

SU baseball Rams are ranked seventh

The Shepherd baseball team will open its season on Friday in Martinsboro, North Carolina against Chowan as the seventh-ranked team in the Atlantic Region.

A Top Ten poll was formulated by a group of baseball writers and was headed by West Chester of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

Three more PSAC teams followed fellow league member West Chester. Mercyhurst (Erie) was ranked second, Kutztown was third, and Slippery Rock was fourth.

Ranked fifth in the pre-season rankings was West Virginia State. Placed sixth was California of the PSAC. In seventh place was Shepherd, which was 33-18 overall in 2009 and is the defending West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champion.

Two more WVIAC teams are ranked right behind Shepherd with Concord in the eighth spot and Pitt-Johnstown in ninth.

Ranked 10th in Shippensburg of the PSAC. After playing the first six dates on its schedule on the road at Chowan (three games) and Armstrong Atlantic (three games in Savannah, Georgia), the Rams are slated to open the home part of their schedule on February 27 against Mansfield of the PSAC.



Shepherd's Fairfax Field in an aerial photograph. The Rams are scheduled to open their season on Friday at Chowan, NC.

Shepherd starters enough to beat Bluefield, 67-60

Shepherd's starters played all but 16 minutes in the Rams' 67-60 conference win over visiting Bluefield last Thursday at the Butcher Centre.

With neither team shoot-

ing particularly well from the floor, the Rams were helped by their 37-29 half-time lead.

Bluefield's Rico Thompson scored 18 points in the first half, all but 11 of his

team's 29 points. In the second half, Thompson was much quieter, mostly due to the defensive diligence of the Rams' Derek Gallagher.

Gallagher also led the Rams in scoring with 18

points. He had six rebounds and had a game-high seven steals.

Two Rams -- Chad Moore and Dave Karlson -- had

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double-doubles. Moore scored 15 points and also secured 11 rebounds and Karlson totaled 10 points and also collared 11 rebounds.

Tyrone Roach managed 14 points even though he was just 4-for-13 from the field, including 3-for-10 from three-point range.

Sean Weatherpoon was Bluefield's only other double-figure scorer besides Thompson and he added 17 points.

Thompson and Weatherpoon accounted for all but 18 of Bluefield's points.

Moore played all 40 minutes, Gallagher logged 39 minutes, freshman point guard Atron Spencer had 37 minutes, Roach was on the floor for 35 minutes, and

Karlson for another 33 minutes.

Shepherd went 22-for-54 (40.7 percent) from the field with its starters taking all but three of its shots. The Rams could have secured stronger leads but made only 18-of-29 (62 percent) of their free throws. Shepherd, now 6-13 overall and 6-8 in the conference, went 5-for-19 (26 percent) from three-point range.

The Big Blues, now 3-15 overall and 3-10 in the WVIAC, made 22-of-52 (42 percent) of its field goal tries, but did convert 12-of-15 (80 percent) of its free throws. Bluefield was 4-for-14 (28.6 percent) from three-point range.

The final rebounding figures favored Bluefield, 37-33, with Stephen Neal get-

ting size for the Big Blues.

Shepherd had a 13-5 edge in assists and benefited from Bluefield's 20 turnovers while committing only 11 itself.

With Gallagher's seven steals standing out, the Rams had 12 steals as compared with Bluefield's four. Shepherd had made preparations for last weekend's snow by moving its scheduled Saturday game with conference rival Concord to Friday night... but then had to postpone it altogether when the impending storm was forecast to begin around noon on Friday.

No make-up date for the Shepherd vs. Concord men's and women's games has been finalized as of Monday afternoon.

Shepherd women untroubled by Blues

Shepherd easily controlled its 79-66 conference win over Bluefield in a women's game played at the Lady Rams' Butcher Center last Thursday.

The cruise-control win by the Lady Rams moved them up to fourth place in the WVIAC and showed them with a league record of 10-4 and an overall mark of 11-7. The Big Blues, who dressed only five players and had

one of them miss about four minutes in the second half due to injury, dipped to 1-13 in the WVIAC and 1-18 overall. Bluefield was in 15th-place in the 16-team conference.

As it had done when facing winless Salem, Shepherd freely played its entire roster, except for the injured Camille Wilmer who missed

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the game.

All 12 Shepherd players that were available to coach Melanie Ford played at least 11 minutes.

The only Shepherd starter to play more than 20 minutes was Katie Biggs, who had 22 minutes of playing time.

Alex Tamez, a reserve freshman point guard was given the most playing time by Ford -- 25 minutes.

Shepherd's dominance could be seen in its 84 field goal attempts as compared with the Big Blues' 41 attempts.

The Lady Rams made just 31 shots from the floor (36.9 percent), but still had

11 more field goals than did Bluefield. The Big Blues were 20-for-41 (48.8 percent) from the field.

Shepherd out rebounded the Big Blues, 46-29, and had 19 assists as compared with Bluefield's 12 assists.

Bluefield was guilty of 24 turnovers and Shepherd committed 13 turnovers.

The Lady Rams had 14 steals and Bluefield had eight.

With only five players dressed for the game, Bluefield was never in danger of having anybody feed out because the team was called for only five team fouls.

