

Lady Patriots Squash Erwin Squaws, 60-52

By BOB KOENIG

The Lady Patriots are for real. If you don't believe it, just ask the Squaws of Erwin High School.

The Squaws came to Marshall Monday night for a battle of 3-A conference leaders. Erwin sits atop the Big MAC with a perfect 7-0 conference mark while Madison paces the Little MAC standings with a record of 5-1 in conference competition.

The Squaws were loaded for bear Monday night, looking to avenge an earlier loss to the Lady Patriots, the sole

blemish on a 10-1 record. When the smoke settled Monday night, the Squaws returned to Buncombe County on the short end of a 60-52 final score.

A near-capacity crowd rocked the stands from the opening tip-off. Madison dominated the early play, taking a quick seven-point lead on scoring from Tammy Brown and Denise Thomason. A pair of baskets by Robin Frisby and two free throws from Tammy Brown gave the Lady Patriots

a 19-6 lead after the first quarter of play.

Tammy Brown dominated

play underneath the boards on both ends of the floor, picking up six points in the second quarter and starting several fast break scoring plays. With 3:06 remaining in the half, the Lady Pats retained their 13-point advantage when Brown stole a Squaw pass at the top of the key, fed a pass to Denise Thomason, who in turn passed to Robin Frisby for an easy lay-up. With 2:05 left,

Frisby completed the first half Madison scoring by connecting on a pair of free throws. Madison held a 31-20 lead at halftime.

The Squaws managed to chip away at the Madison lead in the third quarter. With less than two minutes left in the period, the Squaws posted three unanswered field goals to come within five points, 38-33. Jan Maney's basket from underneath with 35 seconds left snapped a two-minute scoring drought for the Lady Patriots. Denise Thomason, the games high scorer with 18 points, connected on a 20-foot field goal at the buzzer to give Madison a 42-33 lead as the final quarter opened.

Senior forward Amy Knisely

came on for Madison in the second half. A pair of Knisely baskets in the fourth quarter kept the Squaws four points back with four minutes left.

With 3:10 remaining, Erwin managed to tie the score at 48-48. Temperatures and the decibel count went up in the crowded gym in the final minutes of the showdown.

Amy Knisely put Madison in front by two, 52-50 on a lay-up assisted by Denise Thomason. With 1:25 left and Erwin in control, Thomason drew a charging foul and converted a free throw to up the lead to three. 53-50. Erwin pulled

within one after Tammy Brown fouled Kathy Gibson. The foul was Brown's fifth and Madison had to do without the junior center for the final 49 seconds.

On the inbounds pass after the free throws, Robin Frisby lost possession. Erwin trailed by one and had possession. The Squaws called time to plan their strategy.

Denise Thomason put a wrench into the Squaws plans when she drew another foul with just 28 seconds left. The foul was Kathy Gibson's fifth. Erwin was called for a technical when they failed to

remove her from the game. The charge and the technical gave Denise Thomason four throws from the charity line.

Despite the howls of indignation from the Erwin partisans, the Lady Patriot's floor leader sank three of her four attempts to put a 56-52 lock on the Lady Patriots sixth win in a row. Thomason added four more insurance points on free throws in the final seconds.

In addition to dishing out seven assists, Thomason paced the Lady Patriot scoring with her 18 points. Tammy Brown and Amy Knisely each scored 13 points in the Lady Patriot's

tenth win of the season. Robin Frisby also hit for double figures with 10 points. Jan Maney, Karen Holcombe and Kim Boles also scored.

The squad showed no ill effects from a week-long layoff. Games with Ben Lippen School and Polk Central were postponed due to snow. The Ben Lippen game will be made up at Madison on Wednesday night.

In an earlier JV boys contest, Erwin took a 48-40 win from the Patriots. Erwin rescued a split of the varsity doubleheader with a 85-64 win over Madison in the nightcap.

Lions Nip Milligan, 61-60

BY BOB KOENIG

Despite a variety of medical maladies that plague half the squad, the young Lions of Mars Hill fought back from a 14-point deficit to edge visiting Milligan College Monday night at Chambers Gymnasium.

