

athletics history

Looking back

Athletics has a long history at MCC

Kim Du o, of Stanton, was a member of the 1971-72 basketball team.



By Renae Gould and Shelly Springborn

Athletics had its first run at Montcalm Community College from 1967 to 1979.

It all started on Oct. 11, 1967, when the MCC Board of Trustees approved a resolution appointing Larry Petersen, of Stanton, as the head coach for basketball and baseball and approved scheduling of games for the coming basketball season. MCC's sports teams were known as the Centurions.

Games weren't played on campus, though, as MCC didn't have its own athletic facilities. Instead, the college had an agreement worked out with Central Montcalm High School to use their gym for games and practices.

The boys basketball team began play in November 1967. They won their first away game against Grand Rapids Baptist College with a score of 76-58. It was the first of a 15-game schedule of which eight games were played at home. The team roster for this game included the following players and their home schools: Dave Bacon, Steve Foster and John Johnson, Greenville; Brian Benson, Grosse Ile; Bruce Gri n, Grand Rapids Central; Alva Hockstra and Dennis Smith, Montabella; Henry King and Tom Skinner, Lakeview; Bob Noll, Carson City; and Tom Pressley, Tri County. Other team members included Jack Sulpher, Chuck Beach, Dave Gregg, Roger Hansen, Mike Nelson and Dennis Smith.

A week later, they took the court against the Area Coaches All-Stars team, comprised of coaches from eight area high schools who donated their time and travel expense to participate. The coaches included Stan Breidinger, of Greenville; Frank Fedewa, of Montabella; Don Gorsuch, of Ionia; Dick Gro , of Greenville; Tom Matchett, of Belding; Norm Miller, of Montabella; Don Rasmussen, of Central Montcalm; Stan Stolz, of Central Montcalm; Larry Taylor, of Greenville; Frank Ciangi, of Ionia; Bill Burns, of Carson City; Tom Coss, of Belding; and Mike Holdship, of Carson City. MCC ended up losing their first home game to the Area Coaches All-Stars, 95-66. Overall, the MCC Centurions ended the season with six wins and 11 losses.

By fall semester 1969, a survey of the college's 230 students showed that 50 percent of the full-time enrollment had taken advantage of the wide range of activities offered by the two-year college. The intramural athletics program, which was offered on a voluntary basis and led by Petersen, was most popular with the Drama Club and Choir being second. The intramural program, provided for both boys and girls, had attracted 90 students in the various sports.

Frank Fedewa took over as head coach for the boys basketball team at the start of the 1969-70 season, after a successful tenure at Montabella and Edmore high schools. He led the team to a 17-10 record. The team averaged 90.2 points per game for their 27-game season.

In March 1974, women's basketball and volleyball were added to MCC's schedule, and Pat Marston, of Sheridan, was hired to coach both teams. The women's basketball team started its first season on the right foot, beating West Shore Community College 39-14 during its first game on