

SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Saint Mary's Wins Two at Home

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Mickey McConnell (32) had 19 points against USC Photo Tod Fierner

Senior guard Mickey McConnell has emerged as not only the team's leader but as a serious contender for WCC Player of the Year. He won back to back WCC Player of the Week awards, winning the January 3rd and January 10th awards and was named the National Player of the Week by TheHoopsRe-

port.com for the week of January 3rd.

Saint Mary's started the conference schedule with easy road wins over Loyola Marymount and Pepperdine, winning 98-75 on January 6th against the Lions and posting an 85-60 victory over the Waves on January 8th. McConnell led Saint Mary's

with 21 points and eight assists against the Lions, while junior forward Rob Jones had 20 and nine.

Against the Waves two nights later, McConnell had 11 points and 15 assists and sophomore forward Mitchell Young had 16 and nine boards. The Waves played without the conference's leading scorer Keion Bell, who had been averaging 20.9 points before going down with an injured ankle.

The first home match of conference play - against San Francisco - was a lot tougher game than expected out of a team picked to finish sixth in the conference. The Gaels led by just six at the half, but a strong second half effort fueled by a 7-0 run to start the half shattered the Don's resistance.

McConnell finished with 19 points and four assists, while Jones added 11 points and 10 boards. Dellavedova added 13 points and four assists of his own.

Back to back threes from Dellavedova, capped off with a way-past-the-arc bomb with 7:10 left, propelled the Gaels to their first double digit lead of the night at 30-18.

San Francisco edged back at 33-29 with 2:25 to go in the half, but Saint Mary's staved off the Don attack for the rest of the half and led 35-29 at intermission.

The Gaels exploded out to start the second half on a 7-0 run that took the fire out of the Dons. Dellavedova found junior forward Clint Steindl who slammed home a vicious dunk with 18:48 to play that put Saint Mary's up 42-29. It never got closer than 10 after that.

"I was hoping he was going to the basket, I thought he

was gonna settle for a three," Dellavedova chuckled afterwards.

The Broncos had been picked to finish fourth in the conference, but put up little challenge as the Gaels won 84-59.

Six Gaels scored in double figures, and McConnell led the way again, scoring 18 points and a game-high 13 assists. Jones added 15 and nine boards. Dellavedova had 10 points and six assists.

The two teams fought it out in the early minutes, but a three from McConnell with 16:20 left in the half gave the Gaels a 9-5 advantage. A minute later, McConnell fired another three - this one from about 28 feet - that gave the Gaels a 14-5 lead with 15:25 to go.

With 50 seconds to go in the half, Dellavedova crumpled to the floor after colliding in the paint on defense. But he started the second half and finished the game wearing a knee brace.

"He's a really tough kid, so I was concerned," Bennett said afterwards. "I was surprised he came sprinting back out there to start the second half... It reminded me of Willis Reed," he said with a laugh.

The Broncos couldn't muster a comeback in the second half as the Gaels continued their offensive barrage.

Saint Mary's will play one more home game - a matchup with San Diego on Wednesday at 7:30 - before embarking on a three game road trip. The Gaels will travel to Vanderbilt next Saturday to take on the Commodores, before heading north for games against Gonzaga and Portland.



Clint Steindl (11) hit four threes against SCU Photo Tod Fierner

SMC Gaels Home Game Schedule

SMC www.SMCGaels.com

Thu, Jan 27 WBB Gonzaga McKeon Pavilion 6:PM
Sat, Jan 29 WBB Portland McKeon Pavilion 2:00PM
Thu, Feb 3 MBB PEPPERDINE McKeon Pavilion 7:00PM
Sat, Feb 5 MBB LOYOLA MARYMOUNT McKeon Pavilion 5:00PM
Wed, Feb 9 MTEN San Francisco Timothy Korth Tennis Complex 3:00PM
Thu, Feb 10 WBB Santa Clara McKeon Pavilion 7:00PM

Schedule is subject to change. Confirm at www.SMCGaels.com

Local Cheerleader Performs in London

Submitted by Karen Martin-Chang



Madeline Martin (front center) with her Campolindo Cheer team Photo provided

Campolindo High School junior cheerleader Madeline

Martin traveled from Moraga to London to cheer in London's New

Year's Day Parade. Martin was one of 350 cheerleaders from the US who performed.

Martin and other individuals invited to perform in the parade qualified for the trip after being selected as an All American at one of the summer camps hosted by Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA). This is the 24th year that cheerleaders from UCA have gone to London.

Upon her return, Martin said, "I loved London, and the trip and parade were an incredible, unforgettable experience. As I marched in the parade I felt so proud and honored to be representing my country."

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