Shepherd was tugged with 14 team fouls.

Reserve Emily Daniel claimed a team-leading 10 rebounds for Shepherd in

only 16 minutes of playing time. Starter Carrie Saunders had seven rebounds and reserve Melissa Ford had six.

Four (14 points), Biggs (13 points), freshman reserve Catherine Batchelor (eight points), Jenca Hewett (eight points), Jena Price (seven points), Saunders (seven points), Daniel (seven points), and freshman Allison Kenney (seven points) all joined the lead of the Shepherd scoring parade.

Ford (six) and Tamez (five) -- both reserves -- led Shepherd in assists.

The Lady Rams remained embroiled in the body-contested race for the top spot in the conference standings.

Fast-starting WL races past Rams

By Ben Gibson
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Coach Melanie Ford hoped for a better start Saturday afternoon at home for Shepherd, but the West Liberty Hilltoppers didn't sit back and let that happen.

The Rams couldn't keep up with West Liberty as Shepherd lost 96-72 at the Butcher Center.

The loss was the Rams' first since coach Melanie Ford lost the interim tag when Shepherd University officially hired her as the head coach this past week.

It was also the second time the Rams promptly lost their next game after ascending to the top spot in the conference, which they did on Thursday after a win on the road at Wheeling Jesuit — Ford's first game without the interim label.

"We just didn't have the hunger in the first half," Ford

WOMEN'S HOOPS

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said. "We were playing like a team with something to lose, instead of playing to earn it. You can't sit back and let it come to you."

The Rams struggled to recover from a sluggish start. The Lady Hilltoppers put together several long scoring runs to give themselves a 52-31 lead at the intermission. Junior forward Laura Malemeo led the Hilltoppers in the first half with 12 points off four 3-point shots.

The second half didn't go much better for Rams, even though they came up with

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Journal photo by Peter Ayler
Shepherd's Jenn Prinz goes hard to the basket against West Liberty's Laura Malemeo Saturday afternoon during the Rams' defeat.

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several scoring runs. Shepherd just couldn't overcome the speed and physical play of West Liberty.

The Rams reduced their 21-point deficit to 12 points to start the second half, but they were never able to cut any further into the Hilltoppers' lead.

Camille Wilmer led the Rams with 23 points, while freshman guard Alex Tamez had 12.

Tori Hansen led West Liberty with 24 points and Jenni Robbins was second with 18.

Despite the loss, Ford continues to expect her team to compete for the No. 1 seed for the conference tournament.

"I'm just excited to be able to work with the team and have the success while we fight to get better," Ford said.



WL rocks Rams

By NATE MACZUZAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The West Virginia Conference's top-ranked West Liberty Hilltoppers handed a steadily improving Shepherd University team its second straight loss on Saturday, dropping the Rams to 6-15 overall and 6-10 in the WVC.

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A commendable first-half effort allowed Shepherd to stay within six points of the nationally ranked Hilltoppers (19-1, 15-1) at the intermission, but a 21-6 West Liberty run to open the second half proved fatal for the Rams, who had won five of six games before Thursday's loss to Wheeling Jesuit.

"I was really proud of how we played in the first half," Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. "I think we really fought against them. Holding them to 42 points (at the half), I was feeling pretty good. Our

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goal coming in was to hold them under 90 points; you are not going to hold West Lib under 80. I thought we were doing a good job. West Liberty just always has that spirit, that run."

It looked like the Rams were going to improve drastically on the 107-76 drubbing the No. 20 Hilltoppers handed them when the squads met back on Nov. 24, but a lights-out second-half shooting effort by West Liberty made the opportunity disappear as quickly as it had appeared. The Hilltoppers have now won 14 straight games and have topped the century mark 13 times this season. Their only loss came in a 117-116 affair to West Virginia State (14-2, 18-3).

Shepherd will try to bounce back on the road against last-place Salem International at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, starting a string of three away games. The Rams don't return home until Feb. 22.

West Liberty's relentless full-court pressure and precision passing helped to distance them from the Rams — the lead ballooning to as many as 40-points at 106-66 with 39 seconds to play.

"I thought we did a good job containing those runs in the first half," Namolik said. "They just started the second half on a (huge) run. I thought we handled the press well, but it just wears on you. But overall, I never had that feeling that you normally have against West Lib, where you feel blitzed, you feel helpless. I never felt like that tonight, even when we were down 20. That's encouraging."

A sometimes beleaguered Shepherd team did lose its composure at times in what turned

into a chippy, physical contest. Dave Karlson and Namolik were each tagged with a technical foul.

West Liberty's Jordan Fortney moved the Hilltoppers ahead 37-19 with a 1-for-2 effort from the line on Karlson's first-half technical, and John Wolosinczuk hit both freebies to move the lead to 79-57 with just over eight minutes to play after Namolik lost his temper as the game began to degenerate in a tit-for-tat manner.

West Liberty's Wolosinczuk also earned a technical foul in the second half.

