By Ben Gibson
For The Journal

Rams move atop WVC

Shepherdstown – With a chance to take over the West Virginia Conference lead, Shepherd wowed the previous league leader during a 116-94 victory over Glenville State Saturday afternoon.

The win, the Rams’ sixth in a row, gave Shepherd a 7-2 conference record.

“Everyone will be gunning for us, but keeping it is the hard part, but it feels amazing,” Shepherd’s Camille Wilmer said.

“We talked all week about taking care of our jobs, both as a team and individually,” Shepherd interim coach Melanie Ford said. “Every single kid went in there and did their job.”

Glenville was leading the conference coming in.

“We knew going in to warn up what this game meant,” Melissa Furr said.

The Rams never trailed, starting the game on a 8-2 scoring run before expanding their lead to as many as 27 before the half.

“We thought it would be a tougher game, but we stuck to coach Ford’s plan, and it worked,” Wilmer said.

Though Shepherd doesn’t have a track team, the Rams were running sprints all game long. They broke through the Glenville full-court press and scored 48 points in the paint.

“We probably shot more layups (than we ever had). I don’t think we called any plays all game, and that’s OK with me if we stay composed,” Ford said.

The Rams led easily 60-34 going into intermission, already sensing what a win would mean for them.

The Rams came with the same intensity they had for all the first half, stretching their lead to as much as 35 on their way to a 22-point victory.

Shepherd continued to out-run and out-hustle Glenville for the rest of the game, breaking the full-court press and bringing down 19 offensive rebounds.

The Rams had three scorers with 20 points or more. Juniors Jerica Hewett and Carrie Saunders both scored 20 points, while sophomore guard Jenn Prine led the Rams with 22.

Wilmer had her third double-double of the season by bringing down 12 rebounds and scoring 11 points.

Glenville’s Donita Adams led all scorers with 39 points.

“We have to keep up this energy to keep on top of the conference, but we did what we needed tonight to get the ‘W,’” Prine said.

Shepherd’s Hannah Saffren drills a short jumper in the second half against Glenville.

Rams win 2nd straight

By Ben Gibson
For The Journal

Shepherdstown – The Shepherd Rams can use a phrase they haven’t been able to all year: “Win streak.”

The Rams put together their second consecutive win by defeating the Glenville State Pioneers 81-78 Saturday at Butcher Center.

Before beating Glenville, the Rams had just a total of two wins.

“We always had the potential, and we stuck together through the losses,” Moore said.

The Rams started off slowly, having several shots roll all the way around the rim before falling off and into the hands of the Glenville defense, helping the Pioneers to take an early lead. The Rams tied the game at 14.

Junior forward Dave Karlson and junior guard Jonathan Motchka combined for 11 points to help erase the Rams’ deficit while Roach led a balanced Shepherd offense with 10 points in the first half.

The Rams led at the half 53-29, capitalizing on 11 turnovers by Glenville.

Rams turned around and scored 52 points on the other side of the floor.

Shepherd’s Jonathan Motchka spins and shoots in the paint during the second half of the Rams’ win over Glenville on Saturday.

By Ben Gibson
For The Journal

The Rams won a second straight game Saturday, beating Glenville State 81-78 in Shepherdstown.

A 11-2 run for the Rams early on in the second half gave the Rams a comfortable 12-point lead, their largest of the game, at 50-38.

Two technical foul calls might have been most devastating to the Pioneers, because the Rams converted them for three points.

As the game came to a close, Glenville began to close the gap from six points to one.

Four clutch free throws by Motchka and freshman Aaron Spencer gave the Rams a three-point lead.

Troy Smith’s 3-point shot fell short, and the rebound by Roach sealed the game for the Rams.

“It feels good,” Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. “I am most proud of the fact that about a month ago that when you play from behind, your errors get magnified. We had a lead and made mistakes and still pulled out a win.”

The Rams were led by Moore’s double-double of 20 points and 14 rebounds, while Motchka’s 3’s and free throws gave his team 15.

Junior guard Marcus Canney led his team with 17 points.

The Rams shot only 39.4 percent on the game, but scored 26 points from the free throw line.
Lady Rams surface in first place in WVIAC

By Bob Madison

Ever since the peach basket and ladder were replaced by a metal rim by Dr. James Naims as the Springfield YMCA in Massachusetts, attempting to re-invent the wheel in basketball hasn’t met with much success. Retired coaches such as Dean Smith, Tex Winter, and Joel Eaves found novel ways to change the sport, but to find an NCAA Division II coach with ideas and philosophies that have never been thought of or tested by 2010 -- and will be so useful and innovative that games will be won with them -- would be highly unusual.

As a large crowd formed in groups in the Shepherd Butcher Center -- interest being piqued by a fortnight of success spun by the Lady Rams and their five-game win streak that brought them all the way to second-place in the WVIAC - it was first-place Glenville that would provide a No. 1 vs. No. 2 confrontation.

It was youthful Glenville coach Bunky Harkelroad that had a much-different basketball strategy in mind. Harkelroad substituted for two players after 25 seconds. He would continue to freely substitute every two minutes or so, usually bringing in five new players every time.

But where Harkelroad attempted to re-write a defensive book never seen by John Wooden, Pete Newell, or Hank Iba came when his Lady Pioneers missed their first shot.

Glenville pressured the Shepherd rebounder with three players. It was a full court press even though it was a Glenville missed shot and there was no idea as to where Shepherd’s other four players were located.

See LADY RAMS on pg. 15
Shepherd men hold off Glenville, 81-78

By Bob Madison

Glenville put its chips in the pot, backing its chances against Shepherd with a 2-3, halfcourt zone. The Pioneers kept a few chips back, close to the vest . . . but it wanted its zone to be the defense that sent Shepherd away as the Rams searched for a second straight win.