In what is becoming typical fashion, the Lions overcame a disastrous start to catch the Buffaloes in the closing minutes. They did it with a cast of walking wounded while two starters looked on from the bench, banished because of fouls.

The Buffaloes, who are struggling through a season that has seen them compile a record of 2-16 going in, jumped out to an early advantage. Before the Lions could get started, Milligan was sitting on a 11-0 lead. Mars Hill rallied back through the middle of the opening half, only to take a 12-point, 39-27 deficit into the lockerroom at half.

Freshman Todd Blondin, looking more like a boxer than a basketball player, helped revive the slumping Lions in the early minutes of the second half. Blondin took eight stitches above his eye in

Saturday's contest against Central Wesleyan. Before departing with five fouls, Blondin scored seven points and hauled down four rebounds for Mars Hill.

Sophomore forward Pierre Lamitte followed Blondin to the bench after collecting his fifth personal with 4:11 remaining and Mars Hill trailing by seven.

The final five minutes of the Monday night contest could have been called "The Steve Dooley Show." The Lion captain put on a defensive display that turned out the lights on the Buffaloes' hopes. With 3:56 left, the junior forward sank a pair of free throws to pull Mars Hill within five, 60-55. An outside jumper from 15 feet and a twisting, driving layup over three defenders brought Mars Hill within one, 60-59 with three minutes left.

With just 2:17 left, it was Dooley again, this time drawing a foul underneath the basket. The team's leading fowl shooter, Dooley canned both ends of a one-and-one to give the Lions their margin of victory.

The Buffaloes had one final shot at victory, but Joe White's rebound of a missed Milligan shot with three seconds left ended the dramatic comeback.

A pleased head coach Bob Ronai told reporters afterward, "We showed that we can come back tonight. Maybe we can't play healthy. We've had guys out with the flu, guys hurt with knee injuries and Blondin wasn't 100 percent. We haven't been healthy since Dec. 2."

Ronai praised the play of his co-captains, Dooley and sophomore guard Jerry Brooks. Ronai told reporters, "Dooley and Brooks became our captains tonight. They came of age and showed some leadership on the court. Dooley wanted the ball and Brooks got it to him."

The comeback win snapped a five-game losing streak for Mars Hill. In other action last week, the Lions dropped a 101-78 decision to Guilford College Thursday and a 92-88 overtime decision to Central Wesleyan at home Saturday night. In the Central Wesleyan game, the Lions held a

16-point lead before falling in overtime.

Even in the celebration following Monday's win, the losses were on Ronai's mind. He said, "I really feel we are going to be a good team. We're young and a young team is going to go through the slumps. Sometimes it just takes one play, like missing an easy layup, to rattle a young team. When two to four of your starters are hurting and can't practice, it makes things pretty difficult."

Dooley's 26 points led all scorers. The Lion co-captain was the only Lion to hit for double figures. Before departing, Todd Blondin scored seven. Pierre Lamitte, Pete Balidi and Steve McDonald each had six points. Joe White had five, Russell Foster three, and Tony Mitchell two points on a pair of free throws. McDonald paced the Lions in rebound with six.

Buffaloes Greg Edmundson and Roby Witcher each had 16 points for the losers.

Mars Hill continues its home stand Thursday night when they will host Lenoir Rhyne. The Lions close out their four-

Lady Lions Win

The Mars Hill College Lady Mountain Lions won their seventh game of the season and fourth NAA District 26 game on Thursday by beating Davidson, 81-48.

Center Robin Lucas led the scoring with 19 points followed by Forward Bunny Cardwell with 16 LaVonda Wagner and Guard Holly Hough scored 12 each. The team outrebounded Davidson 55-23, led by Wagner with 13.

The Lady Lions also lost two road games at Tusculum, 98-85 and at Western Carolina, 100-61. Hough had 19 points at Tusculum followed by Lucas with 17. Lisa McFadden had 14, and Guard Karen Jarvis had 13. Cardwell, Lucas, and Wagner had 11, 10, and 9 rebounds respectively. Wagner scored 15 at Western, followed by Lucas with 14. Wagner had

9 rebounds followed by Hough, Jarvis and Cardwell with 6 each.

