

Sports

Lady Lions 6-13

The Cavs

The 'Team of the 90's' Arrives a Year Early

by Michael A. Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

When the L.A. Laker's Magic Johnson declared in Sports Illustrated last year that the Cleveland Cavaliers, "are the team of the 90's," many probably thought that Johnson had led one too many fast breaks. If anyone predicted that Cleveland would own the NBA's best record at the All-Star break, they were most likely laughed at. The fact is that the upstart Cavaliers under Coach Lenny Wilkens own the NBA's best record of (get ready-) 34-10, to lead the preseason favorite Detroit Pistons and the rest of the rough - and - tumble Central Division.

The Cavs have traditionally been a cellar-dweller up until last season when they finished 42-40 and earned a spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The "Cadavers" of years past suffered through miserable seasons during the days of stars like World B. Free, Roy Hinson, Campy Russell and Mike Mitchell. At this point, attendance at the Richfield Coliseum was so low, Cleveland owners considered folding. Those days have long since gone and the Coliseum and the rest of Cleveland are at a fever pitch over their rising Cavaliers.

What have they done up on the North Coast? It started when General Manager Wayne Embry and Wilkens came to Cleveland. Embry helped make wholesale changes giving Wilkens - a former Cavalier standout himself - a harvest of talent from the 1986 draft. Cleveland had the first and seventh picks of the lottery and came away with North Carolina star center Brad Daugherty and a flashy shooting guard by the name of Ron Harper from Miami, Ohio. With a pick from Dallas in the second round, they picked up point guard Mark Price from Georgia Tech and Rookie John "Hot Rod" Williams of Tulane joined the Cavs (after being cleared of courtroom complications) to form the nucleus of Cleveland's future.

After stumbling through a 31-51 "rookie" season, the Cav's youth movement began to pay off. The final piece of the puzzle came in a surprise overnight trade with the Phoenix Suns midway through last season. Cleveland sent Tyrone Corbin, Mark West and rookie Kevin Johnson to the Suns for veteran star forward Larry Nance and teammate Michael Sanders. The Cavs went on to take "Air" Jordan and the Chicago Bulls to the final game of their bruising five-game series

before bowing out of the 87-88 playoffs. Cleveland had begun to make noise in the East.

That noise level increased this year when the Cavs won all eight of their preseason contests and proceeded to roar through the first three months of their schedule, including a club record 11-game winning streak. There are a number of reasons for the Cavs current success. First, they play consistent basketball at home and on the road. They are a terror at the Coliseum with a 20-2 record, and are more than adequate when they travel, at 14-8.

Secondly, Cleveland possesses the best team defense in the league, holding their opponents under 100 points in over 50% of their games. A third reason is that their young talent have matured into big league players.

The Cavs field a balanced attack. They share points, help each other out in their rotating defense, pass with unselfishness and press constantly. These are the key ingredients in Wilkens' recipe for silencing doubters and winning basketball games. To make Wilkens' strategy work, several players must blend their individual specialties.

Daugherty, their 7'1" center, is Cleveland's best pure passer and averages 19.4 points and nine rebounds per game. The Jordanesque Harper, deft in moves down the lane and in-your-face dunks, is their best penetrator and scorer (19.5 ppg). Nance is their top shot-blocker, post-up scorer and their veteran leader, averaging 18.5 points at the small forward spot. Price, the play-maker, averages nine assists and 18.7 points as their marksman from the outside. Williams plays a solid sixth-man role, combining scoring (11 ppg) with shot-blocking.

The Cleveland bench has depth and provides a defensive punch, lead by Craig Ehlo, Darnell Valentine, Chris Dudley and rookie Randolph Keys. As a whole, the team specializes in thievery, with an average of over 10 steals and seven blocks a game.

It's no joke, the Cavs have arrived. Wilkens has taught his young players the art of teamwork, which they demonstrate regularly with plenty of passing and double figure scoring. Best yet, they appear to be a highly motivated and tight-knit squad that continues to get better with each game. With a hyped-up Coliseum crowd to back them, the Cavaliers will be tough dueling partners come playoff time.

by John Musser
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The Lady Knights of Gannon made their last visit to 'The Pit' a long night for the Lady Lions, as they ran away with a 99-54 victory. The Lady Lions rebounded on the road by dismantling Elmira College 65-46 and then crushed Brockport 81-42.

On Wednesday night, Gannon used their full court pressure defense to disrupt the Lady Lions offense. Unable to get on track, Behrend committed 32 turnovers in the game.

The Lady Lions stayed close in the early goings of the game, and even managed to have a two-point lead four minutes into the game.

The lead was to be the last one for the Lady Lions, as Gannon took control of the game by converting Behrend turnovers into easy buckets. Gannon ran off to the locker room at the half with a comfortable 56-24 lead.

The fortunes of the Lady Lions were not much better in the second half, as the Lady Knights continued to build up their lead. The Lady Lions, despite the large deficit, continued to hustle and play hard.

The final score was 99-54, leaving the Lady Lions at 5-13 while Gannon improved to 11-7. Gannon shot 56 percent from the field and a sizzling 94 percent at the foul line. The lady Lions field goal percentage was 37, while netting 56 percent at the charity stripe.

Heather Murray played a solid game, pounding in 11 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Lisa Butch also had 11 points, plus three assists and six steals.

Michele Madison had 10 points and six boards. Melanie Dunn chipped in nine markers while pulling down seven rebounds.

