

Sports

Lions Lose Two Matches

Michigan Wins NCAA

by Michael A. Cifelli
Collegian Staff Writer

Monday night in the Kingdome in Seattle, the Michigan Wolverines defeated the Pirates of Seton Hall 80-79 to capture their first NCAA basketball title. For last-minute replacement coach Steve Fisher, it was last-minute victory for his Michigan Wolverines.

Point guard Rumeal Robinson canned two free throws with three seconds remaining in overtime to insure the victory. Glen Rice also contributed to the Michigan heroics with 31 points.

Fisher became the first rookie coach to win a national championship. He took over just two days before the tournament began when Bill Frieder packed his bags and headed for sunny Arizona State. The championship was the fifth to go into overtime, and the first since 1963 when Loyola, Illinois defeated Cincinnati 60-58.

Rice's merciless scoring gave him 184 points for the tournament, breaking a 24 year-old record held by Princeton's Bill Bradley. Rice was also named the tournament's most outstanding player.

With 1:17 remaining and the Wolverines down 79-76, the Hall's Gerald Greene missed the front end of a one-on-one in overtime giving Michigan the ball. Terry Mills made a turn-around jumper with 56 seconds left to bring Michigan within one.

The Pirates ran down the clock for one last shot but John Morton (Seton Hall's hot hand until then with 35 points) threw up an air ball with eleven seconds left. Michigan brought the ball back up court and Robinson - who finished with 21 points, 11 assists and game MVP honors - drove the lane and was fouled. Robinson canned the two free throws setting up a desperation shot by the Pirates' Darrel Walker. The shot missed, the clock ran out and Michigan had their first national title ever.

With just under nine minutes to play in regulation and Michigan up 59-49, Seton Hall - notorious for their strong finishes - ran off eight straight points with Morton scoring the last six. Later, with Michigan leading 66-61, Morton ran off another six points as Seton Hall's tenacious defense came up with two big steals to give them their first lead of the second half, 67-66. The lead grew to two points after a pair of free throws but Rice answered from down-town to give the lead back to the Wolverines with 1:03 left. Sean Higgins then hit a pair from the charity stripe and Michigan's lead swelled to three. With 25 seconds to play, Morton nailed a clutch three-pointer tying the score at 71 and sending the game into overtime.

Higgins finished with 10 points and nine rebounds for Michigan while Walker and Greene each chipped in 13 for the Hall. It was Seton Hall's first final four appearance in only its second invitation to the tournament.

After the game, the big question was the future of Michigan's undefeated, interim coach. Wolverine Athletic Director Bo Schembechler was quoted as saying, "I think we ought to interview Steve Fisher."

by John Musser
Collegian Staff Writer

Behrend's mens' tennis team suffered losses to Grove City College and John Carroll University by identical 8-1 scores, dropping their record to 1-2.

Coach Michael Grignol explained that the score was not indicative of how close the matches were.

"The score didn't show how tight the matches were", said the netters leader. "We were in the matches, we just didn't get the breaks. Grove City and John

Carroll have strong teams. Players 1-6 were real strong."

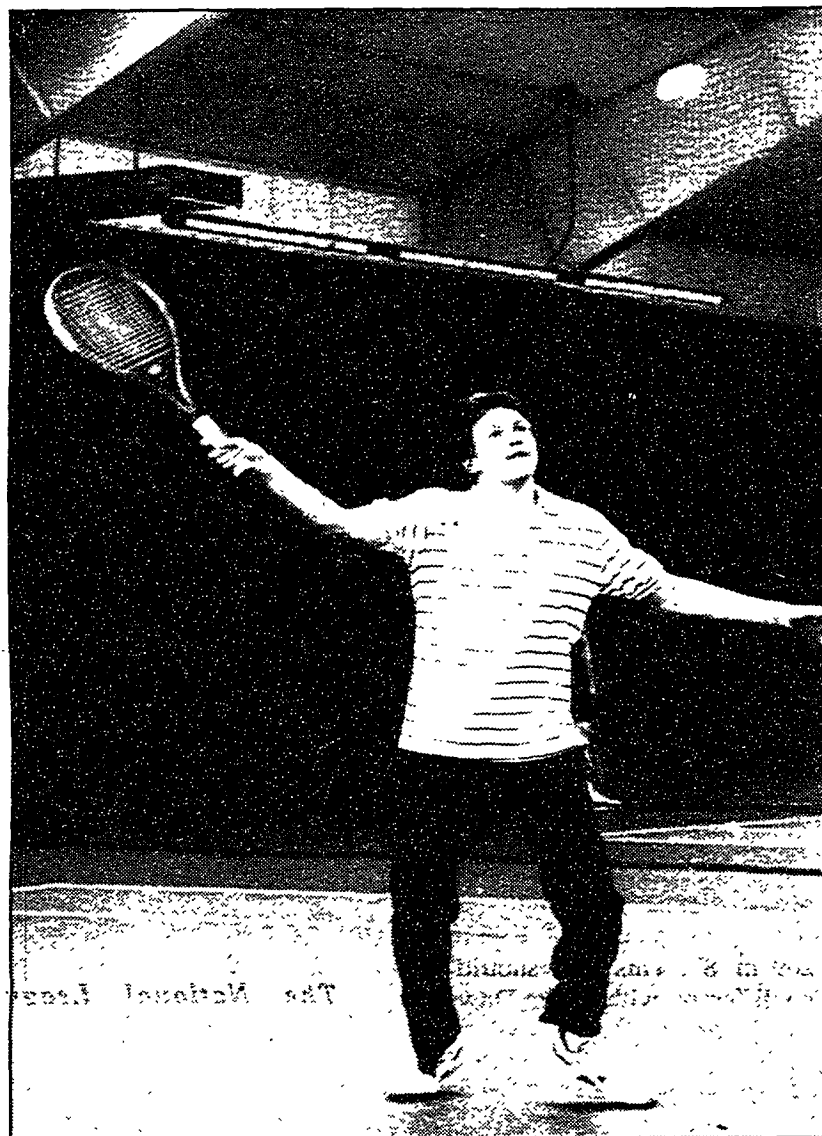
The one bright point so far for the Lions is Bill Schmitt. He is undefeated in singles play after disposing of Grove City's Dave Burdick (6-0,6-2) and John Carroll's Brian Sanford (6-4,6-3). Schmitt has yet to lose even a set to an opponent and has won 36 games while losing only nine.

The rest of the team has struggled. Grignol expects that after his players get some more seasoning, the team should do better.

According to Grignol, "There are a few players who will get better with the more playing time they get. Sanchak, Hiller, Crago, and Keenan should all improve with more playing time."

Grignol is far from being worried about his players becoming discouraged. "We're looking forward to our next matches. I think we're playing good, they just had a better day than we did."

The April 3 home match that was rained out against Hiram College has been rescheduled for April 17.



Lion Bill Schmitt eyes ball for an overhead shot. Schmitt hasn't lost match, or even a set, thus far in the season.

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