Men’s hoops gets warm welcome in return to Hart Center

**HC defeats Patriot League newcomer American 63-54**

BY DARLA ELY

CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Holy Cross men’s basketball got back on track this weekend with a big win over league leading American University, improving their record to 9-12 overall, 3-3 in the Patriot League. However, the week was not without some struggles as the Crusaders lost a hard-fought battle with Army earlier in the week.

Holy Cross traveled to West Point, NY on Jan. 23 to take on the Black Knights of Army. The Crusaders have continually struggled at Army’s 5,043 seat Hart Center, following the last game there on Jan. 19, the Crusaders were confident going into the game but were unable to pull out the win, taking a 57-46 loss in a highly defensive game. Holy Cross shot just 30 percent from the field, though the defense grabbed 37 rebounds to help hold the hot-shooting Knights to a low score. Coach Willard commented that though it was “a disappointing loss, the team defended really well...and just had trouble sinking the shots they took.”

In a close first half of the game when Holy Cross led 15-12 at one point, Army was able to break away with a 12-2 run, taking a 24-17 lead into the half. Freshman forward Greg Richter scored six points in the first half to lead the ‘Saders’ effort. After a slow start in the second half, Holy Cross managed to cut the Army lead to 30-27, but the Crusaders were unable to hold on as the Black Knights went on a 12-0 run, surging ahead 15 points with 9:26 in the game. The Crusaders had trouble controlling the offensive burst by Army but managed to contain them overall. Holy Cross managed to come within seven points of the Army lead but could not get any closer. The game was not out of reach at the end, but Coach Willard said, “they had to start fouling” in order to stop the Knight’s offense and were unable to recover from the sunken free-throws by Army.

Despite the loss, junior forward Tim Szatko had his team leading third double-double of the season with 16 points and 14 rebounds. This was a breakout game for Szatko who seems to have reclaimed his role as a team leader and powerhouse forward. Sophomore guard Jevi Meade grabbed seven rebounds, added five points and led the team with four steals. Charles Woodruff scored 17 points for Army and Josh Wilson sparked the team’s second half effort with 11 points in the half.

On Saturday Jan. 26, Holy Cross took on league leader and newcomer American, defeating the first place team in an exciting 63-54 win. The Crusaders were behind 2-4 and into a three-way tie for first place with Bucknell and Navy. This game was crucial for the Crusaders to regain good standing in the Patriot League, and they are now tied for second place. It was the Crusader’s day to win in front of a crowd of 2,321 at the Hart Center, following the women’s 76-61 blowout of the Eagles.

The game started off very slow with American leading by 11-6 score with 10:18 remaining in the first half, as both teams struggled to sink shots. Freshman center Nate Klinakis started early in the game to help spark a lagging ‘Sader offense in a 6-2 run over the Eagles. This was followed by an 11-4 run by American, but the Crusaders were not far behind as the Eagles took a 28-24 lead going into the half. Holy Cross opened the second half with an early 7-2 run to take a tie at 31-30 lead, which they later extended by six points, but the game was far from over. American answered back with an offensive burst, coming back from an eight point deficit to take a 41-40 lead with 9:34 remaining in the game. Szatko hit a clutch three point shot late in the game, allowing his arm to reach out to the air to let the Eagles know that he was far from done with them. This, along with three baskets in a row from junior guard Brian Wilson, sparked the Crusader offense and the crowd as the Hart Center erupted to cheer the team on. The Crusader lead was cut to just three points with 1.35 left in the game, but the American defense was forced to foul senior guard Ryan Serravalle repeatedly. He shot all of his free-throws, extending his team’s lead. Overall, Serravalle contributed 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Wilson scored 11 points total and snagged two steals. Coach Willard was impressed with the win and felt the team “did a great job of defending and did a really good job of running offense in the second half with everyone becoming involved.”

Once again, Szatko was the man of the afternoon, continuing his powerful inside play with 18 points and eight rebounds in only 23 minutes of playing time. Coach Willard said, “[Szatko] wasn’t shooting as well for a while, but he came in for extra shooting practice and his shot is coming off well with confidence now.”

