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The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

MIH: Colonels upset by five-seed in UCHC playoff game

By Tyler Aldinger
Staff Writer

WILKES-BARRE, Pa -- The fourth-seeded Wilkes University men's ice hockey team fell short 5-2 in its first-ever home playoff game to the fifth-seeded Nazareth College Golden Flyers on Feb. 19 at the Toyota Sportsplex in the first round of playoffs.

The excitement of playoff hockey did not disappoint the spectators, as both teams came onto the ice with a substantial amount of physicality and intensity.

Wilkes goaltender Brandon Gordon was tested in the first minute when Nazareth College had three shots, two of which went wide and one with Gordon making the save.

Both teams went back-and-forth with their share of opportunities, as well as their share of penalties.

Freshman forward Danny Reidel went to the penalty box for a hooking call with just under 12 minutes remaining in the first period.

Ray Falso was able to break Gordon open and put the Golden Flyers on the board first, giving them a 1-0 lead over the Colonels.

Freshman defenseman Donald Flynn found himself in the penalty box twice in a matter of four minutes after Nazareth's goal. The second time proved to be costly for the Colonels, as the Golden Flyers were able to sustain offensive pressure in the Colonels zone after their power play was over. Eventually



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Freshman defenseman Michael Gurska consols fellow defenseman Chris Dalfara following Wilkes' loss before returning to the locker room for the last time this season.

scoring another goal was J.R. Wojciechowski, giving Nazareth the 2-0 lead.

"Penalties are apart of the game, and I think we took some untimely stick penalties," said Wilkes head coach Brett Riley on the penalties in the first period. "Nights that we usually take more penalties than the opposing team,

the score will often reflect that in a negative way. We preach discipline and we lacked that in the first period and that was the story of the night."

The Colonels had a few opportunities to try
MIH, page 8



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

MIH: Colonels inaugural season comes to a close in first round of playoffs, page 8



MIH & MBB: Who did The Beacon choose as Playoff MVPs?, pages 4 & 5

WREST: Roommates Stokes, Racanelli to Nationals

By Luke Modrovsky
Editor-in-Chief

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. -- With championship titles on the line, both P3 pharmacy student Tommy Stokes (141 pounds) and P2 pharmacy student Nick Racanelli (165 pounds) came through when it mattered most -- in overtime of their respective championship bouts. Their wins crowned them as champions in the NCAA Southeast Regional.

Roommates Stokes and Racanelli have qualified to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships on March 8 and 9 in Roanoke, Va. Stokes became a first-time National Qualifier while Racanelli will return for the third time. The top three qualifiers from each region around the nation will compete in the tournament.

Both Stokes and Racanelli mentioned how it's hard not to get caught up in the craziness of the regional qualifier.

"You're waiting for the next match, each match deciding if you're going to nationals," Stokes said. "It's crazy."

"(The craziness) is what makes this tournament a little difficult," Racanelli said as the number one seed heading in. "The regional tournament is always full of upsets. I went in with the mindset that I wasn't seeded at all. Everyone wants to beat the number one seed."

WREST, page 3



The Beacon/Kyle Kraemer

MBB: DeSales defeats Colonels in MAC Championship, pages 6 & 7

Sports

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Does Hunt deserve second chance with Browns?

By Kevin Singhel
Staff Writer

On Nov. 30, the NFL added another chapter to its ongoing struggles with domestic violence issues. Kareem Hunt, star running back of the Kansas City Chiefs, was cut from his team after a video of him appearing to violently push and kick a woman surfaced online. Hunt did not sign with any other team during the season and was relegated to watching the season from home.

Recently, Hunt has signed a contract with the upstart Cleveland Browns. Hunt and current Cleveland running back Nick Chubb will form a fearsome duo that will likely terrorize defenses next year. In terms of talent, the Browns have found a great deal for a running back with star potential that could elevate their offense to new levels.

However, many fans in the NFL are up in arms about Hunt's signing. The NFL has a long history of star players dealing with domestic violence issues. Linebacker Reuben Foster faced abuse charges and was subsequently cut by the San Francisco 49ers before later signing with the Washington Redskins. In 2017, the Dallas Cowboys' star running back Ezekiel Elliott also faced abuse accusations and eventually suspended six games after a year-long investigation.

The most similar case to Hunt's came in 2014, when a video of former Baltimore Ravens' running back Ray Rice appearing to violently beat his fiancée in an elevator surfaced. Although Rice's case was much more severe, the two cases are eerily similar due to the presence of video evidence. Rice was suspended indefinitely by the NFL, a decision that was overturned in federal courts. However, no NFL team has tried to sign Rice, and he has been out of the league since his infamous video came to light.

Perhaps that is why the signing of Hunt came as a shock to so many. Video

evidence of the alleged incident exists, and yet he was still signed early on in the off-season. Hunt is currently on the commissioner's exempt list, meaning that he can't play in a game until the NFL has completed its investigation and determined an appropriate punishment, which will likely come in the form of a multiple game suspension, probably ranging from six to eight games.

