

Lions Snap Losing Streak

by Todd J. Irwin
Collegian Staff Writer

The Lion cagers dropped their fourth consecutive game this past week in the midst of a flu epidemic.

Monday, Jan. 30, saw the Lions travel to Houghton where their record fell to 11-8 with a 84-71 defeat in what was probably the low point of the season. "We were pretty sick," said Coach Zimmerman, "More players were unable to play than were able to."

In addition, the Lions haven't played well on the road. "We don't get as pumped up as we do at home," said guard Randy Baughman.

The Lions took to the road again, on Saturday, and lost their fourth straight against a veteran Elmira team, 86-79. The Lions had problems against Elmira's big inside men. "We played well, but we always have problems against the bigger teams," said Zimmerman. In the end, the Lions lost and their record fell to 11-9.

As if the Lions didn't have enough problems with illness, they have also been hampered by injuries to key players as of late. Forward Mo Pringle turned his ankle in practice Thursday, and saw only limited playing time on Saturday. Pringle has averaged 11.3 points per game in addition to 7.8 rebounds per game. Forward Rick Demski has a bruised cheek bone which hampered his average 18.6 points per game.

The team realizes that their play is not at the level that it was before the losing streak. "We're

out of our rhythm," said junior Dave Gurska. "The chemistry is not where it was," added Baughman.

Despite the slide the team remains upbeat and optimistic. Demski summed up the teams sentiments, "We just got out of sync, but we're picking back up again. We're going to go out and win our last five games."

The Lions broke out of their midseason slump Monday night with a 112-98 blasting of SUNY-Brockport.

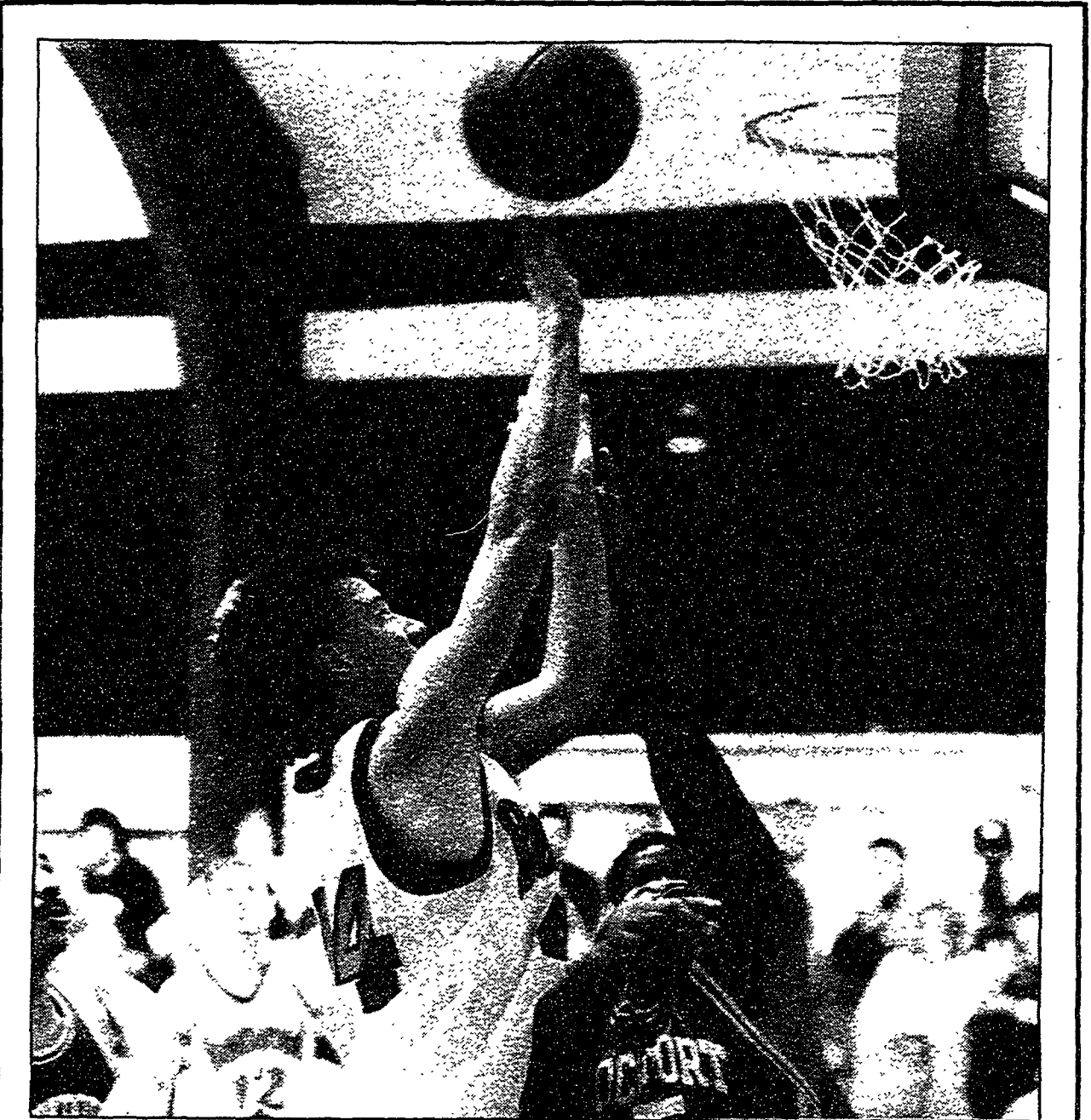
Guards Chris Viscuso, Dave Gurska and Bob Minford paced the Lion attack by hitting a record 14 three-point field goals. Viscuso was 8-9 from three-point land while Gurska nailed 5-8. Minford hit his only long range attempt.