In the first half, the Rams scratched for the 11 points they found inside. But, still, Shepherd had a four-point lead.

The second half began with the Pioneers again stationed in a 2-3 zone . . . closely monitoring the perimeter shooting of Shepherd's three-guard alignment -- Jonathan Motichka, Tyrone Roach, and Derek Gallagher.

But with 15 minutes remaining, trailing by eight points, Glenville had seen enough of its zone to realize Shepherd had the weapons to solve the Pioneers halfcourt defense. It was too late!

The Rams went ahead by 12 . . . Glenville unraveled a little and was tagged with two technical fouls . . . and though problems would nag it until the end, Shepherd had enough to snare an 81-78 win that was its second consecutive success.

Free throws buoyed the often tenacious lead. Reaching the one-and-one bonus with fully 12:35 left, Shepherd would eventually fire off 39 free throws. The Rams were on the double bonus with 7:49 showing and could attempt two free throws every time they were fouled.

The Pioneers (4-6 in the WVIAC with the loss and 5-10 overall) committed 26 team fouls, the two technicals, and could not overcome the 12-point lead the Rams held with 13:50 remaining.

When it abounded its zone for the last time, Glenville wanted a fast-as-can-be pace and wanted to force Shepherd into a decision-making mode.

The Rams could finally loosen both Chad Moore and Dave Karlson on the inside. And those two first-year players inflicted game-deciding damage on the Pioneers.

Glenville would see Moore, Karlson, a rejuvenated Motichka, or Gallagher score for the Rams.

And then the Pioneers wanted to force Shepherd to foul their players as they continued to drive beside the lane . . . or to see its foursome of guards dribble 50- or 60-feet to an unending string of two-, three-, or four-footers.

Shepherd would score, keeping its slender lead. Glenville would invariably drive to within the shadow of the rim and count its layup without being fouled.

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RAMS from pg. 13

The pace was hectic, sometimes nearly chaotic, especially from the 8:10 mark down to the 5:21 mark.

"Control" was not a word taken seriously by either side.

When Karlson was freed for a layup on a carefully designed play following a Shepherd timeout the Rams led 71-65.

They would never have a lead as long as six points again.

The lead shrank to one point.

All of Glenville's points came on layups. All of Shepherd's points came from free throws.

Aeron Spencer claimed two free throws with 12 seconds showing. Motichka made two more free throws with only six seconds left that gave the Rams a three-point lead.

The hectic nature of all of the last 10 minutes continued on Glenville's final try to get even. After a well-guarded dribbler tried to find somebody stationed outside the three-point circle, only an off-balance, forced shot could be futilely launched as time finally expired.

Moore, Motichka, Roach, Karlson, Gallagher and reserve Sidney McCray had scored at least eight points with Moore heading the list with his 20 points. Moore (14) and Karlson (10) rebounded well, and Shepherd helped move his record along to 3-7 in the conference and 3-12 overall by limiting its turnovers to nine, while the Pioneers had 17.

Glenville helped the thoughts of those who firmly believe that the more players who hail from West Virginia that a WVIAC team starts, the poorer that team will fare. The Pioneers had center Jonathan Bevins (25 minutes, two points, two rebounds) from Logan, Nick Dent (38 minutes, 0-for-3 on long-range attempts, two rebounds) from Glenville, and Aaron Dodson (30 minutes, five personal fouls, one assist, three turnovers) from Parkersburg.

Glenville's most accurate scorers were Marcus Catney (6-for-9 from the field, 17 points) from Cleveland and Gabe Gibbs (6-for-8 from the field, nine rebounds) from Detroit.

Shepherd had no starters from West Virginia. And nobody from the state played any minutes for the Rams.

The Rams had done well enough against the Glenville 2-3, halfcourt zone to win. And winning a close game was an oddity this season for the no-luck Rams.
Rams slay Salem; find WVIAC “port”

Storm-tossed seamen have a saying when faced with crashing waves and strong winds. It reads: “Any port in the storm”.

Shepherd was being tossed around in the WVIAC standings until Salem visited the Butcher Center. Both teams had just one win. Salem had gotten its win in the last outing against Ohio Valley. Shepherd was falling just short of a number of league teams... but falling short nonetheless. And the Rams only league victim had also been Ohio Valley.

Shepherd was hauling an albatross of an eight-game losing streak into the Salem game. Salem proved to be Shepherd’s “port in the storm” as the Rams profited by an 11-point halftime lead before finally polishing off the Tigers, 78-62.

The Rams were 2-7 in conference play and 2-12 overall following the taming of the Tigers, who were 1-8 in the WVIAC and 1-14 overall.

Five Rams scored in double figures, including Jonathan Motichka (19 points), Tyrone Roach (13 points), Chad Moore (11 points), and reserves Aaron Spencer (10 points) and Sidney McCray (10 points).

Salem found two double-figure scorers in Demetrick Walker (15 points) and reserve Ian Bates (12 points).

When Salem was called for 27 fouls, it enabled the Rams to go to the foul line 37 times where they made only 21 (57 percent) of them.

Salem lost three players to five personal fouls.

Shepherd equally spread its 33 rebounds among Moore (six), McCray (six), Derek Gallagher (five), Motichka (four), and Dave Karlson (four).

Gallagher had a season-high seven assists and also led the Rams with six steals.

Salem had found Ohio Valley as its temporary “port”, but with a 16-point loss to Shepherd the Tigers were back on a sea that resembled Lake Superior when a late winter gale rips across from Copper Harbor all the way to Sault Ste. Marie.