



PETE G. WILCOX/ THE DALLAS POST

Members of the Misericordia University men's basketball team celebrate their victory over Wilkes University on Saturday in the Freedom Conference Final.



BILL TARUTIS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Misericordia University Lady Cougars celebrate their victory over King's College in the women's Freedom Conference tournament championship game in Wilkes-Barre on Saturday afternoon.

A FIRST FOR MISERICORDIA SPORTS

Men's, women's basketball teams pick up Freedom Conference championship titles on same day.

It was a 2-fer at Misericordia University last Saturday. The men's and women's basketball teams both won Freedom Conference championships - the women by defeating King College, 64-54, and the men by earning a 69-42 win over Wilkes University.

Both Cougars teams were scheduled to be on the road in the first round of the NCAA Division II Tournament as the men

were slated to play NYU Thursday evening and the women were traveling to Massachusetts to face Tufts on Friday.

The Lady Cougars have made their way to the conference tournament in each of their first four seasons in the league, reaching the finals in the past two. After losing on the road in last year's championship game, however, the Cougars made their second chance count.

The only team to beat King's in league play during the regular season, Misericordia became the first team to beat the Lady Monarchs at home in more than a year, snapping a 15-game streak.

A whistle-filled second half saw plenty of trips to the foul line but King's was unable to take advantage, shooting 17-of-26 from the stripe in the half and 22-of-36 for the game. King's shot 29 percent (14-of-48) from the floor.

Misericordia senior Christine Marks scored 15 points and added a game-high 11 rebounds as the Cougars won the battle on

the boards, 38-24. Sophomore Lauren Smicherko chipped in with some valuable minutes off the bench, scoring seven of her nine points in the first half.

Following the Misericordia's men win, Ethan Eichhorst, the league's player of the year, Steve Artzerounian, the tournament MVP, and fellow starters Matt Greene, Jeff Slanovec and Chris Undersinger all took turns cutting down the net.

The last string belonged to coach Trevor Woodruff who climbed the ladder and took time to savor his alma mater's first men's basketball conference

team. It was the 12th straight win for the Cougars (21-5), capping off what was likely the most successful day in the history of Misericordia athletics.

For Woodruff, who was a player at Misericordia when Wilkes and coach Jerry Rickrode were playing in the Final Four, the win carried some added meaning.

Wilkes was the better team in the first half, stifling Eichhorst and building a 27-24 lead at half-time.

Little went right for the Cougars after that, as the Cougars

blew them away with a 45-15 performance in the final 290 minutes. Wilkes, which had scored 103 points in an overtime win in the semifinals, was held to its lowest output of the season.

Slanovec finished the night with 11 points and passed the 1,000th career point mark during the game. Junior forward Steve Artzerounian led the Cougars with a double-double, finishing with 18 points and 10 rebounds, earning tournament MVP honors for his efforts.

Eichhorst and Greene added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

DALLAS YOUTH BASKETBALL

Ostroski's 30 points leads Lakers' victory

7TH/8TH GRADE PLAYOFFS

Lakers 65
Sixers 37

Ray Ostroski poured in 30 points to lead the Lakers over the Sixers in the first round of the playoffs while Joey Thompson scored 12 and Daniel Mingy added 10 for the winners.

Kyle Archer led the Sixers with 13 while Ethan Scieyzinski added nine. Zack Charlton, Alex Charlton and Charles Giacometti also played well in a losing effort.

Raptors 40
Hornets 32

Jimmy Powell led the Hornets with 14 points while Tanner Gattuso added 12. Dalton Gattuso also played well for the winners.

Matt Harrison led the Hornets with 15 points.

Magic 51
Knicks 45

Lee Eckert led the Magic to victory with 19 points while Conner McCarty added 10 for the winners.

Chad Phillips scored 21 for the Knicks and Aaron Yurko played well in a losing effort.

Celtics 36
Bulls 35

Michael Farrell led the Celtics to a hard-fought victory over the Bulls with 16 points while Jason Anderson added 10 points. Peter Capitano also played well for the winners.

Adam Niznik poured in 25 for the Bulls in a losing effort.

Spurs 53
Lakers 25

Sukmail Mathon exploded for 32 points to lead the Spurs past the Lakers while Spencer Bowanko added 10 for the winners.

Ray Ostroski tossed in 19 points for the Lakers in a losing effort.

5TH/6TH GRADE PLAYOFFS

Raptors 34
Suns 26

The Raptors got a balanced scoring effort from Michael Luksic (13), Michael Anderson (9), Josh Lupole (6), Zach Bloom (5) and Zack Palfey (2).

The Suns were led by Nick Kocher with 14 points and Matt Maransky who scored six in a losing effort.

Raptors 30
Cavs 28

The Raptors edged the Cavs, 30-28, in a hard-fought semifinal match up with Michael Anderson and Josh Lupole each scoring nine points for the winners. Zach Palfey and Zack Hill played excellent defense for the Raptors.

David Schuster poured in 23 points for the Cavs in a losing effort.