Trailing 50-48 at the half, the Lions' roared back to take the lead for good with over 11:31 left in the game.

Viscuso led the Lions with 32 points while Minford had 22, Rick Demski 19, Gurska 15 and Mo Pringle 14.

In the paint it was Demski and Pringle that led the way combining for 22 of the Lions' 55 rebounds.

As a team the Lions shot 53 percent from the field to Brockport's 49 percent. The victory brings the Lions' record to 12-9 while dropping Brockport's to 4-15.



Rick Demski goes for two of his 19 points Monday night during the Lions' 112-98 victory over SUNY-Brockport. The victory ended the Lions' longest losing streak of the season at four games.

photo by Rick Brooks

SADD Takes On Drugs

CPS The group that raised a nationwide student voice against drunk driving announced a new effort January 23 and a new target: steroid and other illegal drug use by student athletes and their young fans.

Robert Anastas, founder of the four million-member Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD), figures he can duplicate his success.

"We can reverse peer pressure and make it positive rather than negative," he maintained in announcing his program.

"Student athletes are natural leaders and trendsetters in our high schools and universities. When they stumble, everyone falls," said Anastas, who recalled deciding to mount an anti-drug crusade among athletes after New York Giants' linebacker Lawrence Taylor was disciplined for failing a drug test and Canadian Olympian Ben Johnson lost his gold medal last summer after testing positive for steroid use.

"He was the greatest commercial for steroids, but it's shattered the work ethic that coaches try to instill in boys and

girls, that if you run when others walk, sleep when others party, you can go anywhere in sports. Now the message is 'I can do it my way and cheat.' But that is a false package and students need to know that."

Anastas said the new program, called Student Athletes Detest Drugs, will use the same technique as his drunk driving effort: students will sign cards pledging not to abuse drugs.

"We'll give the cards to the athletic director, who will pass them out to his coaches, who will discuss drug abuse with their teams. If they agree to sign the cards, then they'll also make a public statement. But they won't only be making a statement, they'll be sending a message to their parents, their brothers and sisters, their fellow students and their fans too."

"Once you've committed publicly," Anastas continued, "It's not easy to go to a party and down a six-pack or smoke a joint without feeling like a hypocrite."

Participating colleges will get large "Student Athletes Detest Drugs" banners to hang near their

teams' benches during games. SADD stickers, which will be affixed to helmets and uniforms, and literature outlining the dangers of drugs also will be sent to team captains to give to other players.

St. Louis University already has adopted the plan, Anastas said, and he's working with officials at St. John's University and universities of Southern California and California-Los Angeles to implement it.

SADD also has contacted officials at hundreds of other colleges and 25,000 high schools and junior high schools about the program, Anastas said.

Anastas, a former high school counselor, admits he won't be able to reach every student by appealing to them with athletes. "There are those kids who are smoking the grass, doing the LSDs, who are not able to express themselves through sports," he said. "we miss a group, and that has always bothered me. I wish to heck I knew how to reach that group."

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