The NFL and its players clearly have a major issue on their hands when it comes to domestic violence charges. Other leagues like the MLB and NBA have had some players who have been faced with domestic violence cases, but not at the magnitude that the NFL has had to deal with. Domestic violence cases revolving around NFL players may also be more publicized in sports and news media simply due to the league's popularity.

In addition, Hunt's signing calls the handling of domestic violence cases by the 32 individual NFL teams into question. The Chiefs were lauded for their handling of Hunt's case, as within 24 hours of the video being released Hunt was already cut from the team. The Chiefs were in the thick of the playoff race and got there primarily off the back of their dynamic offense, revolving around the "three-headed dragon" of quarterback Patrick Mahomes, wide receiver Tyreek Hill and Hunt. The Chiefs had a legitimate shot at a Super Bowl title, and cutting Hunt greatly reduced their odds.

However, the Chiefs will receive no awards or accolades for their proper handling of the Hunt scenario. Instead, the


Browns will reap the rewards of signing a player with a troubled past. Cleveland already had a promising season last year with rookies Baker Mayfield and Chubb, and were able to snag Hunt on a cheap deal due to his ongoing case. Sure Hunt will likely be sidelined by a suspension, but he will likely play for at least half a season, providing plenty of time to make an impact with his new team. In just 11 games last year, Hunt rushed for nearly 1,000 yards on less than 200 attempts, good for 4.6 yards per carry.

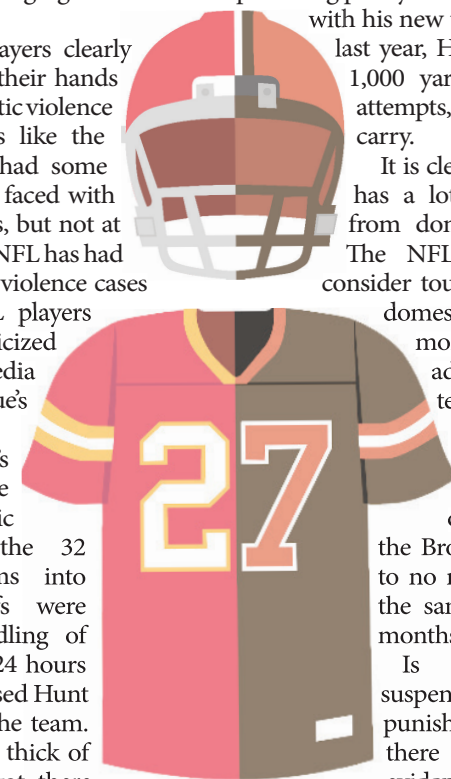
It is clear to see that the NFL has a lot of issues stemming from domestic violence cases. The NFL in general should consider toughening its stance on domestic violence, introduce more programs and address how individual teams handle cases.

Why were the Chiefs under immense pressure to discipline Hunt, while the Browns will receive little to no retribution for signing the same player only a few months later?

Is a multiple game suspension enough of a punishment, especially if there is indisputable video evidence of the crime or should Hunt even be allowed to return to an NFL field at all?

These are just some of the questions that the NFL will have to deal with during its investigation of Hunt, and in the ongoing battles with the domestic violence issues that have plagued the league.

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University president Patrick Leahy declared it "Playoff Week" at Wilkes. In this special edition, you'll find coverage of Wilkes athletic teams in their pursuit for championship glory this past week. While Feb. 26 was not originally scheduled as a publication date, *The Beacon* felt it was important to highlight the accomplishments of the institution's student-athletes in print form. As always, you can follow additional coverage on our social media platforms: Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @WilkesBeacon.

WREST, from front cover

Stokes, who returned to wrestling after a two-year absence from the sport due to personal reasons, found himself coming from behind in three of four of his matches.

“Heading in, I knew I could go to nationals,” Stokes said. “Working hard all season, I was proud to show everyone how hard I’ve been working all season.

He attributed his drill partner in sophomore Kyle Trout in the series of victories.

“He helped me a lot,” Stokes said. “He was my drill partner 99% of the time. He tell each other what we have to work on, give each other feedback and things like that.”

In his first match of the tournament, Stokes used a series of five takedowns en route to a 13-5 major decision victory in the first round of the championship bracket.

Later in the day, he found himself down 2-0 in the first period after being taken down. In a flurry of action early in the second period, Stokes used an escape, takedown and two back points to take a 5-2 lead heading into the third period.

Day two would prove to be much tighter as Stokes trailed early in the second period of his semi-final bout after giving up an escape. In the third period, he elected to go on bottom and in matter of seconds, Stokes completed a reversal, but Hai Siu of Greensboro College would escape moments later, evening the match again at two.

With 22 seconds remaining before potentially facing sudden victory overtime, Stokes scored a takedown as the seconds ticked down. Siu would escape just 10 seconds later, but the takedown was enough for Stokes to advance to the finals with a 4-3 victory.

Even more importantly, Stokes punched his ticket to Nationals with the semi-final win.

Better yet, the championship match for Stokes proved to be the most exciting of the day, Stokes found himself in a 4-0 hole in the opening minutes of the first period before coming out with an escape prior to time expiring. After a second period escape, Stokes still found himself trailing 4-2 heading into the final two minutes.

