Men win home finale, miss playoffs



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Forward Kazell Stewart, a senior, rises up for a dunk against the Saint Michael's College on Feb. 21.

By Julian Markese
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team took care of business at home against Saint Michael's College on Feb. 21. The final score was 83–71.

It was senior night. Forward Kazell Stewart, a senior, and guard Justice Ellison, a graduate, were honored at half-court with their families before the game.

"We wanted to go out and have their last home game be a win. And we did that for them," Head Coach Scott Burrell said.

Stewart was part of the starting five for the second consecutive game. He set the tone early with an in-your-face three that kick-started the Owl's opening onslaught.

"Kazell keeps battling back. He was very aggressive to start the game, and when you start like that, it helps propel you later," Burrell said.

After taking the lead only three minutes into the game, the Owls did not relinquish it. Stewart handled the ball well He finished with 13 points, an assist and seven rebounds.

Stewart has battled injuries throughout his career. He has been a starter and the sixth man. He is a veteran, a leader and a pillar of the university's basketball program.

"My motivation has been to play every minute I can in my college career," Stewart said.

Although Saint Michael's was somewhat effective on fast breaks, when the Owls slowed their momentum and played in the halfcourt, their defense was stifling.

Forward Cherif Diarra, a graduate, played almost the whole game. He made life in the paint hard for his opponents. Diarra grabbed six boards, blocked two shots, dished out five assists and scored 12.

The Owls were more physical, played with more urgency than their opponent. They broke the will of the Purple Knights.

Guard Randy Crosby, a junior, was electric. He came off the bench, knocked down two three pointers and had three assists.

"I try to give Randy confidence everyday in practice. Today, he stepped up, came out and had a blast. It's so fun to see someone who doesn't play a lot come on the floor and play," Stewart said. "I live for those moments."

Crosby finished with 13 points. His 21 minutes was more than he had played in his career.

"Randy worked his butt off all year. The opportunity came, and he was prepared. Not only did he make great shots, he made the team better. He ran great offense and played with great energy," Burrell said.

Once again, the star of the show was Ellison. The dangerous shooting guard was a thorn in the side of the visitors. He slashed, cut, pivoted and rose up; shooting 64% from the field for a team-high 19 points.

The Owls ultimately fell short this season. After beating Saint Michael's, the team lost to Franklin Pierce University in their season finale.

Their final record was 11–15. They finished 7–11 in the conference, under .500 for the first time since 2021. The team missed out on the NE10 championships.



Guard Justice Ellison, a graduate, poses with Head Coach Scott Burrell and family.



Forward Kazell Stewart, a senior, poses with family and coaches.

Athletic department hosts girls sports day



PHOTOS | WILLIAM GAGNÉ

Kelley Frassinelli, senior woman administrator and head coach of the field hockey team, speaks to participants during the National Girls and Women in Sports Day event.

By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

James Moore Field House was packed on Feb. 21. as the university's athletic department hosted its National Girls and Women in Sports Day event.

Observed nationwide, National Girls and Women in Sports Day honors the growth and impact of women's athletics.

"It really captures the rich history of the progress that we've made with building women's sports," Interim President Sandra Bulmer said.

The university's event not only highlighted the present success of women's sports but also reflected on the progress that has shaped opportunities for many.

Music echoed in the gym throughout the morning as young athletes rotated through stations representing different sports.

From basketball shooting drills to learning the beam position in gymnastics, the event gave participants a chance to stay active while learning directly from collegiate student athletes.

Basketball appeared to be a favorite among many of the young participants, including Kenzie Sweeten.

"My favorite has been basketball because I play basketball," Sweeten said.

The university's athletes led each station, demonstrating techniques, offering encouragement and stopping for high fives between the stations.

The atmosphere inside the field house felt energetic but welcoming, giving kids the confidence to try something new without hesitation.

For the student athletes, the event was about more than running drills. It was a chance to show young girls that women belong in every space within athletics as players, leaders and role models.

"Seeing them having so much fun and them getting our autographs, it really means a lot to them, and it means so much to me," gymnast Maria Chronopoulos, a sophomore, said.

Events like this help reinforce the visibility of women's sports at all levels. With women leading each station and organizing activities, participants were able to see firsthand the leadership roles women hold across athletic programs.

Moments like those, organizers said, are central to the purpose of National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

"Some of these kids don't know that these sports exist, and with this, they have the opportunity to do that," Kelley Frassinelli, senior woman administrator and head coach of the field hockey team, said.

Column: Olympic round-up



By Draven Dabrowski
Sports Writer

Beyond the medals and record times, the Olympics have always represented something bigger. For a few weeks, athletes from more than 200 nations share the same stage, competing at the highest level.

In a time when headlines are often divided by politics and conflict, the Olympics should offer a rare image of unity.

The Olympics are not just about who wins gold but about the stories behind the podium and the years of preparation that lead to one defining moment.

For the athletes, simply qualifying is a feat. Getting the chance to represent their country on the world's biggest stage is the triumph of a lifetime.

Some athletes broke through when no one expected it; plenty left without a medal, but every performance still meant something.

The U.S. men's hockey team's overtime win had the country on the edge of their seats.

Events like cross-country skiing and figure skating were just as intense, with little room for error.

At the same time, you could see the weight of all the pressure. The reality for these athletes is that one moment can define years of work.

That mix of highs and lows is what makes the Olympics memorable. Most of the work happens long before the cameras turn on, and that is what gives these moments real meaning.

In figure skating, Alysa Liu won the women's singles gold, becoming the first American woman to take Olympic gold in that event since 2002. Her performance in Milan was strong and emotionally resonant for skating fans around the world.

Cross-country skiing also produced a historic result.

Sweden's Ebba Andersson won the inaugural women's 50-kilometer classical race, finishing ahead of Norway's Heidi Weng and Switzerland's Nadja Kälin.

On home snow, Italian skiers made headlines as well.

In the women's giant slalom, Italy's Federica Brignone claimed gold, helping the Italians claim their most medals at an Olympics ever.

The individual moments were part of a bigger picture.

In the final medal standings, Norway led all nations with the most gold medals and total medals, followed by a strong showing from the United States and the host nation, Italy.

The mix of big wins and national moments felt a lot like the opening night all over again. Fans from different countries were watching the same races and celebrating the same highlights at the same time.

For a few weeks, the focus was not on what divides people, but on the moments that brought them together.