After 14 games, LaVonda Wagner is averaging 14 points per game, followed by Robin Lucas and Holly Hough at 12 each. Bunny Cradwell and Lisa McFadden have each scored 10 points per game.

The Mars Hill Lady Lions will meet Barber Scotia College on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Chambers Gymnasium.

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ministration the rate remains at 14.25 percent.

The interest rate for production loans to farmers who need financing above the actual loss and are unable to get credit elsewhere drops from 14 to 13 percent. The rate for real estate purposes remains at 13 percent.

Interest rates on long-term loans for soil and water conservation, and irrigation and drainage drop from the present 11.5 percent to 10.75 percent.

game home stint with a Saturday night game against Barber Scotia. Mars Hill travels to Belmont Abbey Monday night for a District 26 contest.

The Lady Lions ran their record to 9-7 with a 83-80 win over Catawba.

Holly Hough led the Mars Hill attack with 33 points and

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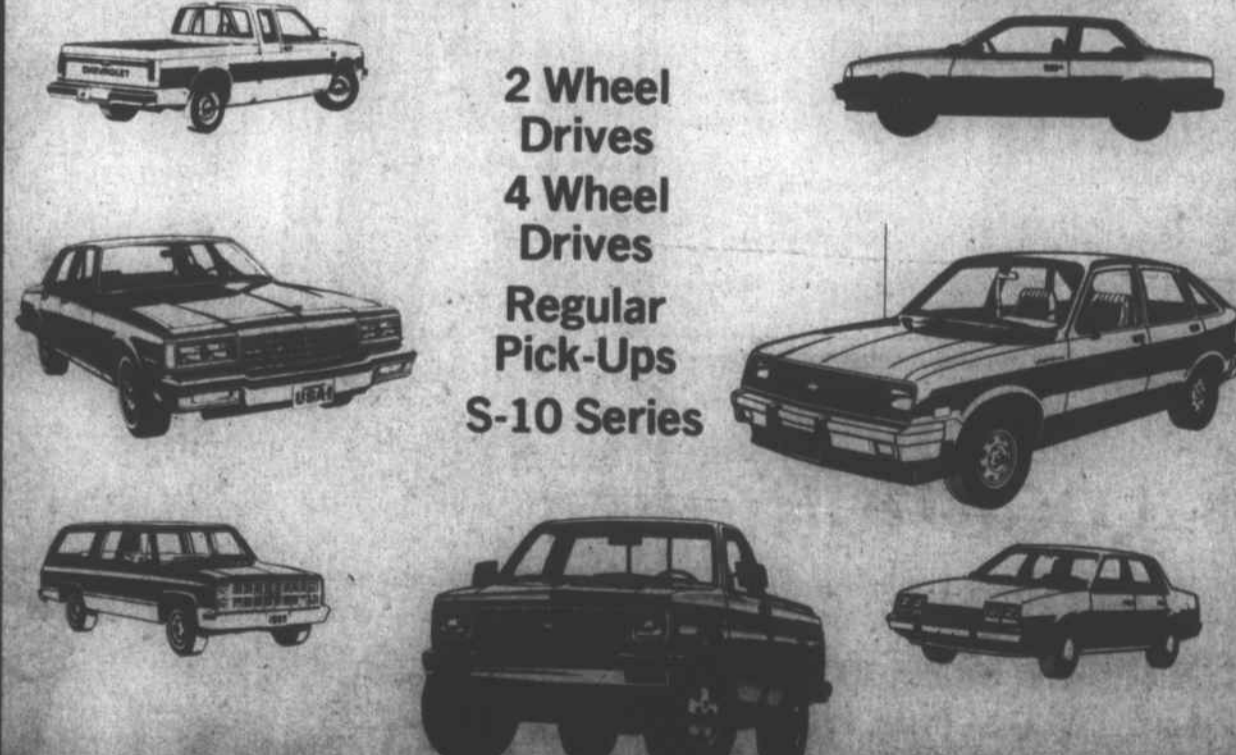
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