The third period was worth the price of admission as both Stokes and Mario Vasquez of Ferrum College traded points in the frame. Vasquez elected to go on bottom and escaped. 20 seconds later is when he received his first stall warning. After a takedown by Stokes, followed by

another Vasquez escape, Vasquez was again called for stalling, which led to an all-important point being giving to Stokes.

With just seconds remaining in the third period, Stokes scored a takedown to send the match to sudden victory overtime.

12 seconds into the overtime, Stokes hit a takedown to capture the number one seed out of the Southeast Region heading into nationals.

“It’s not a position I haven’t been in before,” Stokes said of coming from behind. “I wrestle harder like that. It wasn’t crazy for me. I knew it was a winnable match for me. I saw he was getting tired.”

Racanelli cruised through day one of the regional by winning both his opening round and quarterfinal bouts. He advanced to the quarterfinal round by defeating Dan Verhovsek of Waynesburg in the second period by pin after he never trailed during the match.

In the quarterfinal round, Racanelli again never trailed in a 12-2 major decision victory to land an all-important spot in the semi-finals.

“I was confident I was wrestling well,” Racanelli said. “The semi-finals means more than the finals sometimes. You gain a sense of security winning the semi-final. You’ve done what you came to do (by qualifying for regionals). Going to nationals, you can let loose. You don’t have to wrestle cautiously.”

Heading back to the team hotel on Friday night, Racanelli knew he had to

win one of two ways to qualify for the NCAA Championships: Win the semi-final match on Saturday morning or win back-to-back consolation matches to finish in third place if he were to fall in the semi.

On Saturday, Racanelli wrestled two of his toughest matches on the season. To start the day, he took on Shane Conners of Washington & Lee University in the semi-final match. Racanelli had Conners on his heels early in the first period as Conners was warned for stalling.

To begin the second period, Racanelli elected to start on bottom and was able to escape, but not before Conners collected 1:17 in riding time. After two periods, the match was tied at one (due to Conners’ riding time point). For the third, Conners elected to start neutral.

“He knew I was good on top,” Racanelli said. “He wanted to go to overtime. He figured wrestling on his feet would be the way to go.”

Racanelli was able to negate the riding time point in the third period with a takedown midway through. After it was all said and done, Racanelli shut out Conners by posting a 3-0 decision win.

He said he viewed the takedown as a major confidence boost, saying he said “I got this” after securing the takedown.

In the championship bout, momentum appeared to be on Racanelli’s side as he cruise into the third period with a 3-0 lead. Midway through the second period, after Jared Walker of Washington and Jefferson University elected to go

on bottom, Racanelli gave up an escape point.

Then, with under 20 seconds to go in the final period, Racanelli got taken down. Fortunately for him, riding time would not be a factor in the match and the championship bout was tied at three heading into sudden victory overtime.

“A lot of kids get discouraged after getting taking down,” Racanelli said. “I made a mistake, but I was ready to capitalize on it. I had to beat him on my feet.”

Racanelli would do just that with less than ten seconds remaining in the sudden victory overtime. He secured the takedown to win 5-3.

On the weekend, Wilkes wrestling across claimed more place finishers in Trout (sixth place, 125 pounds), sophomore Dylan O’Connor (fifth, 133 pounds), junior Kyle Medrow (seventh, 149 pounds), senior Ashton Gyenizs (fifth, 174 pounds) and sophomore Moustafa Almeky (fifth, 197 pounds).

As a team, the Colonels placed fourth in the team scoring with 106 points, trailing just champion Messiah College (121 pts.), Ferrum College and Lycoming College. Ferrum and Lycoming tied for second place at 114.5 points.

The third member of the apartment, another P2 pharmacy student Cole Walters, was one of Racanelli drill partners during the course of the season. Gyenizs, senior John Ritter, as well as freshman Cody Dix were other partners as well.

“They all really pushed me during the course of the season,” Racanelli said. “Cody Dix was the kind of guy who would show up at 2 a.m. if I need extra work or needed to lose weight. It’s awesome having these guys to work with.”

Looking ahead, both wrestlers said they have the same goal: Getting on the podium as an All-American.

“I still have the same goal in mind,” Racanelli said of his third nationals appearance. “I want to be in that number one spot.”

