Reserves Fisher, Landrum spark Rams to victory

By MATT POLING
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SHEPHERDSTOWN — Shepherd’s women’s basketball team desperately needed a spark in the second half Saturday. The Rams had just suffered a 6:07 scoring drought and seen their 12-point halftime lead evaporate. Surprisingly, it was reserves Casey Landrum and LaToya Fisher who came to the rescue with 15 and 12 points, respectively, to lift Shepherd to a 72-61 victory over Davis & Elkins at the Butcher Center.

“Casey always gives us something offensively,” Rams coach Jodie Runner said of the sophomore. “LaToya (does it) on the defensive end.

“It’s what we needed at the time.”

It wasn’t until the Senators, 2-4, 0-2, West Virginia Conference, took their first lead of the game at 43-41 with 10:56 left that the Rams, 3-4, 1-0, woke up and responded.

It was Landrum who broke Shepherd out of its doldrums. The 5-foot-11 forward knocked down a baseline jumper to re-tie the game and then hit a baseline 3-pointer to give the Rams the lead for good.

Another Landrum trey minutes later allowed the Rams to keep pace with D&E.

It was then Fisher’s turn to spark Shepherd. The 6-foot center scored eight of the Rams next 12 points, the other four coming from guard Lindsay Stewart. Fisher’s putback basket with 4:10 left gave Shepherd a 61-54 cushion.

After D&E called timeout, Landrum hit a jumper and Ashley van Norden converted two free throws for a double-digit lead. The Senators only got as close as six with 1:04 left, but a Stewart layup off a pressbreaker home-run pass sealed the win.

“They were leaving me wide open,” Landrum said. “I didn’t do anything spectacular. I was just taking open shots.”

Perhaps the reason Landrum was so wide open is because of the first half dozen Cassie Murray had. The senior scored 17 of her 20 points, including a 3-pointer.

Tough defense leads Shepherd men

From STAFF REPORTS

EAST STRoudsburg, Pa. — When it’s gotten into so-called track meets with other teams, the Shepherd men’s basketball team has held its own in playing the run-and-gun game.

The only problem was the Rams weren’t playing any defense in the meantime. Such was the case Friday night as Bentley College outran the Rams 97-78 in the first round of the Rotary Pocomo Classic at East Stroudsburg University.

Shepherd got back to down-and-dirty defense on Saturday, though, and it carried the Rams to a 58-51 victory over Southern Connecticut State in the consolation game of the tournament.

“We talked about recommitting ourselves to defense,” Shepherd coach Ken Tyler said. “They went out and did it tonight. We had no recourse but to play defense and thankfully we did.”

It was the Rams’ defense that won the contest to improve Shepherd to 2-4. The Rams shot just 32 percent from the field and 50 percent from the free-throw line. Shepherd held SCS, 1-6, to 34 percent shooting and 50 percent from the foul line.

“To hold a team to 51 points and 34 percent shooting is a great accomplishment,” Tyler said. “We played the kind of defense we need to play to win consistently.

“Obviously it’s not pretty, but we’ll take it anyway we can get it.”

Mark Jennings led Shepherd with 19 points, while Brady Casteltl had 17 a night after leading all scorers with a 29-point outburst. Danley Shank added 12.

Shepherd closed the game by outscoring SCS 13-7. Casteltl gave the Rams the lead for good with a layup to make it 45-44 with 4:51 left. With the outcome still in doubt, Jennings hit two baskets with less than two minutes remaining, including one with :45 left, to seal the win.

Mike McCurdy led SCS with 17 points.

Shepherd is off this week for finals and doesn’t play again until Dec. 20 when it hosts Hood in a 2 p.m. contest.
Shepherd 58  
So. Connecticut State 51

EAST STROUDSBURG, Pa. — Mark Jennings led Shepherd College with 19 points, as the Rams topped Southern Connecticut State in the consolation game of the Rotary Pocono Classic.

Brady Catlett scored 17 points, while Danley Shank added 12 points and nine rebounds and Esosa Imosilli grabbed nine boards for Shepherd (2-4).

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Shepherd 72  
Davis & Elkins 61

ELKINS, W.Va. — Cassie Murray had 20 points, seven rebounds and four assists to lead Shepherd College past Davis & Elkins in WVIAC action. Casey Landrum had 15 points and LaToya Fisher added 12 for the Rams (3-4, 1-0).
Shepherd baseball camp

Shepherd College baseball coach Wayne Riser will host his Ram Baseball Preseason Camp starting in January 2004. The hitting and pitching camp will start Jan. 11 and take place on five consecutive Sundays. Each camper will pick between hitting or pitching.