The win over American will hopefully give the team confidence booster as the team as they take on this week’s opponents. They traveled to Bucknell on Jan. 30, but the score were not available as of press time. The Crusaders will face off against Navy for the second time this season on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Annapolis. The last game against the Midshipmen was a solid 70-57 victory for Holy Cross, when Szatko led the team with 19 points and seven rebounds. Fans can listen to the game by following a link from nyaxesports.com to hear a live radio broadcast. The next home game for the Crusaders will be on Wednesday Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hart Center.

**HC Women blank MIT at home**

BY MIKE ARIZZONE

CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

Holy Cross women’s hockey came home last weekend after two tough road losses to top-ranked Manhassetville and Sacred Heart. Playing at home is a huge boost to a team’s game, and, in order to make a push for the playoffs, players must take advantage of every boost they can get. The Lady ‘Saders just couldn’t handle the high powered offense of Southern Maine, as they amassed only 12 shots against goalminder Karen Jemik. The Huskies, on the other hand, peppered Crusader keeper Jenelle DiSanto with 43 shots. DiSanto gave it her all by stopping 37, but it wasn’t enough in the end. After a stellar first period in which DiSanto stopped all 14 shots, the floodgates opened early in the second, and there was no turning back the tide. Those big ole goose eggs just won’t fall into your lap, chances, whereas the Huskies were 1-4 in the second period alone Southern Maine had 20 shots. Southern’s dream quickly turned into Sunday’s nightmare.

All is not forlorn for Holy Cross, however; Rensselaer and RPI offer tough challenges for the Crusaders, but with games against St. Michael’s and New England College, things do appear to be going well for the Crusader women. As of this weekend, the Crusaders stand 5-9-2 overall in the ECAC Div. III East. They have eight points in the ECAC, trailing upcoming Bucknell 11-0 shutout victory on Saturday, Jan. 26 before being soundly defeated by the team’s second half effort with 11 points in the half.

On Saturday Jan. 26, Holy Cross took on league leader and newcomer American, defeating the first place team in an exciting 63-54 win. The Crusaders were behind 2-4 and into a three-way tie for first place with Bucknell and Navy. This game was crucial for the Crusaders to regain good standing in the Patriot League, and they are now tied for second place. It was the Crusader’s day to win in front of a crowd of 2,321 at the Hart Center, following the women’s 76-61 blowout of the Eagles.

The game started off very slow with American leading by 11-6 score with 10:18 remaining in the first half, as both teams struggled to sink shots. Freshman center Nate Klinakis started early in the game to help spark a lagging ‘Sader offense in a 6-2 run over the Eagles. This was followed by an 11-4 run by American, but the Crusaders were not far behind as the Eagles took a 28-24 lead going into the half. Holy Cross opened the second half with an early 7-2 run to take a tie at 31-30 lead, which they later extended by six points, but the game was far from over. American answered back with an offensive burst, coming back from an eight point deficit to take a 41-40 lead with 9:34 remaining in the game. Szatko hit a clutch three point shot late in the game, allowing his arm to reach out to the air to let the Eagles know that he was far from done with them. This, along with three baskets in a row from junior guard Brian Wilson, sparked the Crusader offense and the crowd as the Hart Center erupted to cheer the team on. The Crusader lead was cut to just three points with 1.35 left in the game, but the American defense was forced to foul senior guard Ryan Serravalle repeatedly. He shot all of his free-throws, extending his team’s lead. Overall, Serravalle contributed 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and Wilson scored 11 points total and snagged two steals. Coach Willard was impressed with the win and felt the team “did a great job of defending and did a really good job of running offense in the second half with everyone becoming involved.”

Once again, Szatko was the man of the afternoon, continuing his powerful inside play with 18 points and eight rebounds in only 23 minutes of playing time. Fans can listen to the game by following a link from nyaxesports.com to hear a live radio broadcast. The next home game for the Crusaders will be on Wednesday Feb. 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hart Center.

**Crusader Athlete of the Week**

**Pat Rismiller**

Mens Hockey

Sr. Fwd. 6-3

Last week Pat earned ITECH MAAC Hockey League Co-player of the week honors. He led the Crusaders with three goals and three assists versus Sacred Heart. Rismiller has now earned at least one point in each of his last 10 games. He currently leads the Holy Cross in assists (21) and points (34). He is also tied for the club’s lead in goals (13).