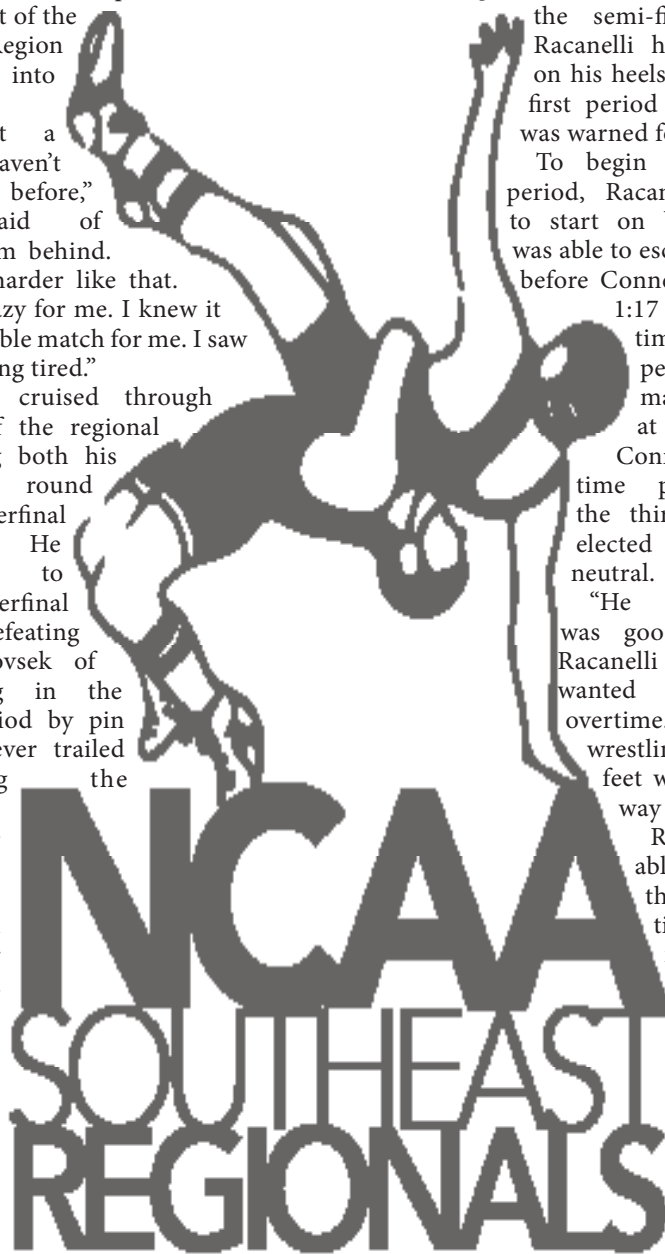
“It’s a lot different this time though because I’ll be going with one of my best friends, Tommy (Stokes).

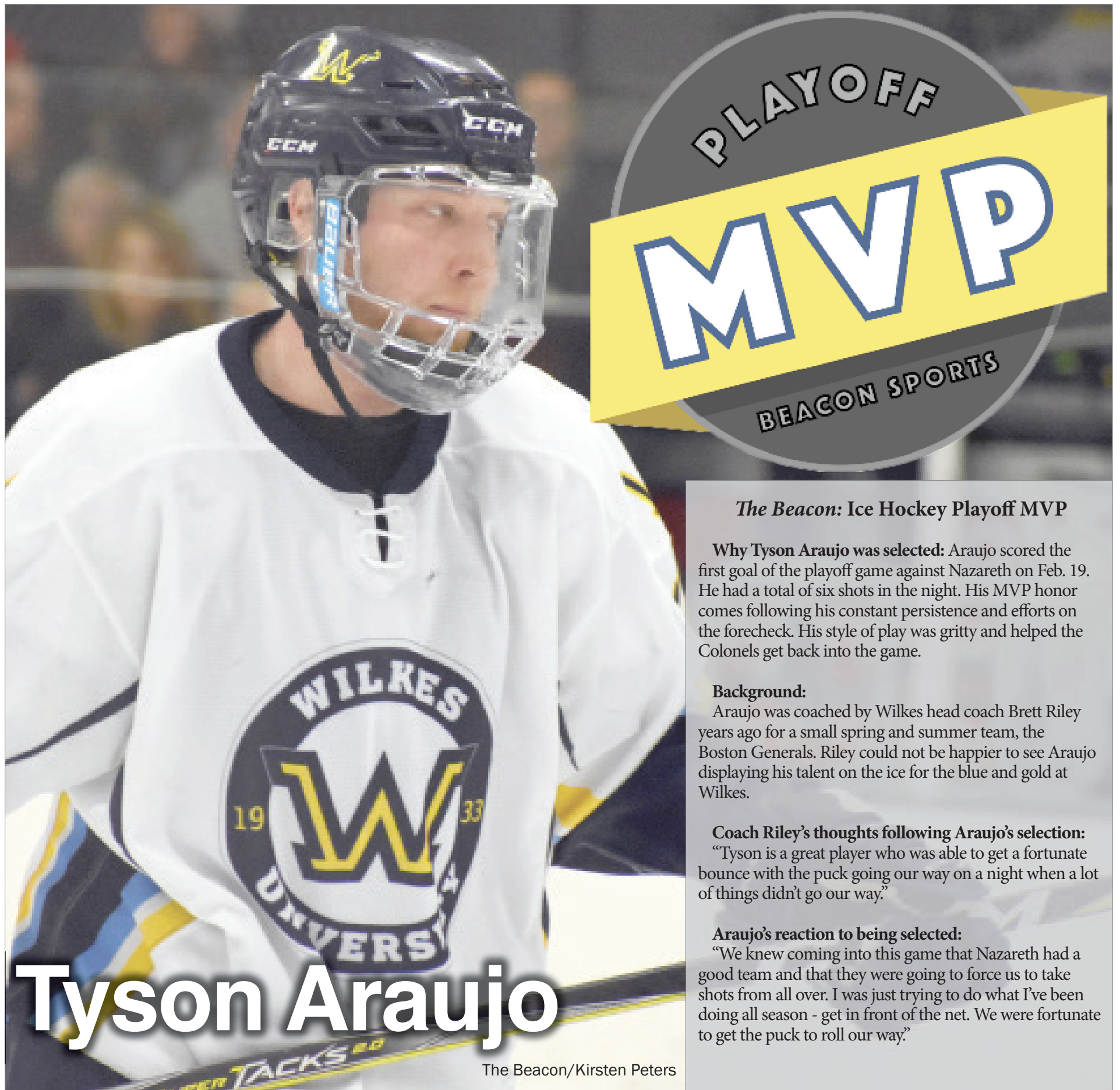
Racanelli looks forward to preparations for the tournaments, including time to heal from the weekend.