Current Shepherd baseball players will be assisting with instruction. Cost is $150. Each participant will receive a T-shirt.

Make checks payable to Wayne Riser and mail to P.O. Box 3210, Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Or, for more information, call 876-5493 or e-mail kkann@shepherd.edu.
Lady Rams Ink Four

Shepherd women’s basketball coach Jodie Hunter has signed four players in the "early signing" period in November.

The foursome includes: Laura Hawkins, a 6-foot center who plays at Spring Grove High in York, Pennsylvania. She averaged 17 points and nearly 10 rebounds a game as a junior.

Molly Land from Harrisburg High in Hope, Indiana. Land is a 5-foot-11 guard who scored 17.5 points a game and made 45 percent of her three-point field goal attempts.

Michelle Van Dyke, a 5-foot-11 forward who played at Lafayette High in Williamsburg, Virginia. Van Dyke averaged 15 points a game as well as dishing out three assists a game.

The fourth Shepherd recruit is 5-foot-7 guard Nydia Zamora from Coleman High in Miami, Florida. Zamora was a first-team All-Dade County selection as a junior.

Shepherd Signs Baseball Threesome

During the so-called "early signing period," Shepherd signed three baseball players to letters-of-intent for the 2005 season.

Sophomore Chris Anderson, a student-athlete at Hagerstown Community College who played in high school at Middleton, Maryland, is a pitcher/first baseman for the Hawks. The 6-foot-2, 220-pounder helped Hagerstown win the Region XX title last year.

Anderson will be a junior when he reports to coach Wayne Biser in the fall of 2004 and has two years of eligibility remaining with the Rams.

Sophomore Tim Biser is also a student-athlete at Hagerstown Community College.

Biser is listed at 6-foot-2, 205 and is a pitcher. He played in high school at Thomas Jefferson in Frederick. His record as a freshman at HCC was 4-1 and he had an earned run average of 3.89.

Biser will also have two years of eligibility at Shepherd.

The third Shepherd signee is pitcher/third baseman Dirk Webb, now a senior at Hedgesville High.

Webb is listed at 6-foot-1, 215. He played for the Charles Town Jr. American Legion team for two summers. He will have four years of eligibility at Shepherd.

Rams Third At Tourney

Shepherd got some solace from its trek into eastern Pennsylvania’s snow-clogged hills when it salvaged third place in the Rotary Pocono Classic men’s basketball tournament held at East Stroudsburg University last weekend.

The Rams won for the second time this season, expanding a one-point lead in the last few minutes, to finally grab a 58-51 win over struggling Southern Connecticut State, which was left with a 1-6 record after its second loss in the tournament.

Shepherd was 2-4 overall and had lost to Bentley College from Massachusetts in the tournament's first round.

Southern Connecticut State trailed 45-44, when Shepherd outscored the Owls 13-7, over the game’s final minutes.

Neither team shot well. Neither team could even do well from the foul line.

Shepherd went 20-for-61 from the field (33 percent) and just 13-of-26 from the foul line (50 percent).

The Owls went 21-for-61 from the field (34 percent) and just 6-for-12 from the foul in being outscored by seven points on five throws by the Rams.

Even though it converted just 5-of-17 three-point attempts, Shepherd still was better from that area than the Owls, who made just 2-of-15 long-range attempts.

The Owls had 48 rebounds and Shepherd had 44, led by Keesa Insalaco’s nine.

Kees Mitchell had seven of Shepherd’s 14 assists, while the Owls had seven assists as a team.

Southern Connecticut State claimed a 24-19 lead in the low-scoring first half.

Shepherd then outpointed the Owls by some 12 points in the second half.

The Rams placed three players in double figures, led by Mark Jennings’ 19 points. Brady Catlett scored 17 points and Danley Shank totaled 12 points even though he missed nine of his 13 field goal tries.

Mike McCurdy was the Owls’ lone double figure scorer with 17 points.

Jennings, Catlett, and Shank scored 46 of Shepherd’s 58 points. Mark Bressan, Jaakko Koivula, Chad Myers, and Laurynas Inokaitis all failed to score and Mitchell (1-for-6) finished with two points.

Shepherd’s next game is on Saturday, December 20 at 2 p.m. when it faces Division III Hood College, a school seeking its first men’s basketball team this year.
Rams women’s hoops sign four players

Shepherd College head women’s basketball coach Jodie Runner announced recently that four student-athletes have signed letters-of-intent to play basketball at Shepherd next year.

The new players include:
- Laura Harkins of Spring Grove Area High School in York, Pa.;
- Molly Land of Hauser High School in Hope, Ind.;
- Michelle Van Dyke of Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Va.; and
- Nylia Zamora of Barbara Goleman High School in Miami.