Men's basketball handed a tough loss

BY DAVID WANCZYK
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The men's basketball team heads to Hamilton New York tomorrow for its sec-
ond clash of the season with the Colgate Crusaders defeated Col-
gate 68-55 in the first meeting at the Hart center. The Crusaders are coming off a
tough loss at Lafayette and a battle against Army. In the Lafayette game Holy Cross
allowed the home team to shoot over 40 percent from the field. In all of the Cru-
saders wins this season the opponents percentage has been below 40.

Holy Cross goes into tomorrow's game in the top 15 in the country in opponent
field goal percentage. The Leopards shot
poorly the rest of year, showing
the health of one of his top players. "The
squad. Willard however is worried about
the relative good health of this years
reasons according to all the coaches is
the 14-5 record signals a stark improve-
ing it's going to be easy, you're going to
lose."

For tomorrow's game the coaching staff
has focused on Pat Copitala, Colgate's
leading scorer. The Red Raiders benefit
from one of the best home court advan-
ages and at 9-10 (2-3 Patriot League) pose
a serious threat. With the way the Patriot
league is every game will be a battle from
now until the conference tournament. There
are no givens according to Assistant
Coach Eric Eaton, "If you come in think-
ing it's going to be easy, you're going to
lose."

The fact that Holy Cross is in a position
to even think about looking past any team
is certainly a change from recent years.
The 14-5 record signals a stark improve-
ment form last seasons 10-18 and one of
the reasons according to all the coaches is
a relative good health of this years squad.
Willard however is worried about the
health of one of his top players. "The
biggest thing for us is Josh's [Sankes]
health. He's been hobbled for the last
three games with Achilles tendinitis."

In addition to the health of their big
man, the Crusaders will focus on their de-
fensive strength and the "selflessness" that
Willard said defines the team.

"Everybody comes to do the things
that enable the team to win. Josh [Pegues],
Curry, and Sankes have stood out defen-
sively," Willard commented. "We need
to play great defense in order to win."

With the much improved record has
come an increasing standing for the pro-
gram. "I want people to remember this pro-
gram again," Willard said. "This team has
not won in so long. We're pleased with the
progress but there are bound to be bumps
in the road."

Each of the remaining games look to
be one of those bumps. Besides Colgate to-
morrow HC has home games next
Wednesday and Saturday against Lehigh
and Bucknell. In addition are contests
against front runner Navy and a non-con-
fERENCE clash at Boston University. Then
comes the conference tournament and after
that the NIT.

"The goal of every team is to make the
NCAA tournament," said Willard who
coached the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers
to the sweet 16 in the early 90's. Excit-
ement seems to be spreading as home
games have become something of a ritual
for some dorm corridors and everyone
from Henry Corazzini of the physical plant
to head women's coach Bill Gibbons is
pledging their support. "It's great to see
them succeeding," Gibbons said. "When
Coach Willard got here we said we both
wanted to win the league. I think [winning
is] a domino effect and it's contagious. I'd
like nothing better than to see two cham-
pionship banners. It would be great to get
the league sweep because it's never been
done."

Willard spoke of how a team plays as a
team determines more than their talent.
"This week has been a great week of prac-

The old saying, "defense wins championships," proved to be true this weekend as the Baltimore Ravens won the Super Bowl with their suffocating defense. This defense which was the stingiest in
NFL regular season history, will go down as one of the greatest of all time, and should be given credit
for bringing the Lombardi Trophy home to Charm City.

On the offensive side of the ball the quarterback is given the responsibility of managing the offense,
and the defensive side of the ball the middle linebacker is the man responsible for the operation of the
defense. The middle linebacker is the man who calls out changes on the field to the players, and who is
responsible for the overall performance of the defense. Given this description of the middle linebacker,
and the strength of the Ravens' defense, one could make the assumption that the Ravens middle man,
must be an outstanding talent. For all of his solid play on defense, the Ravens' middle linebacker was
awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award, as well as the Super Bowl MVP. So who is the
Ravens' Middle LB? RAY LEWIS.

Given all the above awards that Ray Lewis has been given, one would think that Lewis should be on
his way to Honolulu right now on a private jet with his agent, choosing from a slew of endorsement
deals that would make him set financially for life. But instead, Lewis can't even get on the cover of a
Wheaties box, or in a Disney Commercial.

This is all because of one man, O.J. Simpson. Years back when the "juice" was found not-guilty in
a double murder case, the constitutional assumption of innocence until proven guilty was erased. It
was the general consensus by most Americans that O.J. had committed the heinous murder of his ex-wife
and her new boyfriend. After he was tried, and found not guilty People were appalled that "juice" was
not convicted.