“I think everyone from that region tournament is a little banged up,” he said. “I’m here to accomplish some goals that I’ve set.”



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Tyson Araujo

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

The Beacon: Ice Hockey Playoff MVP

Why Tyson Araujo was selected: Araujo scored the first goal of the playoff game against Nazareth on Feb. 19. He had a total of six shots in the night. His MVP honor comes following his constant persistence and efforts on the forecheck. His style of play was gritty and helped the Colonels get back into the game.

Background:

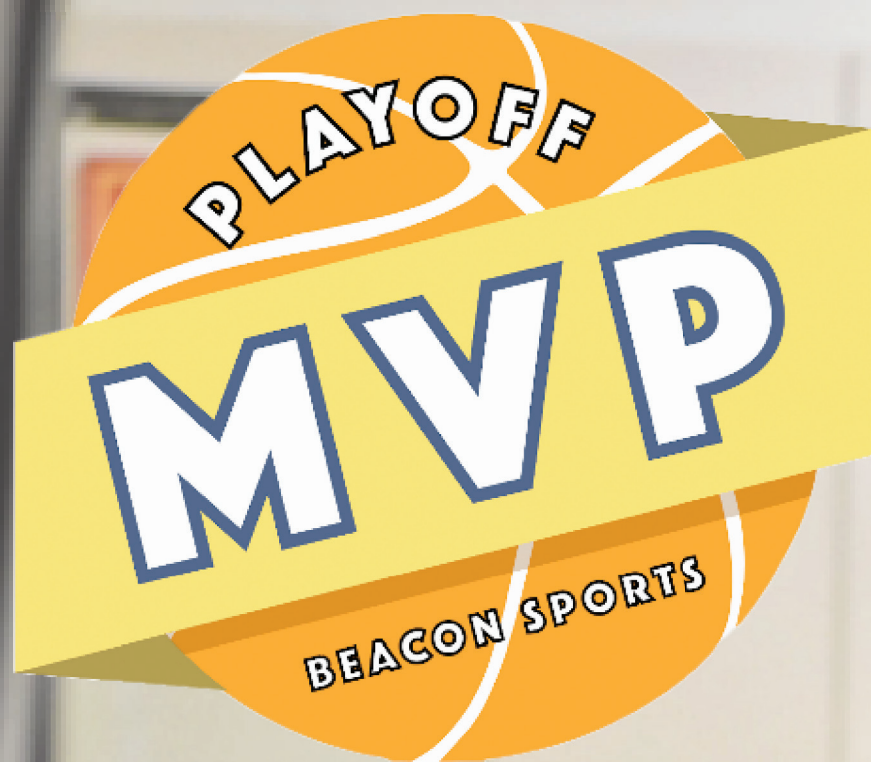
Araujo was coached by Wilkes head coach Brett Riley years ago for a small spring and summer team, the Boston Generals. Riley could not be happier to see Araujo displaying his talent on the ice for the blue and gold at Wilkes.

Coach Riley's thoughts following Araujo's selection:

"Tyson is a great player who was able to get a fortunate bounce with the puck going our way on a night when a lot of things didn't go our way."

Araujo's reaction to being selected:

"We knew coming into this game that Nazareth had a good team and that they were going to force us to take shots from all over. I was just trying to do what I've been doing all season - get in front of the net. We were fortunate to get the puck to roll our way."



The Beacon: Basketball Playoff MVP

Why Tommy Bowen was selected: Bowen led Wilkes in points during both playoff games. He secured 22 points in the semifinal contest against Eastern and 15 points in the championship against DeSales, proving to be crucial in their playoff run.

Background:


Bowen is a senior who has played for Wilkes head coach Izzi Metz for the past four seasons. He has stepped up his game this season, becoming a consistent starter and averaging 14 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game.

Coach Metz's thoughts following Bowen's selection:

"Tommy is one of those players for us that means so much. It's so hard to take him off the floor because of what he brings to the court. He played over 35 minutes in both playoff games and the offense ran through him."

Bowen's reaction to being selected:

"It is an honor to be selected for the MVP. We came up short and wish I could have done more for the team, but I'm glad I had another shot at the title. Our team never gave up and played our hearts out every minute. No matter if we were up or if we were down, we did not give up. The character of this team was shown throughout playoffs. We do not quit on each other and you could see how close we were. I would not have wanted to end my four-year career with any other group of guys."