Chris Zukowski lead six Lady Knights in double figures with 20 points.

A comforting postgame thought, the Lady Lions will not be playing Gannon again for many years, as their game contract has not been renewed.

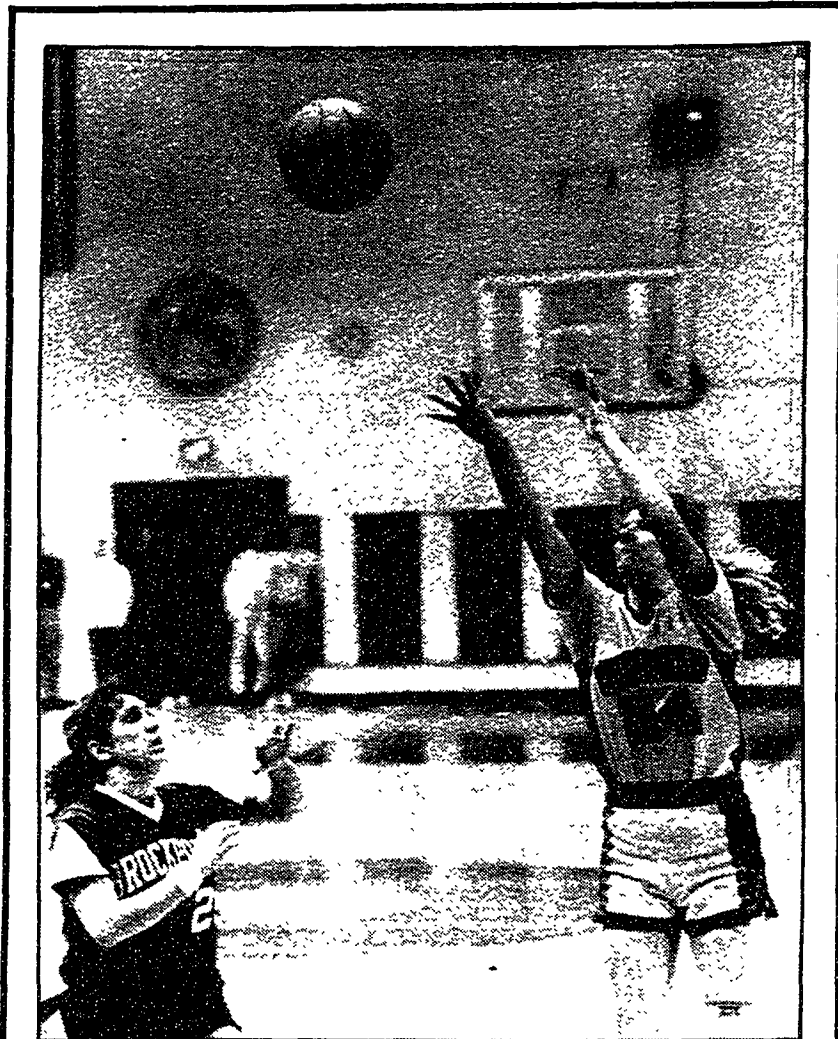
The Lady Lions vented their frustrations on the Elmira Soaring Eagles, upping their record to 6-13 while dropping Elmira's to 2-17.

Both teams came out cold, as the Lady Lions committed 17 first half turnovers, while Elmira misfired on 28 of their first 34 attempts from the field.

The Lady Lions had an easier time shooting the ball, canning 11 of their first 25 shots, taking the first half lead, 29-21.

In the second half, the Lady Lions calmed down and went to work. The lead stretched to double digits and beyond as the Lady Lions dominated the boards, 51-35, for the game.

Elmira converted only seven field goals in the second half as the Lady Lions pumped in 17 to coast to a 65-46 win. Elmira kept



Lisa Butch puts up a grand jumper during the Lady Lions' 39 point pounding of SUNY-Brockport, 81-42. The shot gave Butch a career total of 1001 points. Butch is only the fourth Lady Lion to ever score more than 1000 points.

photo by Rick Brooks

the score more respectable with good foul shooting, nailing 20 of 26.

Heather Murray grabbed seven boards and shot 70 percent from the floor in addition to her game and career high 17 points.

Michele Madison garnered 14 points, pulled down 10 rebounds, dished out four assists, and swiped five steals in another strong performance.

Lisa Butch had a steady 12 points, ripped down 10 boards, served up three assists, and collected three steals.

Melanie Dunn and Lisa Dorenkamp both added nine points. Dunn also had eight rebounds and three assists while Dorenkamp snared five boards and assisted on six buckets.

On Monday, the Lady Lions roared to a 39-point demolishing of SUNY-Brockport.

The Lady Lions started slow, but eventually took the lead at the 9:38 mark on a Madison layup. The lead grew to eight by halftime with the score 36-28.

The Lady Lions showed no

mercy in the second half, outscoring Brockport 45-14. Michele Madison tossed in a game high 23 points and hauled down nine boards as the Lady Lions raised their record to 7-13. Brockport fell to 9-9.

Lisa Dorenkamp added 10 markers, with Tammy Altzman and Michele Beisler both chipping in with eight. Beisler muscled her way to nine boards and Melanie Dunn cleared seven.

Lisa Butch was the story of the night, however, as she joined Sue Holmes, Missy Stasenko and Mindy Stasenko in the Behrend 1000 point club. Holmes is the all-time point leader with 1104.

In addition to attaining this career milestone, Butch was also named to the weekly ECAC Honor Roll last week for her outstanding play.

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