Senior guard Tyrone Roach paced the Rams with a game-high 28 points, and senior guard Derek Gallagher added 19. Freshman guard Aaron Spencer added 10 points. The Rams' inside game was non-existent, however, as starters Karlson (junior center), Chad Moore (freshman forward) and Sydney McCray (freshman forward) combined for just 13 points on 3-for-18 shooting.

Shepherd trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half before trimming the lead to 42-36 on a McCray putback and a Roach runner just before the intermission.

There was little Shepherd could do to slow down the high-powered Hilltopper offense after the intermission, however.

Corey Pelle, Barry Shetzer and Michael Mathey combined to go 14 for 18 from the floor (3 for 5 from 3-point range) after the break, pacing the Hilltoppers' 64-point second half with 35 points.

Pelle led West Liberty with 26 points, Shetzer added 16 and Mathey finished with 15. Fortney tacked on 11 points, and Zack Craig added 10.

Shepherd's Tyrone Roach races by West Liberty's Jordan Fortney, only to get his shot rejected by John Wolosinczuk, right, during the first half of the Rams' loss Saturday afternoon.

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Journal photos by Ron Agre

Shepherd senior guard Derek Gallagher, right, squares off with West Liberty point guard Michael Mathey, left, on Saturday during the Rams' loss to the West Virginia Conference's top-ranked team. Shepherd won five of its last seven games entering Saturday's contest. It is a big turnaround after a 1-12 start, and Shepherd coach Justin Namolik says that Gallagher and Tynone Roach, who is seen below in action, are a big part of the change.

Turning it around

After a 1-12 start, Shepherd has improved to win 5 of its last 9

By NATE MACZUZAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SHEPHERDSTOWN — It wasn't the beginning of the season he envisioned, but Shepherd University men's basketball coach Justin Namolik said senior leaders Tynone Roach and Derek Gallagher have never allowed the younger Rams to lose focus of what is at stake: The future of the program.

After a 1-12 start, the Rams (6-16, 6-11) have won five of their last nine games and are looking to finish the season on a strong note.

Namolik praised both Roach and Gallagher after Saturday's loss to No. 20 West Liberty (19-1, 15-1) at the Butcher Athletic Center, saying the pair of senior leaders have never allowed the Rams' effort to waver.

Roach poured in a game-high 28 points against the West Virginia Conference's top-ranked Hilltoppers. Gallagher was next on the scoring list with 19 points.

"We haven't done what we wanted from a record standpoint, but I really admire both of them as leaders," Namolik said. "I'll never forget them. They are a huge part of

what we are going to do here later."

After an ice-cold start, Shepherd got hot with three straight wins against Salem International, Glenville and Seton Hill. Arguably their best performance of the season came during the turnaround against the WVC's third-place team in a 90-76 win over Fairmont State (17-3, 12-3), which tied their highest point total of the season.

A respectable one-point loss to Wheeling Jesuit and a drubbing by nationally-ranked West Liberty were the only Memibees over that 24-day, five-win run.

"What I've been most proud of on this team is that we've been on the short end of the stick a number of times, but they don't quit," Namolik said. "It could have been so easy for them to quit, not only (against West Liberty) but in general. They just never do, and that's just really a tribute to them as players. They won't let each other quit."

Shepherd has faced its share of challenges — namely youth and inexperience. Saturday against West Liberty, the Rams started two freshmen, but they entered the half trailing one of the nation's top 20 teams by just six points at 42-36. Namolik

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was pleased with the first-half effort, but the Hilltoppers found their offensive pace in the second half and were able to distance themselves in the final 20 minutes.

"For the season, I've been really encouraged that we've always had five guys in double figures," Namolik said. "On Saturday, we didn't have that. We scored 66, and that's not us. I was expecting more, but that's the thing about West Lib. They get their hands on you, they push, they are a physical team. If you beat the press, there are guys behind you and you always worry about that. It's just hard to deal with."

The Rams have improved steadily since their start. Shepherd won't get above .500

overall, but the Rams do have a chance for a 11-11 record in conference play.

After Monday's loss at Salem International, Shepherd has five games left, all conference contests. They will stay on the road to face Ohio Valley Thursday and Fairmont State on Saturday. Then they return home for Seton Hill on Monday, Concord on Feb. 24 and Pitt Johnstown on Feb. 27.

Neither Gallagher, who led the Rams with 15 points on Monday, nor Roach, who added 11 in the 67-64 loss, were available for comment.

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West Liberty sends Lady Rams back to fourth place

The Shepherd women's basketball team was forced to suffer the same feeling as the other time it had won its way into first place in the close WVIAC regular season race.

After previously running off a winning streak to move ahead of the closely bunched seven-team pack, Shepherd dropped two straight games and dipped to sixth place.

Then the Lady Rams ran off a three-game win streak and moved back to the conference's top spot just before West Liberty came to the Butcher Center last Saturday.

The Shepherd stay in first place was just as short-lived as its first time because West Liberty stopped the Lady Rams in their tracks, administering a 96-72 losing lesson.

Shepherd had beaten the Lady Hilltoppers on the road but couldn't keep pace with the outside shooting and balanced scoring the visitors showed it in the rematch.

West Liberty held a commanding, 52-31, lead by halftime and then continued to outscore the Lady Rams in the second half.

