

The Beacon
Sports
 February 20, 1995 · William Paterson College

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CLINCHES FIRST

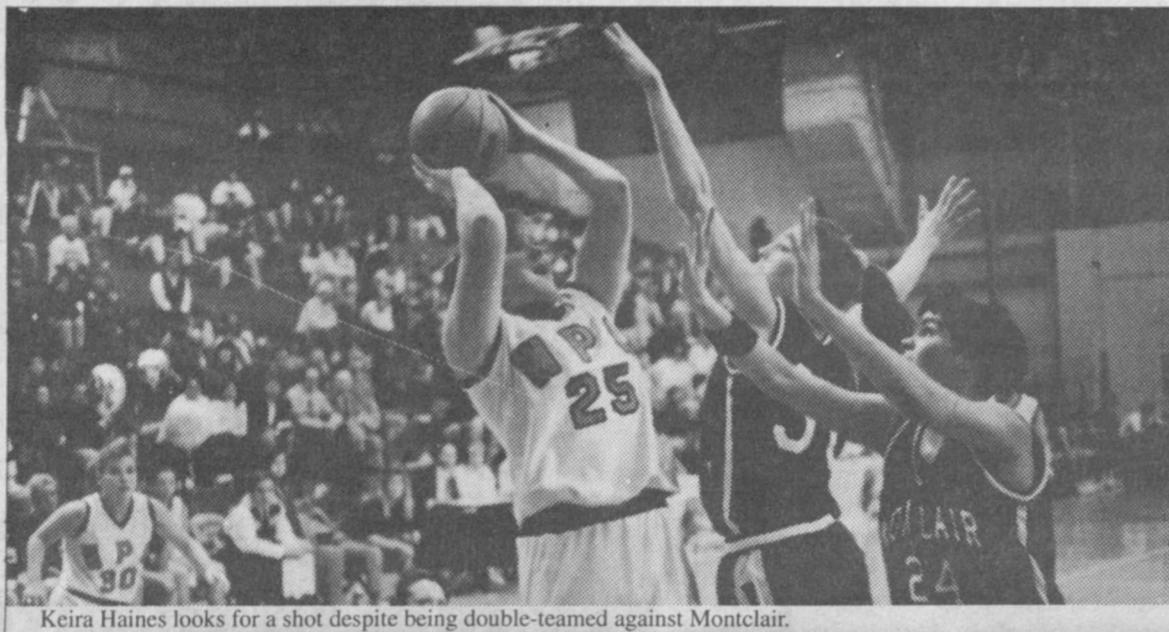
Playoffs begin Thursday

Tom Stephens
 STAFF WRITER

The WPC women's basketball team played like champions throughout the 1994-95 regular season. They captured the NJAC title with an astounding 21-3 overall record, 16-2 in the conference. They won 18 of their last 19 games, finishing the year on an nine-game winning streak. And they went 12-0 on their home court.

Now it is time for the Lady Pioneers to carry their winning ways into the playoffs, which begin this Thursday at the Rec Center against Rutgers University-Camden and culminate with the NJAC Championship on Saturday. Head coach Erin Shaughnessy sees a few things on her team's side.

First off, WPC can count on consistent scoring from seniors like Keira Haines, Maureen Marz and Joanne Mabes.



Keira Haines looks for a shot despite being double-teamed against Montclair.

"We're playing together as a team. If Keira is not on, Mo [Marz] picks it up; if Mo's not on, Joanne picks it up," Shaughnessy said. "That's one aspect that will help us in the long run because hopefully we can put it all together and it will click."

The Lady Pioneers put it all together on offense this season, averaging 72 points per game. They've done it with half-court offense and brilliant shooting, which Shaughnessy hopes to rely on in the playoffs.

"We're not going to have one go-to player," she said.

"That's what's tough about our team. People don't know how to play us."

Marz led WPC with 16 points per game on 40 percent field goal shooting. Haines scored 15 p.p.g. and shot 40 percent. Mabes scored 10 p.p.g. and senior Alison Vetterl led the team with 40 percent accuracy from 3-point land.

"I don't ever yell at them not to shoot," said Shaughnessy. "I tell them to work the ball around and take and make good shots."

One thing Shaughnessy would like to see an improve-

ment in is rebounding.