3RD/4TH GRADE PLAYOFFS

Hornets 33
Cavs 27

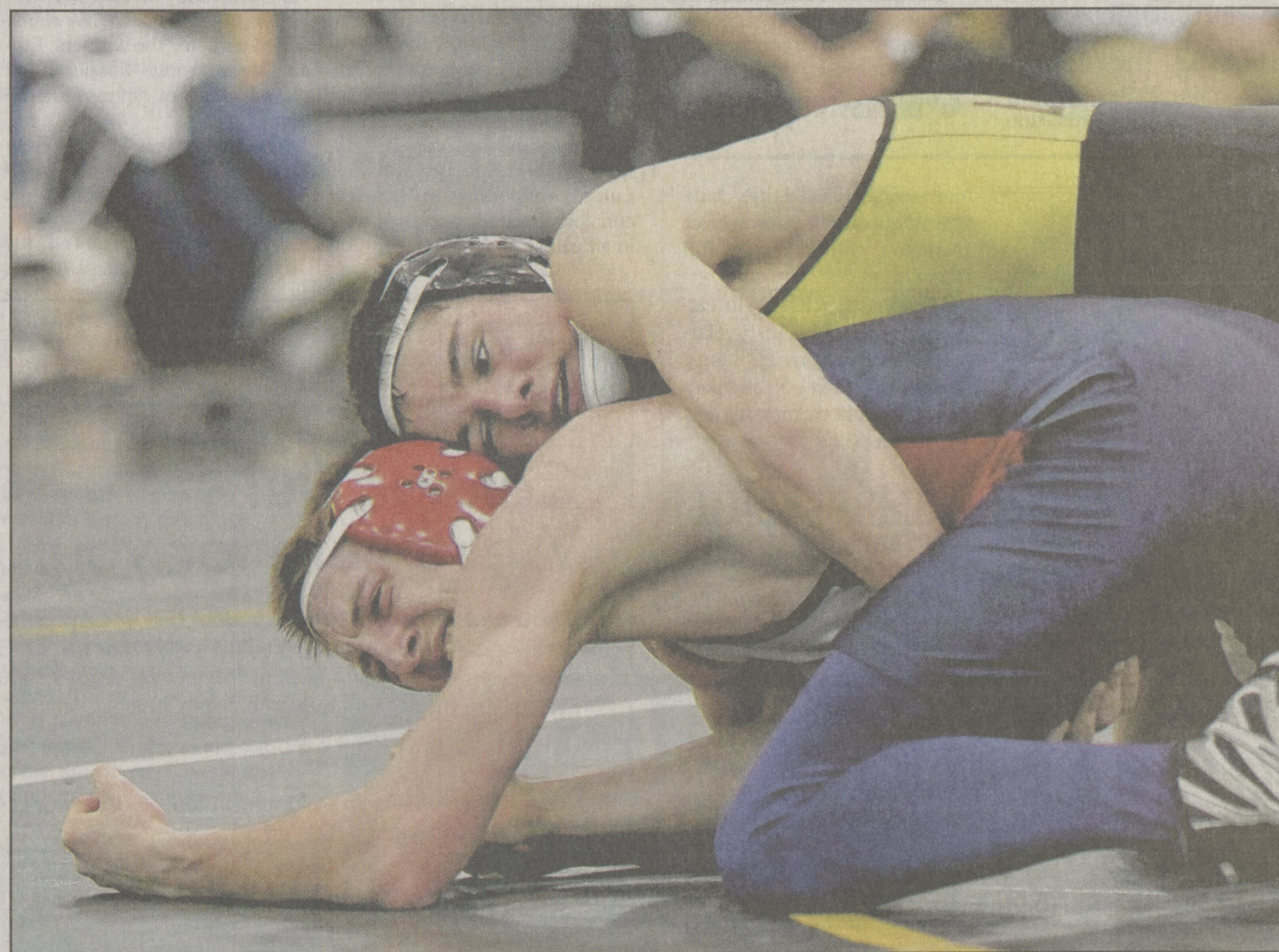
Eric Berley scored 18 points to lead the Hornets to victory over the Cavs. Sam Zondlo and Jake Shaver both had excellent all-around games for the winners.

Brett Ostroski led the Cavs with 15 points while Johnny Cantando added 10 in a losing effort.

Magic 25
Spurs 17

Lenny Kelley led the Magic over the Spurs with 12 points

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BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Lake-Lehman's Austin Harry, top, wrestles Nanticoke Area's Josh Allabaugh on his way to win the District 2 Class 2A gold medal in the 126-pound bout.

Lake-Lehman wrestlers eke out win over Dallas

Lake-Lehman was pitted against Dallas entering the final round of District 2 wrestling action on Saturday, with each team having earned a separate fourth match.

When Hanover Area's Steve Radzwilla turned back Garrett

Artsma of Dallas, though, the Black Knights wrestlers cheered, knowing that Dallas would not overtake them in points and, by a margin of one point, the Knights came away with the team title in the wrestling tournament.

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AT RIGHT: Dallas' Dominick DeGraba, back, wrestles Hanover Area's Brad Glazenski on his way to win the District 2 Class 2A title in the 106-pound bout.