In improving its seventh-place record to 10-6 in the WVIAC and

14-7 overall, West Liberty was a blistering 34-for-66 (51.5 percent) from the field, made 17 of its 23 free throws (73.9 percent) and 11-of-26 (42.3 percent) of its three-point field goal attempts.

Toti Hanson scored 24 points and Jenni Rebbins added another 18 points. Two players — Andi Wisney and Laura Malerice — each contributed 15 points and Meghan Wiseman and Kayla Akers each totaled eight points.

Shepherd senior center Camille Wilmer paced the Lady Rams with her 23 points on 10-of-16 from the field. Alex Tamez came off the bench to score 12 points with both Jerica Hewett and Carrie Saunders chipping in with 11 points each.

The Lady Rams went 29-of-73 (39.7 percent) from the floor, made 4-of-13 three-point field goal attempts, and only 10-of-17 free throws.

Shepherd was outboarded, 46-37, with Wisney getting 11 rebounds for West Liberty and Hewett leading Shepherd with nine. The Lady Hilltoppers had 23 assists and Shepherd had only 14.

The Lady Rams were 11-5 in the WVIAC and 12-8 overall and had six conference games remaining.



The Shepherd women have reached first place in the WVIAC twice this season. Shown are (l-r) kneeling or bending at the waist in the front are Emily Daniel, Carrie Saunders, Snezana Blagovic, Abi Logan, Melissa Fur, and Hannah Sathen. In the second row are Alex Tamez, Catherine Bulcher, Camille Wilmer, Mackenzie Logan, Shelby Fayah, and Allison Kenney. Seated atop the granite slab are Jenni Rebbins, Kate Biggs, and Jerica Hewett.



Shepherd's Derek Gallagher had 10 points and a game-high 10 rebounds, but the Rams lost to West Liberty, 106-66, on Saturday.

Hewett nets 22 as Shepherd nets first place

WHEELING — There was one second between the Shepherd women's basketball team rising to first place in the WVIAC or being left in fourth or fifth place.

That second was used by point guard Jerica Hewett who made a jump shot in overtime that brought the Lady Rams a pulsating, 80-78, win over host Wheeling Jesuit last Thursday.

Hewett's field goal with just a second remaining in the extra session enabled Shepherd to move back into first place in the 16-team league.

The Lady Rams had been in first place just two weeks before,

but then dropped two consecutive games to fall back into sixth place.

Stationed in sixth place, Shepherd melted off wins over Fairmont (then occupying first place), Bluefield, and Wheeling Jesuit to reclaim first place again.

The Lady Rams were 11-4 in the WVIAC and 12-7 overall. Wheeling Jesuit was 7-7 in the WVIAC and 8-11 overall.

Hewett scored a game-high 22 points on 8-for-12 shooting from the floor and 4-of-5 shooting from the free throw line.

Carrie Saunders added 18 points for the winning Lady Rams and totaled eight rebounds

as Shepherd had a 47-43 rebounding edge overall. Camille Wilmer, coming back from an injury, scored 17 points and accounted for six rebounds. Katie Biggs had eight points. Melissa Furr claimed eight rebounds.

Lauren Myers led Wheeling Jesuit in scoring with 17 points and Kara DeSantis also claimed 15 points. DeSantis also claimed a game-high 14 rebounds.

It was a Kourtney Booth three-point field goal with just one second remaining in regulation that sent the game into overtime. Hewett's three-pointer with 12 seconds remaining in regulation had sent Shepherd into

a 72-69 lead.

The Lady Rams made 22-of-26 free throws to help overcome a 39 percent shooting on its 69 field goal attempts. Wheeling Jesuit made 42 percent of its field goal attempts and 72 percent of its free throw tries.

There was little time for the Lady Rams to rest on their newly won laurels. They had to travel back from Wheeling and then meet fan rising West Liberty on Saturday at home ... and then hit the road again for a game at Salem on Monday. That made three games in five days, two of them on the road.

Salem trips road-weary Shepherd, 67-64

SALEM -- How weary was Shepherd after playing its third game in five days?

After logging hundreds of miles and many, many hours on the highways going to Wheeling (and back), playing 20th-ranked West Liberty at home, and then climbing back in their vehicles for a more than three-hour trek to Salem in just five days, Shepherd's men's team fell to the win-hungry Tigers, 67-64, on Monday night in Harrison County.

How did the Rams do in their mini-marathon of three games? They lost all three.

After seeing the homesteading Tigers win for just the second time this season on Monday, Shepherd was 6-16 overall and 2-21 in the WVIAC. Salem was 2-21 overall and 2-15 in the conference.

Even though it held a slender 32-31 lead at the half, the Rams were not playing with much crispness or were they shooting well.

When Tyrone Roach's three-point effort that would have tied matters bounced off the rim with three seconds remaining, the Rams had completed a 20-for-52

(38.5 percent) showing from the field that couldn't be saved by the 16-for-23 (69.6 percent) showing from the foul line... because they had been outrebounded 38-30.

