

## SMC Women's Basketball: Second Half Surge Not Enough Against USF

By Kevin D. Shallat



The Saint Mary's women's basketball team came up short Thursday, Jan. 24 against the USF Dons in McKeon Pavilion. After a near deadlock at half, the Gaels fell behind big to start the second half. Lauren Shaughnessy did all she could to bring the Gaels back, but the rest of the Gaels were unable to heat up in time to surpass the Dons. San Francisco guard Dominique Carter was on fire, as she torched the

Gaels for 35 points. The Dons went on to win this one, 80-68.

This game wasn't as much about Carter's 35 points, as it was more about the off night for most of the Gaels. However, Saint Mary's appeared to be a deeper team than the Dons, despite the fact that they were still without leading rebounder Maija Lahde. The Gaels were also without guard Serena Benavente, who was out with an undisclosed in-

jury. The Saint Mary's bench players outscored the Dons 23-6, but were unable to turn this miss-match into a victory.

Saint Mary's leading scorer Jontelle Smith was 1-7 from 3-point range, and had only two points in the second half, as she may have been slowed by her recent injury. The Gaels were able to keep Carter, the WCC's leading scorer, to only 10 points in the first half, but Shaugh-

nessy was the only Gael in double figures in scoring for the first half. Despite the lack of offense, the Gaels were able to cling to a one-point deficit, as they trailed the Dons 32-31 at halftime.

Shaughnessy was scintillating in the second half. To watch her play Thursday night was worth the price of admission, as she dribbled around screens to knock down jumpers all night long. Shaughnessy finished with 18 points, five rebounds, four assists, and four steals, in 37 minutes.

The bench players stepped up for the Gaels in this game, as Suzie Davis led the reserves with 10 points and four rebounds in 13 minutes of play. Davis hit a three-pointer to make it a ten point game with 3:29 to go, and the Gaels were able to cut the lead to ten again with 1:28 to play, but simply ran out of time.

Despite foul trouble, Louella Tomlinson put up big numbers in a short span of time. Tomlinson finished with 11 points, seven rebounds, and 5 blocks, in only 18 minutes. Tomlinson's mind-boggling statistics are so efficient, it leaves fans wondering, despite the obvious foul trouble, why she doesn't log more minutes.

When Tomlinson logs big minutes, the Gaels seem to win. Tomlinson's minutes are much like the Gaels win-loss record, a bit of a mystery. Saint Mary's beat Fresno State, who sits atop the WAC at 6-0. They also beat Santa Clara, who up until now, have only one loss, which was against the Gaels. However, the season is still young, and the Gaels have a chance to get everybody healthy and hot at the same time to make a run in the WCC.