

Flashy new Eagles clobber Cavaliers, 99-78

By BARNEY KOSAR

"Ashland is going to get better each game and they will score. They are going to be a great team. Ashland will out-muscle every team on their schedule except Akron." These comments were made by Walsh College's Head Basketball Coach Joe Bogdan, whose Cavaliers had just suffered a 99-78 defeat to the new high-flying Eagles of Ashland College.

A new era in Big Gold Basketball was unveiled as the Eagles showed off new uniforms, new pre-game drills, and an electrifying fast style of play.

Coach Jerry Walke and his team, ranked tenth nationally by Basketball News and 15th by United Press International in pre-season polls, just barely missed the century mark in scoring Dec. 1 before over 3600 fans.

Walsh dominated the opening minutes of play, jumping out to a 7-4 lead. But the Eagles' perpetual motion machine finally warmed up and AC came back for a 15-7 score. The Eagles ran at will against Walsh as the man-to-man full court press built up a 30-19 margin midway through the first half.

Capitalizing on Cavalier turnovers, the sputtering Eagle of-



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Earl Diddle takes one of his rare shots for two points.



The "Hawk" grabs a rebound from Cavalier Herb Bowen (33).

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fense led by 17 points at the half, 48-31.

The Eagles connected for a fine 55 per cent shooting average

from the field in their first outing while Walsh scored on 40 per cent of its shots.

The Cavaliers hit on six of 18 foul line attempts for 33 per cent while the Eagles converted 67 per cent of their tosses into points.

Co-captain Rob Spivery had a great opening performance as he lobbed in 23 of 19 shots from the field and added a free throw for 27 points to lead Ashland.

Eagle co-captain David Jones contributed nine of 16 from the floor and three of three from the foul line for 21 points and a team high of nine assists.

Although 6-7 center Dan Joyner was not included in the starting lineup, "The Man" came in to spark the Eagle attack with eight of 11 from the field for 16 points, and some great defense.

Earl Hill cleared both offensive and defensive boards for AC and led the Eagles with 14 rebounds. Joyner grabbed 13 carsoms while he was in the game.

Freshman Bill Higgins, playing his first college game, dropped in ten points and began to show some flashes of his great ability.

Earl Diddle, after keeping the bench warm for the last two years, received his starting job and impressed onlookers with his aggressive ball-handling and his scrappy offensive play.

Coach Walke was somewhat disturbed with the Eagle showing: "Practicing in our gym, it is cool and breezy without a crowd, but with 3500 people in the place it was really hot down on the floor. Our boys simply wilted on the floor."

Walke was also disappointed with the way Ashland played offensively, "With the exception of Spivery, the players passed up lay ups for long jump shots. We are going to have to play power basketball and go to the basket more if we expect to win games this year."

Athletes honored at Awards Banquet

Seventy athletes received letters Thursday, Dec. 2 at the Annual College Fall Sports Banquet honoring the football, cross country, and soccer teams.

Ten football players received special awards. All-American candidates Bill Overmyer and Maurice Crevier were named as Top Defensive Lineman and Top Defensive Back, respectively. Linebacker Crevier finished first in tackles for the season with 128 while tackle Overmyer was second with 120.

Leading the offensive honors were quarterback Ron Slater who was chosen Top Offensive Back and tight end Randy Fier-

baugh who was Top Offensive Lineman. Slater paced AC in total offense with 1001 yards through the air. Fierbaugh hauled in 13 passes for 146 yards and was a leading blocker on the line.

One special award this year was the "True Grit" laurel which went to junior defensive back Bud Boughton, for his desire, dedication, and leadership. Other winners were: Dick Miller, Top Freshman Lineman; Bob Moller, Top Freshman Back; Marc Gulling, Top Academic Award; Craig Schaefer, Most Improved Player; Ron Brown, Ragpicker of the Year (top reserve player).

Leading the cross country award session and leading the team to eighth in the NCAA College-Division Nationals were Steve Foster with Most Valuable Runner, Dave Wyatt with Most Valuable Freshman and Dudley Brown with Team Captain Award.

The 9-1 soccer team awarded special trophies to Arnie Schmidt for Top Offensive Player and Pat Card and Jeff Collins for Team Captain Awards.

The three Eagle teams will be

returning 53 of the 70 letter-winners next year. The 6-4 grid-iron team loses only 10 of 39 lettermen, the cross country only two of nine, and soccer only five of 22 lettermen.

The fall teams combined for 20 wins in 27 outings to continue Ashland's mighty showing of over 70 per cent for all athletics. The fall figures averaged out to 74 per cent in victories.

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