Lady ‘Saders end regular season with loss to Army

BY CHRIS ENMAN

The Holy Cross Women's Basketball team closed their season out last week with a surprising 87-71 defeat at the hands of Army. It was the team’s first game in a week and it showed, as the team came out sluggish in the first half and never fully recovered. Army jumped out to a quick 43-35 lead at the half, and HC closed the gap to within four points at 63-59. The ‘Saders hit a wall however and did not come again until the last hoop of the game by Elisa Zawadzak with three seconds left.

The loss to Army snapped the ‘Saders 23 game league win streak, and also snapped the 13 game mark they had set this season. Army also prevented the Lady Saders from becoming the 3rd team in league history to have an undefeated regular season (both others being previous Holy Cross teams). Army forward Therese Kelley was 9 of 10 from the floor and had a game high 21 points, while guards Dawn Halfaker had 16 and Megan Dempsey chipped in with 15.

The Lady ‘Saders were paced by Katie O’Keefe who had 13, Monika Rothemich with 12, and Jeanette Paukert with 11. Coach Gibbons said after the loss, “The only blessing is that it didn’t happen in the Tournament. Now we’ve got a little taste of what it’s like.”

As always, the Lady ‘Saders have a balanced offensive attack, placing four girls in double figures on the season. Paukert and Abraham at 12 and 11 points a game respectively, and they are joined by O’Keefe and Rothemich at 10 apiece. It is hard to put into the box score the outstanding defensive efforts given each game, but steals are the big key. Paukert and Abraham have been on a tear lately, each with nearly 60 steals apiece for the season.

The rebounding statistic is lead by Abraham and Rothemich, each averaging just over five a game per game.

Rothemich has enjoyed her last four years at Holy Cross. At HC she has won four straight regular season league titles, the first time anyone has achieved this in league history. Coach Gibbons says that it is a tribute to her work ethic as well as her determination. She has blossomed into a clutch player when she has needed to be and has stepped up considerably from her former role of cheerleader and grunt player. Her scoring has increased each season, along with her minutes, and floor leadership. She will definitely be missed.

The Crusader team heads to Navy on Saturday to face winner of the Army-Navy game from the previous night. This should play into the hands of the ‘Saders, as a tough rivalry match up like this one the night before would take a lot out of the winning team. Assuming the ‘Saders win that game, then the Patriot League final will be held here at the Hart Center on Wednesday, Mar. 7 at 7:00 pm.

HC Baseball to start season without Sweeney

BY JAMES GREEN

Coming into this season, Holy Cross appeared to have four very accomplished veteran seniors leading the charge for 2001.

Unfortunately it was knocked down to three when Jim Sweeney was drafted by the Chicago White Sox last summer.

It is a bittersweet departure, Sweeney deserves a shot at the pros, but it is unfortunate he will not be around to complete his tenure at Holy Cross. Regardless, three seniors remain to lead an otherwise young team for the 2001 campaign.

Catcher Mike Macholz, outfielder Cory Czajka, and lefty hurler Ryan Kenny will be the lone three seniors on a squad dominated by underclassmen.

On the mound, Sweeney will be sorely missed. 1999’s Patriot League Player of the Year accumulated a 3-6 record in ten starts, completing five of them. He led the squad with a 3.73 ERA, nearly two runs better than Dan Powers, who was second on the team in ERA. Sweeney was also a monster at the plate where he batted 319, drove in 27 runs and was tied for the lead team in homeruns with Jeff Miller with five round trip.

Sweeney was named First Team All-Patriot League for his efforts with the Crusaders last season. The former Boston Globe Division I Player of the Year also added four triples to his offensive resume and boasted a 12-2 game hitting streak during the 2000 season. His production will be sorely missed.

With Sweeney gone, senior Ryan Kenny, junior Mike Monno, and sophomore Benjamin Deane will step up on the mound for the Purple. Kenny was 3-6 in fourteen appearances on the mound last season, garnering a 6.46 ERA in 47 1/3 innings pitched.

Montano was 3-5 in 11 mound appearances and had an 8.84 ERA in 38 2/3 innings of work. Deane saw solid work as a freshman, making 14 trips to the mound, accumulating a 2-3 record and striking out 29 batters in 37 1/3 innings. Junior Mike Kearns was a solid relief man for the Crusaders with a 1-1 record in 19 appearances (including two starts), accumulating 34 innings of work and three saves.

Jeff Miller was the other First Team All-Patriot League member last season. Besides tying with Sweeney for the team lead in homeruns, the shortstop slapped 43 hits and compiled a 303 batting average in 142 plate appearances.

Those 43 hits helped him accumulate 25 RBIs, good enough for second on the team. Miller ended his Holy Cross career having set new records in a number of categories, including games played (153), at bats (534), runs (109), doubles (34), total bases (275) and assists (374). Dan Powers will now be tabbed as the starting shortstop for HC.

While Sweeney and Miller have departed, sophomore Matthew McEvoy is the only All-Patriot League Team selection that remains in a Crusader uniform. McEvoy earned Second Team honors after his stellar 2000 season, starting all 41 games in the outfield as a freshman.

The Belmont, MA native batted .338 with a team-leading 15 doubles. He collected 25 RBI and 43 total bases while tying for the team lead with 10 stolen bases. McEvoy also notched four assists and had a .956 fielding percentage, best on the team among everybody outfielders.

Fellow outfield Cory Czajka was also a bright spot for the Crusaders last year. As a junior Czajka batted .341 with 3 home runs and 22 RBIs. He started all 41 games for the Crusaders and was tops on the team in total bases, slugging percentage, and tied with McEvoy for the team lead with ten stolen bases.

Holy Cross starts their season Mar. 3 in Florida at the Home- stood Challenge. They will battle seven different teams in eight games over seven days over Spring Break, and will return for their home opener on Mar. 17 against Long Island University.

The Crusaders have some big games on their schedule this year, including a contest at rival Boston College Mar. 28, the Patriot League opener at Army the following weekend, and the Patriot League home opener against Bucknell on Apr. 7. Big non-conference games against Massachusetts and Maine also loom in late April and early May.

HC looks to improve on last year’s campaign that ended with disappointment. Head Coach Paul Pearl’s squad had put together a very good run early in the season that remained in a Crusader uniform. McEvoy earned Second Team honors after his stellar 2000 season, starting all 41 games in the outfield as a freshman.

The Belmont, MA native batted .338 with a team-leading 15 doubles. He collected 25 RBI and 43 total bases while tying for the team lead with 10 stolen bases. McEvoy also notched four assists and had a .956 fielding percentage, effectively ending Holy Cross’ postseaon chances. The squad finished with a 13-27-1 record overall, 8-12 in the Patriot League.