Tommy Bowen

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

MAC Freedom Championship



Head coach Izzi Metz talks to senior forward Tommy Bowen as he comes off the floor, realizing he won't win a conference title.



Junior guards Mark Mullins and Rob Pecorelli watch on the bench as DeSales is awarded their championship banner.



Senior guard Connor Evans' parents (top row) pray for a Wilkes comeback as they watch from the stands.

Wilkes head coach Izzi Metz argues a foul called on Mark Mullins in the second half.





Senior forward Zach Waiser cheers his team on from the bench as the Colonels struggled to score in the first half.



Raw emotion displayed in Colonels' 78-66 loss to DeSales

Photos: The Beacon/Kirsten Peters & Kyle Kraemer
Page Design: The Beacon/Madi Hummer



DeSales head coach Scott Coval cuts down the net and holds it up with a smile on his face after winning the MAC Freedom Championship.

Both head coaches shake hands after the game. Metz (Left) & Coval (Right).



MIH, front cover

and bring themselves back after trailing early on, but they were unable to capitalize on any of these instances.

Returning from the first intermission, Wilkes proved that they did not get discouraged by the 2-0 deficit.

Flynn and junior forward/defenseman Jivan Sidhu were taking shots left and right to try and crack Sean Kuhn, the Gold Flyers stellar goalie. But this momentum quickly came to an end, as the Colonels were called for yet another penalty, this time for having too many men on the ice.

The Golden Flyers wasted little time getting to work on the powerplay and got the puck past Gordon yet again, extending their lead 3-0.

The penalties going back-and-forth eventually swayed in favor of the Colonels.

Sophomore forward Tyson Araujo and the power play unit brought Wilkes back into the game.

"Usually when Donny gets the puck, I just try to just go to the net," said Araujo, reflecting on his goal. "So when he got the puck, I just went to the net and he pretty much shot it off me ... and that's how I get most of my goals, honestly."

The Colonels and Golden Flyers exchanged shots, but Gordon and Kuhn did a great job of keeping each other's teams in the game.

Being that Kuhn was instrumental on Nazareth's defensive end, Riley noted his impact on Wilkes' offense.

"He's a really good goalie," said Riley. "He's calm and collected. He gave Nazareth

a chance to win a hockey game because shots were three-to-one in our favor, and it's clear he didn't give us much, so credit to him."

Once Wilkes gained some momentum back, they were able to sneak the puck by Kuhn again with just under six minutes left in the second period. Freshman forward Phil Erickson jammed the puck and was able to find the back of the net, cutting the Colonels deficit to 3-2 and increasing Wilkes' confidence heading into the third period.

"We've been there before a few times ...," said Flynn, noting how the Colonels were losing going into the third period. "We've come back in the third, so there was no panic, there was just a lot of confidence."



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Freshman forward Tyler Barrow was named MAC Rookie of the Year, helping lead the Colonels during an impressive inaugural season.

The Colonels came out in the third period with a lot of momentum and kept pounding the shots at Kuhn.

Flynn hit the post several times, but none were able to end up in the net for the Colonels, resulting from bad angles.

As time winded down in the third period, Gordon was pulled from the net to allow another attacker onto the ice. However, this backfired for the Colonels and allowed the Golden Flyers to increase the score by sending the puck down into the empty net.

Alex Corvi and Brad Pizzezy were both able to get by the Wilkes extra attackers, putting a victory out of sight for the Colonels.

Time expired and the Colonels fell 5-2,

officially ending their season in the UCHC quarterfinal match at the Toyota Sportsplex.

Despite a tough loss in the opening round of the playoffs, Riley was extremely proud of what his team has been able to accomplish this season.


"I'm extremely proud of our team," said Riley, reflecting on the success of Wilkes' inaugural season. "It's a 16 win season, which is more than any first year program. To receiving national votes and being one point away from a MAC title, having home ice advantage and a first round bye - I can't say enough good things about our guys and the year they had."

The Wilkes men's ice hockey team defied a lot of the odds, such as being doubted and being selected to finish in second to last if not last place in the UCHC conference.

"It gave us something to play for," said Araujo, noting the determination the players had to overcome the predictions. "We knew we were doubted, and we played the whole year with our backs against the wall and it made us play a lot better."

The Colonels finished their season at 16-8-2 overall with a 11-5-2 record in the UCHC. For the men's ice hockey team, it is time to go into the offseason and build on the foundation they set this year.

"We had a great year," said Flynn. "We did a lot of building together and a lot of the guys didn't know each other and now we're a family. The big thing is we're happy with each other and we are really excited for the future."

