Hough and forward Bunny Cardwell had 10 points each. Cardwell also had 11 rebounds.

The 13th win came at Warren Wilson as Cardwell and Hough led the scoring

with 22 and 18, respectively, followed by Wagner with 10. The same three led the rebounding in the opposite order with 13, 10, and nine respectively. Wagner also blocked three shots.

The second loss of the season to Western Carolina took place at Mars Hill on February 12 after the UNC-A scheduled game on February 10 was postponed until February 22. Poor shooting by the Lady Lions in the first half resulted in a commanding halftime lead by the Lady Cats which they maintained to win, 92-69. Lucas had another good game with 15 points, 10 rebounds, and five blocked shots. McFadden made 13 points and four steals while Hough had 11 points with 10 rebounds. Sophomore Karen Hefner, who started in the place of the injured Cardwell, scored 10.

After the 22 games, Lavonda Wagner leads Holly Hough by one point, and Lisa McFadden, Robin Lucas, and Bunny Cardwell by three points to maintain her scoring lead of 13.6. Rebounding is also led by Wagner with 10.4 followed by Cardwell with 9.6. Jarvis is ahead in assists (94) with Hough, McFadden, and Cardwell the next three in order. McFadden is the best "thief" (with 48 steals) with Jarvis and Cardwell follow-

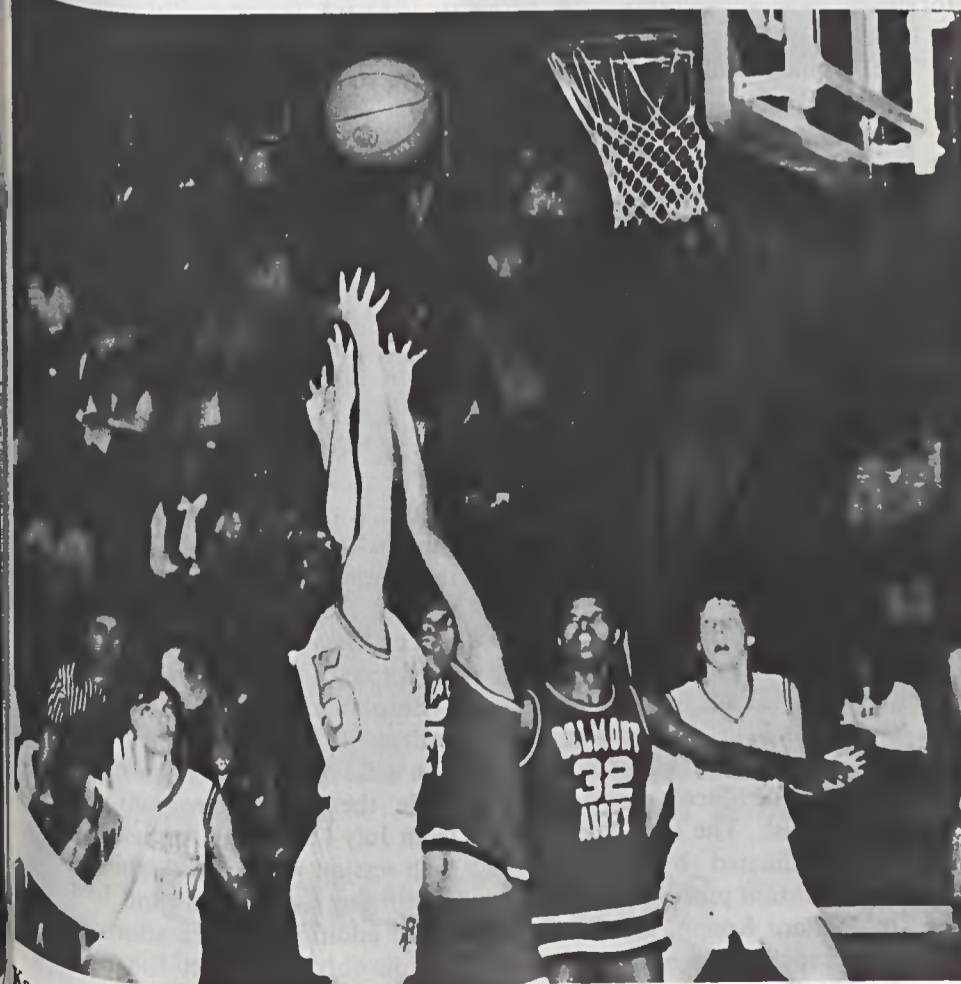


PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

Karen Hefner (15) attempts two over a Belmont Abbey defender as teammates Penny Stanton and Angela Wright look on.

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