"We've been lacking that a little bit in the last couple games," she said. "We need more rebounding from the guards."

Haines tops the Lady Pioneers with 12 boards per game. Bridget Brennan and Marz come in second with just six rebounds a night.

"If we picked up our rebounding that would help us," Shaughnessy said. "Everybody's very aggressive to go to the ball instead of boxing out their opponent."

SEE PLAYOFFS PAGE 2

Beat Montclair for first place

Bill Berthold
 SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The New Jersey Athletic Conference's two top women's basketball teams, WPC and Montclair State University, collided Wednesday night at the Rec Center in a battle for supremacy of the conference. The Lady Pioneers came out on

WPC PLAYOFF GAMES
 NJAC SEMI-FINALS
 WPC vs. Rutgers-Camden
 Thursday 7:30 pm at Rec Center
 (WPC-TV ch. 8, TCI ch. 19)
 NJAC FINALS
 WPC, with win over Rutgers
 opponent TBA
 Sat. 7:30 pm at
 Rec Center (WPC-TV ch. 8,
 TCI Cable ch. 19)

top. In a closely contested game which featured 11 lead changes, the Lady Pioneers, behind the play of Maureen Marz, who paced WPC with 18 points
 SEE PROPEL PAGE 2

Lady swimmers win Met

Jeremy Singer
 SPORTS EDITOR

The 1994-95 season is now over for the WPC women's swim team, and it ended just the way the team had hoped it would.

The Lady Pioneers wrapped up the season last weekend with a first place finish in the Met Championships at Kings Point, N.Y. WPC swimmers won 15 of 20 events in the meet and finished second in four other events en route to the championship.

WPC scored 585 points to

win the three-day event. Stonybrook College finished second with 479 points and Montclair University scored third with 300.5 points. In all, 18 teams competed in the meet.

"We knew we had a really good shot to win," coach Ed Gurka said. "The team had a lot of enthusiasm and unity, and it really carried through."

The team also walked away with four individual meet awards: Most Valuable Swimmer, Laurie Gazdalski; Rookie of the Year, Jen Cook; Coach Krempecki Award (to the senior who has contributed the

most to the sport of swimming), Gail Kunneman; and Coach of the Year, Gurka.

WPC won all five of the relays they competed in. The 400 meter intermedley team of Cook, Traci Matus, Gazdalski and Liz Sweetman timed 4:16.32. The 200 I.M. team of Cook, Matus, Gazdalski and Julia Moore timed 1:56.57.

The 800 freestyle team of Gazdalski, Sweetman, Julia Anderson and Moore timed 8:37.42. The 400 free team of Cook, Sweetman, Anderson and Moore timed 3:53.24.

Possibly the most impor-

tant relay win for the Lady Pioneers was that of the 200 free team, composed of Gazdalski, Sweetman, Cook and Moore. The foursome was seeded third but finished first with a time of 1:42.72.

"Our 200 free would have beaten last year's winner by two seconds," Gurka said. "We were ready in that event and it propelled us throughout the meet."

Gazdalski finished first and set school records with 24.84 seconds in the 50 free and 53.68 in the 100 free. She
 SEE SWIMMERS PAGE 3



Liz Sweetman-two individual wins, four relay wins



Gail Kunneman-wins Coach Krempecki Award

Marz, Haines propel WPC into first

FROM MONTCLAIR PAGE 1

and Keira Haines, who added 15 points and eight rebounds, defeated their archrival Montclair 59-53.

The win gave the Lady Pioneers sole possession of first place in the NJAC. With a 58-52 win over Trenton State College on Saturday, the Lady Pioneers (21-3, 16-2 NJAC) clinched first place and secured home-court advantage throughout the NJAC playoffs.

Montclair (19-5, 15-3

NJAC) was without the services of freshman center Maggie Misiejuk (sprained ankle), who, on Jan. 18 against WPC, scored a "triple-double" including 10 blocks, while holding Haines to only six points.

In Misiejuk's absence the Lady Pioneers went to Haines to establish an inside game early.

"Obviously there was a height advantage on our side, and Keira was hot so we kept on going to her until they

stopped us," said coach Erin Shaughnessy.

WPC led 27-24 after the first half, holding Montclair to a dismal 25.8 percent shooting. The lead would have been more had it not been for the spectacular play of Montclair freshman guard Aidill Borrero, who had nine first half points.