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Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Swimming

*10/6 @ FDU-Florham W 152-51
10/20 @ Mount Saint Mary W 153-46
10/27 vs Immaculata W 158-25
*11/3 Lebanon Valley W 171-19
11/3 Dickson L 107-92
11/17 Diamond Invitational 2nd
*12/1 vs Lycoming W 109-96
*12/8 vs Arcadia L 183-79
*1/13 @ Misericordia W 145-112
1/26 @ Marywood L 153-73
*2/2 @ King's L 133-72
2/14-2/17 MAC Championships
7th out of 12 teams
* MAC

Men's Ice Hockey

10/26 @ SUNY Canton L 6-4
10/27 @ SUNY Canton W 7-5
*11/3 @ Elmira L 5-2
*11/9 vs Stevenson W 4-2
*11/10 vs Chatham W 8-4
*11/16 @ King's W 3-0
11/20 @ Hamilton L 3-2 OT
*11/30 @ Manhattanville W 5-3
*12/1 @ Neumann W 5-4 OT
*12/7 vs Utica L 2-1
*12/8 vs Nazareth W 3-2
12/19 vs Bryn Athyn W 4-2
1/5 @ Post W 3-1
1/12 vs Anna Maria W 5-2

*1/16 @ Lebanon Valley W 6-5
*1/18 vs Lebanon Valley W 6-3
*1/21 vs Elmira T 4-4
*1/25 @ Chatham W 1-0
*1/26 @ Stevenson L 3-2 OT
*1/31 vs King's W 4-0
2/2 @ Bryn Athyn W 5-1
*2/8 vs Neumann W 5-4
*2/9 vs Manhattanville L 5-2
*2/15 @ Nazareth T 1-1
*2/16 @ Utica L 4-2
**2/19 vs Nazareth L 5-2
*UCHC
**UCHC Tournament

Women's Ice Hockey

10/26 @ King's L3-1
10/28 vs Oswego L 5-0
11/2 vs Nazareth L 10-0
11/3 vs Nazareth L 0-7
11/10 @ Neumann L 7-3
11/17 @ Chatham L 5-0
11/30 vs SUNY Canton L 7-1
12/1 vs SUNY Canton L 6-2
12/7 @ Morrisville L 6-0
1/5 @ Stevenson L 5-1
1/11 @ Post L 3-1
1/12 @ Post L 4-2
1/18 @ Lebanon Valley L 4-1
2/6 vs Lebanon Valley T 1-1
2/15 vs Utica L 8-0
2/16 @ Utica L 3-0



WILKES, back cover

“It was huge for us to string together defensive stops and push in transition,” Metz said. “The guys really played like veteran players tonight and it helped us.”

Bowen scored 22 points to lead the Colonels on the offensive end followed by Pecorelli who scored 18. Mullins and Robinson both had good games on both sides of the ball as Mullins scored 16 points and had four steals while Robinson had 10 points and three steals.

Bowen had a tough matchup against two of the conference’s best big men in Michael Bowlers and William Blet.

“I just try to do whatever I can,” Bowen said. “I like to think I have a step on most big guys in the league down low. I may be smaller but I love to play physical and run the floor.”

The Colonels were also fueled by a big crowd at the Marts Center as the team had support from the campus and their families.

“It was awesome to have a big crowd come out and support us,” Bowen said. “They were loud, and they gave us a nice boost.”

Wilkes came into the season with high expectations and championship aspirations. However, Wilkes was unable to finish the conference season on high note.

Wilkes finishes the season 18-9 with a 9-5 regular season conference record if they do not get into any other postseason tournaments.

Pecorelli will be Wilkes’ leading scorer

on the season averaging 16.3 points per game followed by Mullins who averaged 15.9 points per game. Robinson and Bowen both averaged double figures on the season with Robinson finishing with 15.3 points per game and Bowen at 14.

Pecorelli led the Colonels starters by shooting 86 percent from the free throw line. All five Colonels starters finished above 75 percent from the line.

Both Robinson and Bowen enjoyed sharing the ball as well as they led the Colonels in assists per game. Robinson finished with 3.6 per game and Bowen had 2.6.

Bowen and Mullins led the way in rebounds with 7.1 and 7 per game for each of them.

Basalyga, Bowen, Evans, Robinson, and Walser are all graduating seniors who may have played their final game.



The Beacon/Kyle Kraemer
The Wilkes student section rose to their feet in the final minute of the Colonels MAC Freedom semifinal win against Eastern at the Marts Center on Feb. 21.

Playoff game box scores
MAC Freedom Championship
DeSales 78, Wilkes 66
WILKES (66)-- Tommy Bowen 5 5-7 15, Marcus Robinson 5 1-1 13, Mark Mullins 5 2-2 1, Rob Pecorelli 3 5-6 11, Connor Evans 4 3-4 11, Jack Bova 1 0-0 3, Landon Henry 0 0-0 0, Jake Robel 0 0-0 0, Zach Walser 0 0-0 0, Sean Coller 0 0-0 0, Drake Marshall 0 0-0 0, Donovan Breeding 0 0-0 0, Cooper Chaffee 0 0-0 0, Derek Heiserman 0 0-0 0. **Totals 23 16-20 66.**

DESALES (78)-- Matt Kachelries 5 4-4 18, Tracy Simsick 7 1-1 16, Ben Pratt 3 6-7 13, Julian Wing 4 1-4 9, Mike Bealer 3 0-0 7, Luke Connaghan 1 3-4 5, Keba Mitchell 2 1-2 5, Alex House 1 1-1 3, Timmy Edwards 1 0-0 2, Brady Wilson 0 0-0 0, Kevin Wagner 0 0-0 0, Kyle Cassidy 0 0-0 0, Devon Vargas 0 0-0 0, Dat Lambert 0 0-0 0, Stephon Lowry 0 0-0 0. **Totals 27 17-23 78.**

Wilkes' 30' 36-- 66
DeSales' 48' 30-- 78
Three-point goals-- WIL 4 (Robinson 2, Mullins, Bova); DES 7 (Kachelries 4, Simsick, Pratt Bealer).