Derek Gallagher maintained his late-season scoring pace and led the Rams with 15 points on 5-of-10 from the field. Aaron Spencer tallied 14 points on 4-of-7 shooting. Roach finished with 11 points, but made only 4-of-12 shots. Chad Moore scored 10 points on 4-of-7 and claimed six rebounds.

Dave Karlson led the Rams with eight rebounds and reserve

forward Sidney McCray had six rebounds.

The Tigers were led throughout by Demetrius Walker, who made 12-of-23 field goal attempts and 4-of-5 free throws for 31 points.

Joining Walker in double figures for the Tigers were Kendall Allison, who tossed in 16 points on 7-of-11 from the floor and 2-of-3 free throws, and Brooks Ludwig, who added 10 points on 4-of-7 from the floor.

Shepherd was in 10th-place in the WVIAC while Salem remained in 16th-place in the 16-team league.

Shepherd's Coach Ford gets permanent status

Shepherd recently removed the "interim" tag from in front of women's basketball head coach Melanie Ford's title. Ford, who had been hired on an interim basis following the resignation in July of 2009 of former women's coach Jodi Runner, is in her first season as the head coach of the Lady Rams.

In 2009-10 women's games through Saturday, February 13, Shepherd was 11-5 in the WVIAC and 12-8 overall and in fourth place in the conference.

Until the Lady Rams lost this past Saturday to West Liberty they were in first place in the conference.

The extremely close women's race also saw the Lady Rams in first place one other time this season before they lost two straight games and fell to sixth place.

Ford was Runner's assistant coach for all seven years of the former head coach's tenure as the leader of the Shepherd women's team.

Ford is a graduate of the University of Charleston, where she played four seasons (1996-2000) of basketball for the Lady Golden Eagles. Prior to coming to Shepherd the same year Runner was elevated to the head coaching position, Ford had spent time coaching at Wheeling Jesuit where she completed work on her master's degree in business administration.

The WVIAC race has settled into a free-for-all between seven teams with Charleston leading through February 13.

The Lady Golden Eagles owned a 127.5 power rating and were closely followed by West Virginia Wesleyan (125.82), Fairmont (116.88), Shepherd (115.82), Glenville (113.75), Seton Hill (111.76), and West Liberty (111.25).

West Liberty shows its wares to Shepherd

High-flying West Liberty unleashed a blistering second-half scoring display when it dispatched Shepherd, 106-68, on Saturday at the Butcher Center to keep its stranglehold on first place in the men's division of the WVIAC.

The rampaging Hilltoppers improved their conference record to an imposing 15-1 and hiked their power rating to 161.88. Second-place West Virginia State is 15-2 in its conference games and has a 144.12 power rating with only third-place Fairmont, Alderson-Broadus, Charleston, and Wheeling Jesuit having power ratings of 100 or better.

West Liberty entered the game as the 20th-ranked team in NCAA Division II.

Shepherd was stationed in 10th-place with its 6-10 conference mark. The Rams were 6-15 overall.

After leading only 42-36 at the half, West Liberty had made only 17-of-39 of its field goal attempts... but when the second half began the Hilltoppers were nearly unstoppable by anything the Rams tried defensively.

West Liberty would double Shepherd's second-half scoring total -- notching 64 points as compared with the Rams' 32 points.

From the floor, the Hilltoppers were 26-for-41 (63.4 percent) in the last half. They made 6-of-13 (46.2 percent) of their three-point attempts as well as 6-of-9 free throws.

Shepherd was not able to find the same sort of scoring rhythm in the last half as displayed by the steam-rolling Hilltoppers.

The Rams made just 7-of-30 (23 percent) of their second-half field goal attempts. That lackluster figure included a 2-for-12 (16.7 percent) showing on three-point attempts. At least the Rams were proficient from the foul line, scoring more than half of their points with a 16-for-18 (88 percent) showing.

Every player the Hilltoppers threw at the Rams was able to score at least three points.

Corey Pelle led the way with his 26 points, making 12-of-18 (67 percent) of his field goal tries. Barry Shetzer landed 16 points and Mike Mathey tossed in another 15 points.

Jordan Fortney added 11 points, while reserve Zack Craig accounted for another 10 points. John Wolosinczak, the only starter not in double figures for the Hilltoppers, finished with eight points in 27 minutes on the floor. Reserve Alex Falk scored another seven points and reserve Chris Morrow made all three of his field goal at-

tempts for his six points.

Shepherd had senior guard Tyrone Roach make all eight of his free throws and finish with 25 points even though he was 7-for-19 from the field and just 3-of-10 on his three-point attempts.

Derek Gallagher added 19 points on 7-of-13 shooting, and Aaron Spencer checked in with 10 points.

The skeleton Shepherd bench scored nine points -- all by freshman Sidney McCray. The five-player West Liberty bench scored a combined 30 points.

Shepherd was outrebounded, 48-36, but Gallagher led all rebounders with his 10.

Even in losing by an ever-expanding 38 points, Shepherd was guilty of 20 turnovers, while the Hilltoppers committed only 11 turnovers.

Wolosinczak had a game-high five blocked shots.

West Liberty registered an unusually high 43 field goals. Shepherd had but 20 field goals as a team.

The Rams went off to Salem on Monday night in search of another WVIAC win.