Neither team hit a shot from the field in the first five minutes of the second half until Montclair's Tara Perez gave the Red Hawks a 31-29 lead with 14:30 left.

The two teams traded the lead most of the next ten min-

utes before WPC took over. When Joanne Mabes, who scored seven of her eight points in the second half, scored with 4:25 left, WPC took their biggest lead of the game thus far, 49-44.

The Lady Pioneers seemed to be in command, but with three minutes remaining Heidi Klingest scored for Montclair to tie the game at 50.

Those two points would be the last the Red Hawks would score until a meaningless three very late in the game.

With 1:56 remaining and the Lady Pioneers clinging to a

51-50 lead, WPC's Kathy Sinram calmly hit two clutch free throws. Then, with 53 seconds remaining, Marz converted on a hard driving layup to give the Lady Pioneers a 55-50 lead.

On Montclair's next possession, Bridget Brennan, who finished with eight rebounds and seven assists, stole the ball from Borrero and dished it to Marz, who scored and was fouled. This gave the Lady Pioneers an insurmountable eight point lead with just 24.3 seconds remaining.

WPC has now won 21 straight games at home.

WPC in playoffs

FROM PLAYOFFS PAGE 1

Another aspect the Lady Pioneers would like to improve is turnovers. As a team they committed 20 turnovers per game, a stat that Shaughnessy wants to see erased.

"They need to calm down a little bit when the press is thrown on them," she said. "Sometimes they try to do a little too much with the ball and they try to look fancy. We don't need to look fancy, as long as we get out of there with a 'W.'"

This year turnovers have

contributed to many blown leads by the Lady Pioneers, who obviously got away with it many times during the regular season. But the post-season is certainly a different story.

"We get a little too comfortable out there," said Shaughnessy, who feels more optimistic heading into the playoffs.

"I don't think any lead will be blown," she said. "We're going to be fighting to get that conference win. We're going to play as hard as we can for 40 minutes."

Final NJAC Standings

Men's Basketball			Men's Swimming		
	NJAC	OVERALL		NJAC	OVERALL
Rowan	15-3 .833	22-2 .917			
Trenton S.	12-6 .667	16-8 .667	W L T PCT.	W L T PCT.	
Jersey City S.	12-6 .667	16-8 .667	Trenton S.	4 0 0 1.000	9 0 0 1.000
Montclair S.	12-6 .667	16-8 .667	Rowan	3 1 0 .750	8 2 0 .800
Kean	11-7 .611	16-8 .667	Montclair S.	2 2 0 .500	6 5 0 .545
Ramapo	10-8 .558	14-10 .583	Wm. Paterson	1 3 0 .250	3 5 0 .375
Richard Stockton	10-8 .558	15-9 .625	Rutgers-Camden	0 4 0 .000	1 9 0 .100
Wm. Paterson	4-14 .222	9-15 .375			
Rutgers-Newark	3-15 .167	7-16 .304			
Rutgers-Camden	1-17 .000	0-24 .000			

Women's Basketball			Women's Swimming		
	NJAC	OVERALL		NJAC	OVERALL
Wm. Paterson	16-2 .889	21-3 .875			
Montclair S.	14-4 .778	17-6 .739	W L T PCT.	W L T PCT.	
Rowan	14-4 .778	19-5 .792	Rowan	5 0 0 1.000	11 0 0 1.000
Rutgers-Camden	13-5 .722	18-6 .750	Trenton S.	4 1 0 .800	10 3 0 .769
Trenton S.	12-6 .667	16-8 .667	Wm. Paterson	3 2 0 .600	5 3 0 .625
Rutgers-Newark	7-11 .389	11-13 .458	Montclair S.	2 3 0 .400	6 6 0 .500
Kean	5-13 .278	7-17 .292	Kean	1 4 0 .200	4 10 0 .286
Ramapo	4-14 .222	8-17 .320	Rutgers-Camden	0 5 0 .000	0 10 0 .000
Jersey City S.	3-15 .167	7-17 .292			
Richard Stockton	2-16 .111	7-17 .292			

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Ice Hockey rolls

Michael Ramos
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The WPC ice hockey team beat Stevens Technical Institute 7-2 on Saturday at the Pioneers' home ice in Wall in the third and final meeting of the two teams this season.