From that point on there has been a trend in sports. The trend is simply that more athletes seem to
be breaking the law, and that once they break the law they are even under suspicion for breaking the
law they are looked upon before they are even found guilty. Before the Simpson debacle, society still believed that athletes were innocent until they
were proven guilty, however after the majority of the public believed O.J. was guilty and he was set
free, society seems like all athletes are guilty as soon as they come under suspicion for committing a
crime. This belief was clearly evident in the Ray Lewis case.

As soon as it was announced that Ray Lewis, was implicated in a double murder after Super Bowl
XXXIV, the media and the public pronounced that he was guilty of murder. The fact remains that
most people don't realize that all of the charges that were originally made against Lewis were
dropped, aside from his conviction of assault. In this case he pled guilty. One might argue that
Ray Lewis got out of the more harsh charges because he is a professional athlete, however the two men
who were arrested with Lewis and charged for the murders were found not guilty in a trial. If this
doesn't mean that Lewis is not guilty of murder I don't know what would ever mean that.

The people who continue to call Ray a murderer, or an athlete who got preferential treatment from
the court system are absolutely wrong. In fact Lewis most likely got punished simply because he was
a professional athlete. Had Lewis not been a professional athlete the prosecutors in the case would
greatly likely not have jumped the gun and charged Lewis with murder, but rather they would have wait-
ed for the one evidence, and to bring more than evidence of guilt. This is the only way that I can see
the charges that were dismissed.

Given all the above awards that Ray Lewis has been given, one would think that Lewis should be on
his way to Honolulu right now on a private jet with his agent, choosing from a slew of endorsement
deals that would make him set financially for life. But instead, Lewis can't even get on the cover of a
Wheaties box, or in a Disney Commercial.

I am not suggesting by any means that Ray Lewis is an angel or that he has never done anything
wrong, but I am saying that he does not deserve the treatment that he is receiving now. He is the best
defensive player in the NFL, and he gets booted in every stadium that he plays in. He was the defensive
player of the year in the NFL and all people did was criticize him for being a murderer. He now is
the MVP of the Super Bowl and he didn't even make the cover of the Wheaties box with the rest of the
members of his outstanding defensive unit, or even on the Disney TV commercial. This is all a result
of the charges that were dismissed.

The old saying, "defense wins championships," proved to be true this weekend as the Baltimore
Ravens won the Super Bowl with their suffocating defense. This defense which was the stingiest in
NFL regular season history, will go down as one of the greatest of all time, and should be given credit
for bringing the Lombardi Trophy home to Charm City.

On the offensive side of the ball the quarterback is given the responsibility of managing the offense,
and the strength of the Ravens' defense, one could make the assumption that the Ravens middle man,
must be an outstanding talent. For all of his solid play on defense, the Ravens' middle linebacker was
awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award, as well as the Super Bowl MVP. So who is the
Ravens' Middle LB? RAY LEWIS.

The old saying, "defense wins championships," proved to be true this weekend as the Baltimore
Ravens won the Super Bowl with their suffocating defense. This defense which was the stingiest in
NFL regular season history, will go down as one of the greatest of all time, and should be given credit
for bringing the Lombardi Trophy home to Charm City.

On the offensive side of the ball the quarterback is given the responsibility of managing the offense,
and the strength of the Ravens' defense, one could make the assumption that the Ravens middle man,
must be an outstanding talent. For all of his solid play on defense, the Ravens' middle linebacker was
awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award, as well as the Super Bowl MVP. So who is the
Ravens' Middle LB? RAY LEWIS.

We should squeeze the "Juice"

Matthew Chmura

The 10th Inning

The 110th Inning

The old saying, "defense wins championships," proved to be true this weekend as the Baltimore
Ravens won the Super Bowl with their suffocating defense. This defense which was the stingiest in
NFL regular season history, will go down as one of the greatest of all time, and should be given credit
for bringing the Lombardi Trophy home to Charm City.

On the offensive side of the ball the quarterback is given the responsibility of managing the offense,
and the strength of the Ravens' defense, one could make the assumption that the Ravens middle man,
must be an outstanding talent. For all of his solid play on defense, the Ravens' middle linebacker was
awarded the Defensive Player of the Year Award, as well as the Super Bowl MVP. So who is the
Ravens' Middle LB? RAY LEWIS.

We should squeeze the "Juice"