Shepherd women's coach Melanie Ford

SU men fall to Wheeling; Catich scores late bucket

WHEELING -- Trailing by two points and with just seven seconds remaining in its Thursday night WVIAAC men's game against visiting Shepherd, Wheeling Jesuit salvaged a scintillating 76-75 WVIAAC win when Steve Catich made a three-point field goal.

Catich led the Cardinals with his 20 points, going 8-for-13 from the field, including 4-for-4 from three-point range. Brendon Bazillo scored 14 points for the Cardinals and Obi Ukwuoma added another 12 points as Wheeling Jesuit improved its WVIAAC record to 10-4 and its overall mark to 13-6.

Shepherd was 6-9 in the WVIAAC and 6-14 overall.

The Rams were able to place five players in double figures with Tyrone Roach topping the scoring list with 17 points. Dave Karlson notched 14 points, Chad Moore 12 points, reserve Sidney McCray 12 points, and Aeron Spencer 11 points.

Karlson had 11 rebounds and Moore had eight. Moore led Shepherd in assists with six.

In the game's final frantic min-

utes, the lead changed hands on almost every possession.

Spencer had given the Rams a 75-73 lead with his three-pointer with 14 seconds left. But Catich answered with his own three-pointer that silenced the Rams.

Wheeling Jesuit shot well from all angles, making 53 percent of field goal attempts and 73 percent of its three pointers -- 8-of-11. The Cardinals only tried six free throws and made four of those.

Shepherd made 46 percent of its field goal tries, including a 57 percent showing from three-point range. The Rams tried just 11 free throws and made nine of those (82 percent).

The Rams had a 12-rebound margin, but still lost. Shepherd was credited with 38 rebounds and Wheeling Jesuit 26.

Wheeling Jesuit had a 32-27 lead at the half.

Shepherd had two games in the next three nights, hosting first-place West Liberty on Saturday and traveling to meet Salem on Monday. West Liberty was the nation's 20th-ranked team when it came to Shepherdstown.

Shepherd's Smith honored by the coaches association

BY BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The American Volleyball Coaches Association has named Shepherd University volleyball coach Sarah Smith one of its Thirty Under Thirty Award recipients.

The award highlights up-and-coming volleyball coaches across the country at all levels.

"We are very proud of the smart, energetic young people who are choosing to enter our profession," said AVCA Executive Director Kathy DeBoer. "This second strong class of overachievers means the future is bright for both volleyball players and the AVCA."

Smith has led the Rams to an overall record of 60-91. This season Smith helped to engineer a 21-12 mark and a second place West Virginia Conference record with a 12-2 league standing. It was Shepherd's best finish since

the 1982 season.

"It was a shock, to be considered a top coach under 30 [years old]," Smith said. "I think it is quite an honor."

The award will help highlight the success of the Shepherd volleyball team, and possibly help in recruiting.

"I don't think it will have a big change in who we recruit, but I think it may sway some kids thinking about going to small Division I programs," said Smith.

Smith says she feels humbled by the award.

"It is great to receive the award, but I think it also says a lot about our players, the school and the program," she said.

The nominations came out in the fall, with the requirement that the coach be younger than 30 in 2010. Of the 30 recipients, 19 are assistant coaches and 11 are head

coaches; nine are NCAA Division II women's coaches, eight are NCAA Division I women's coaches, three are NCAA Division III women's coaches, three coach NCAA Division I-II men, two are from two-year colleges, two are coaches on the club level and one is a high school girl's coach. The winners of the award were announced in the February and March edition of Coaching Volleyball.



SMITH

"It is quite an honor, I don't know if it has quite sunk in yet, but I think it's starting to."

It may have already hit home in the minds of some recruits, however.

"It is starting to sink in when I get congratulated on the recruiting trail," Smith said.

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Rams turn up pressure to gain win

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams picked up a win Monday night at the Butcher Center after trailing by nine points with under five minutes left.

The Rams' fullcourt press helped pull out a 66-64 win with a late rally against the Seton Hill Griffins.

The Rams, which struggled shooting most of the night, finally got going down the stretch.

"Coach asked us who was going step up, and we all stood up and told him we'd play," Chad Moore said.

Aeron Spencer hit a jumper to cut the deficit, and a missed shot allowed senior guard Derek Gallagher to take the ball down and hit a 3-pointer to cut

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

SETON HILL 64

GRIFFINS 11-14

SHEPHERD 66

RAMS 8-17

the Seton Hill lead to four.

Using their fullcourt press, the Rams responded by forcing several turnovers.

The Rams took a two-point lead after Tyrone Roach scored six points during Shepherd's 11-point run.

"We just listened to coach, we didn't care how many points we were down, we just knew we had to keep playing," Roach said.

The Griffins responded with two quick baskets to take a two-point lead, but the Rams shut down the Seton Hill offense for good with under a minute to go.

Spencer stole the ball, quickly passing to Moore, who took the ball to the lane and tied the game with 21 seconds and won it with 11 seconds left.

A missed shot and a traveling call on Emmanuel Jackson ended the Griffins' chances to tie the game, giving the Rams a critical win as the West Virginia Conference tournament approaches next month.