WPC now has a firm hold on second place in the Hudson Division with a 9-4-3 record.

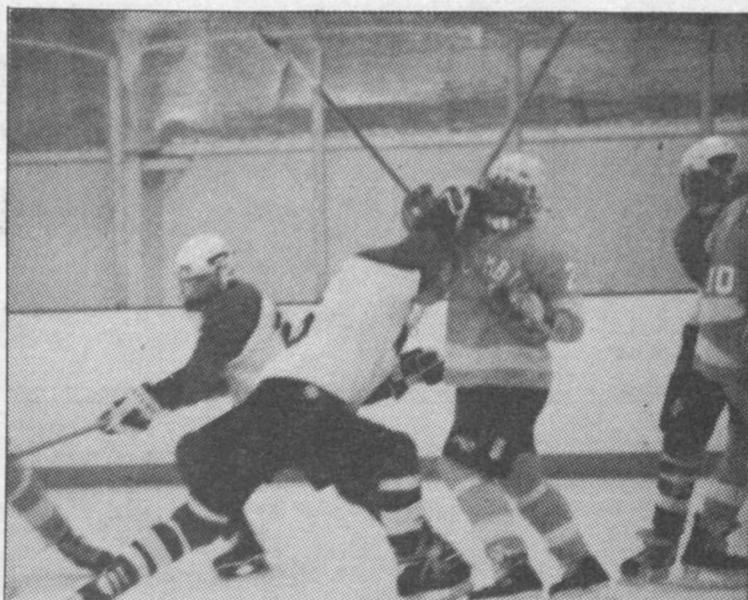
The Pioneers dominated Stevens right from the start. Dennis Ruppe scored first for WPC at 13:58 of the first period with a blast from the blue line. Stevens answered with a goal, ending the first period with a 1-1 score.

WPC took the lead for good in the second period when Dino Stampono drilled a goal with an assist from Emil

Rascher. Marty Brenner followed with a goal at 7:11, assisted by Sean Conroy.

Ruppe opened the third period with a short-handed goal at 16:59. Then John Redling netted a power-play goal with an assist from Brenner.

Stevens managed to score once more before Marc Greenstein scored short-handed at 5:37. Scott Yancek scored the final goal for WPC, again short-handed, at 2:16.



Joe Albanese checks a Columbia player in recent action.

Men's basketball season ends



WPC guard Victor Humphrey. The Pioneers wrapped up their season with an 89-80 loss to Trenton State College on Saturday. Next week *The Beacon* will review the men's basketball team's season.

Swimmers rise to top

FROM MET PAGE 1

swam well enough in the latter event to qualify for the National Championships, which will be held early next month.

She also won the 100 butterfly with 58.81 time.

Sweetman won the 500 free (5:43.16) and the 1650 free (19:43.2) and finished second in the 200 free (2:07.48).

Cook won the 200 I.M. (2:22.48), the 100 backstroke (1:02.47) and the 200 back (2:19.06). Matus won the 100 breast (1:12.93) and the 200 breast (2:38.61).

Megan Porter finished sec-

ond in the 400 I.M. (5:13.12) and the 1650 free (20:01.68) and third in the 200 fly (2:34.45). Moore placed third in the 100 fly (1:08.00) and the 100 free (58.32).

Geri Mosono finished second in the three meter dive and third in the one meter dive. Dawn Spenard finished second in the one meter dive and third in the three meter dive.

WPC was in first place throughout the competition. They refused to rest on their laurels, however, after taking a decisive advantage after one day of competition.

"We've been in that position before," said Gurka, whose team finished third place in the Met Championships in 1994. "You have to have the lead on the third day."

Unlike last year, the Lady Pioneers kept their momentum throughout the meet, slowly but surely pulling away from their competition.

"We really swam well on the second day and took the esteem out of Stoneybrook," Gurka said. "After that, they knew they couldn't win."

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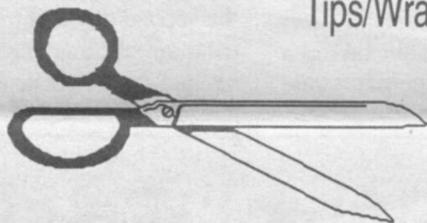
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