"I told them at halftime they maybe had fooled me, maybe they were going to give up," Namolik said, "but they came out and finished the game strong."

The Rams got off to a slow start, as

the Griffins were hitting most of their shots early, shooting 59 percent from the floor, led by their guards, sophomore Chris Giles and freshman Justin McCoy, who both ended the first half with 10 points each.

The Rams struggled to find the basket in the first half, shooting under 40 percent, but the Rams five 3-pointers in the first half helped keep them in the game, along with the defense winning the turnover battle 13-9.

Shepherd allowed a short scoring run by Seton Hill at the end of the half, allowing the Griffins to take a 35-32 lead.

The Rams were led in scoring by Moore with 19 points, while Roach and Gallagher both contributed 16 points. Chris Giles led Seton Hill with 21 points.

Concord nips Ram women

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Some mistakes in the final few seconds doomed Shepherd in its game against the visiting Concord Lions Wednesday night at the Butcher Center, resulting in the Rams' third consecutive loss.

The Rams held a double-digit lead for most of the second half but found themselves on the losing side of a 94-93 score at game's end.

"We let them score 94 points, that's just not defense," said Shepherd coach Melanie Ford.

It was a streaky contest of sorts, with a multitude of big scoring runs assisting both teams throughout the game. Concord scored the game's last six points, including guard Camisha Alexander's game-winning layup with six seconds remaining.

"You don't come to Shepherd and leave with a win without playing with some heart," said Concord coach Kenny Osborne. "We showed a lot of heart and came up with some rebounds there at the end after Shepherd kicked our butts on the boards for 17 minutes."

Shepherd took a slight advantage in the opening minutes of the half with senior center Camille Wilmer using her height to score and pick up a few rebounds early.

But the Lions struck back, eventually going on a five-point run to take the game's first substantial lead.

The Rams committed 10 turnovers in the first half, and Concord seemed to take advantage of each one in taking a seven-point lead.

The Rams erased the Lions' lead with a 15-4 run of their own, grabbing a four-point advantage near the end of

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORD 94
MOUNTAIN LIONS 14-12
SHEPHERD 93
RAMS 14-11

the first half.

Concord managed to tie the game at 46, and the two teams battled back and forth until the halftime buzzer sounded, each team locked at 50.

Jerica Hewett paced the Rams with 12 points in the first half, but injured her ankle near the end of the half and was helped off by the team's medical staff.

However, she returned in the second half and looked to have no lingering problems with her ankle.

The basket seemed a little larger for both teams, as the Rams shot 64.3 percent from the field in the first half while the Lions were not far behind at 58.6

"You don't come to Shepherd and leave with a win without playing with some heart. We showed a lot of heart and came up with some rebounds there at the end after Shepherd kicked our butts on the boards..."

— Kenny Osborne
Concord coach

percent.

Shepherd broke open the game to start the second half, riding a 13-3 run to take a 10-point lead that they kept for the first 11 minutes of the second half. The Lions cut the deficit to four, but the Rams kept Concord from putting together any long scoring runs while building the Shepherd lead back to 10.

Concord put together a 8-0 scoring run to cut the lead to two with three minutes left, but Shepherd stopped the Lions' run before they could tie the game.

The Rams pushed their lead back to six, but the Lions were not going to go down easily.

Sophomore guard Holly Bibb sank a 3-pointer to bring the deficit to three, and after a pair of empty possessions for the Rams, a Shepherd foul sent Concord forward Sydney Lindsey to the line with just over thirty seconds left.

Lindsey drained each shot, giving Shepherd a 93-92 lead with half a minute to play.

Concord was able to seize control of an errant pass, leading to Alexander's coast-to-coast layup with six seconds left.

Hewett was able to get a shot off before the buzzer, but the ball rolled off the rim.

Concord was led by center Jolysa Brown, who led all scorers with 29 points.

The Rams had six players in double digits, with Camille Wilmer pacing the team with 19.

Shepherd's three-game skid is their second of the year.

The Rams play their final regular season game at home against the Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cats on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Shepherd tames Lions

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams posted their second consecutive win by beating Concord 92-85 Wednesday night at the Butcher Center, but they almost let it slip away.

The Rams battled back and forth with the Mountain Lions early on, but the Rams pulled away after taking a 17-16 lead with 12 minutes to go in the first half.

The Rams slowly built their lead up to 11 during the first half, before Concord cut the lead to 47-39 at halftime.

That eight-point lead quickly expanded to 22 as senior guard Tyrone Roach knocked down two 3-pointers

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CONCORD 85
MOUNTAIN LIONS 4-17
SHEPHERD 92
RAMS 9-17

during the Rams' 16-1 run to start off the second half.

Concord paid no attention to the scoreboard and adjusted by using a full-court press and double-teams to stifle the Shepherd offense. Concurrently, the Rams let the Mountain Lions score almost at will going down the stretch. "I thought we handled the fullcourt

press well, but we weren't doing our job on defense," Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said.

The Mountain Lions cut the lead to within four, but the Rams were able to hold on for their second straight win.

"We led by 22, and sometimes it is hard to hold onto that when you keep looking up at the scoreboard, but a win is a win," Namolik said.

Freshman forward Chad Moore led the Rams with 28 points, including one 3-pointer, while freshman guard Aeron Spencer added 22. The Mountain Lions were led by freshman guard Kortea Johnson with 19.

The Rams conclude their regular season at home Saturday against the Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cats.

Fairmont dims Shepherd chances

FAIRMONT -- A 73-59 loss to the Fairmont women on Saturday at Joe Retton Arena left Shepherd in seventh-place in the WVIAC regular season race and all but eliminated the Lady Rams from title contention.

Shepherd had beaten the Lady Falcons in Shepherdstown.

Ashley Vavrek threw in a game-high 30 points for Fairmont. Vavrek made 13-of-14 free throws. Katlin Spencer added 15 points, Mo Gattuso had 10 points, and Rachel Murray

scored another 10 points.

The Lady Rams, 13-6 in the WVIAC and 14-9 in all their games, had point guard Jerica Hewett score a team-high 16 points. Shelby Fayak notched 14 points, Katie Biggs totaled 10 points, and Carrie Saunders also chipped in 10 points.

Near the end of the first half, Shepherd went on a 14-2 scoring run to assume a 30-26 lead at the half.

But Fairmont later countered with an 11-0 scoring tear itself in

the second half to ease away to the victory.

Shepherd was hurt throughout by its 25 turnovers. Fairmont had only 15 turnovers.

The Lady Rams had a 35-31 rebounding advantage and made 13-of-15 free throws.

Fairmont converted 21-of-22 (95.5 percent) of its free throws.

The last game of the Shepherd regular season schedule is on Saturday when the Lady Rams host Pitt Johnstown at 2 p.m. on their home court at the Butcher Center.

Falcons trim Rams in WVIAC game

FAIRMONT -- Shepherd's chances of hosting a first-round game in the WVIAC tournament took a hit on Saturday when the Rams fell, 77-73, to Fairmont at the Falcons' Joe Retton Arena.

Fairmont had a slender 36-32 lead at the half.

The Falcons held a lead as long as 10 points in the second half, but Shepherd rallied and was trailing only 75-73 with 16 seconds left after Aeron Spencer converted two free throws. Isaac Thornton then shoved the Fairmont lead back to four points when he made two free throws with only 12 seconds showing.

Thornton scored 20 points and Terrence Green added 15 for Fairmont. Mike Henderson (14) and Pete O'Connor (10) also scored in double figures for the Falcons, who were in third place in the WVIAC with a 15-4 league record and a 20-4 overall record.

Shepherd, which was still mired in 10th place and needed to finish at least eighth to host a first-round tournament game, had a 7-12 conference record and a 7-17 overall record.

Chad Moore scored a game-high 21 points for the Rams. Moore, who also claimed nine rebounds, was 10-of-13 from the

field.

The Rams shot 50 percent (27-for-54) from the floor and made 11-of-12 free throws. The Falcons likewise made 50 percent (27-for-54) of their field goal attempts. Fairmont was nearly as comfortable at the foul line as Shepherd, making 20-of-22 free throw tries.

Shepherd committed 11 turnovers and Fairmont had 16 turnovers. The Falcons had a 31-26 rebounding advantage. The Rams complete their regular season on Saturday at home when they face Pitt Johnstown at 4 p.m.

Gallagher, Rams top Ohio Valley

VIENNA -- Continuing his late-season scoring surge, Shepherd's Derek Gallagher notched a game-high 20 points as the Rams picked up a 78-56 road win over Ohio Valley last Thursday.

The Rams led a halftime, 39-26.

Tyrone Roach added 18 points for the Rams, who improved to 7-11 in the WVIAC and 7-16 overall with the conference victory. The Fighting Scots were 4-14 in the WVIAC and 5-18 overall.

Gallagher connected on 7-of-14 field goal attempts, including making 3-of-7 three-point attempts. He was 3-for-4 from the foul line. Roach was 6-of-11 from the floor and made both his

three-point tries. Roach converted all four of his free throw attempts.

Freshman Chad Moore was another double-figure scorer for the Rams with his 11 points. Moore also had six rebounds. Dave Karlson scored nine points and had eight rebounds. Freshman Aeron Spencer chipped in with his nine points. Moore led the Rams with four steals.

Donavin Vinson paced the Fighting Scots with 16 points. Rodney Everage led Ohio Valley with eight rebounds.

Shepherd held a slight, 36-33, rebounding edge.

Ohio Valley was hurt by its 21 turnovers, while the Rams committed only 13 turnovers.

Shepherd's 7-for-18 (38.9 percent) shooting from three-point range was beneficial in its win.

The Rams attempted 11 more free throws than the Fighting Scots tried. Shepherd was 17-for-25 (68 percent), while the Fighting Scots were just 10-for-14 (71.4 percent).

Shepherd was in 10th place in the 16-team conference regular season standings, while Ohio Valley was in 14th place.

The Rams close out their regular season schedule with a pair of home games -- tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. against Concord in a make-up game, and then on Saturday when Pitt Johnstown visits for a 4 p.m. game at the Butcher Center.