MAC Freedom Semifinal
Wilkes 79, Eastern 72
EASTERN (72)-- Clifton Adams 7 3-3 20, Michael Bowlers 5 4-5 14, Darius Washington 5 0-1 12, Austin Duncan 4 0-0 11, William Blet 2 4-4 8, Draig Ruff 2 1-2 6, Marquise Peel 0 1-2 1, Brennan Kastens 0 0-0 0. **Totals 25 13-17 72.**

WILKES (79)-- Tommy Bowen 9 3-5 22, Rob Pecorelli 5 6-6 18, Mark Mullins 7 1-2 16, Marcus Robinson 3 1-2 10, Connor Evans 2 1-2 6, Zach Walser 2 0-0 4, Landon Henry 1 0-0 3, Jack Bova 0 0-0 0, Donavan Breeding 0 0-0 0. **Totals 29 12-17 79.**

Eastern' 32' 40-- 72
Wilkes' 37' 42-- 79
Three-point goals-- EAS 9 (Adams 3, Duncan 3, Washington 2, Ruff); WIL 9 (Robinson 3, Pecorelli 2, Evans, Henry, Mullins, Bowen).

 @wilkesbeacon
Benjamin.Mandell@wilkes.edu



Winter Sports Schedules

Women's Basketball

- 11/8 @ Neumann L 85-75
- 11/10 vs PSU Hazleton W 93-73
- 11/13 vs Susquehanna L 79-66
- y-11/16 @ Marywood L 82-76
- y-11/17 vs #8 Scranton 69-47
- 11/20 vs PSU Wilkes-Barre W 89-61
- 11/26 @ Juniata L 89-63
- 12/1 @ PSU Harrisburg W 67-64
- *12/5 vs Misericordia L 78-54
- *12/8 @ Manhattanville L 83-50
- 1/3 vs Centenary W 63-51
- *1/9 @ #22 DeSales L 86-46
- *1/12 vs Eastern W 82-75
- 1/14 vs Rutgers-Camden L 90-82
- *1/16 @ King's L 73-59
- *1/18 vs FDU-Florham W 83-78

- *1/23 vs Del. Valley W 56-45
- *1/26 @ Eastern L 82-68
- 1/28 @ Valley Forge L 75-70
- *1/30 vs Manhattanville L 81-72
- *2/2 vs DeSales L 85-52
- *2/6 @ Misericordia L 60-36
- *2/9 vs King's W 58-55
- *2/12 @ Delaware Valley L 83-71
- *2/16 @ FDU-Florham L 84-80

*-MAC Freedom
y-Cross County Challenge

Wrestling

- 11/3 @ Ned McGinley Invite 5th
- 11/10 @ Gettysburg Invite 2nd
- 11/17 @ Otterbein W 30-21
- 11/17 @ Averett W 27-12
- 11/17 @ Greensboro W 33-10
- 11/17 @ Bluefield W 49-0
- 12/1 @ Ferrum L 20-15
- 12/1 @ S. Virginia W 35-16
- 12/1 @ McDaniel W 34-8
- 12/8 @ Elizabethtown W 24-10
- 12/22 Wilkes Open
- 1/5 @ S. Maine W 18-17
- 1/5 @ #19 Stevens W 27-24
- 1/5 @ #25 Messiah L 26-16
- 1/5 @ Camden CC W 54-0
- 1/11 @ Springfield L 20-17

Men's Basketball

- 1/11 @ Ohio Northern W 31-16
- 1/11 @ #21 Wash. & Lee W 24-12
- 1/12 @ Wis.-EAU Claire W 22-20
- 1/12 @ Oswego W 34-6
- 1/27 vs Lackawanna W 36-12
- 1/27 vs PSU-Behrend W 37-9
- 1/27 vs Oneota W 22-19
- 2/1 vs Penn College W 36-12
- 2/8 @ #6 Ithaca L 35-11
- 2/10 @ King's W 43-9
- 2/15 @ Scranton W 28-10
- 2/16 vs Keystone 12:30 p.m.
- 2/17 @ Futures Mid East
- (Three top three finishers)
- 2/22-2/23 @ SE Regionals
- (Team fourth, two NCAAs)

- 11/13 @ PSU Hazleton W 80-60
- x-11/16 vs Bethany W 88-68
- x-11/17 vs Leb. Valley W 83-81
- 11/20 vs PSU W-B W 87-81
- 11/28 vs Drew L 67-65
- 12/1 @ Clarks Summit W 106-55
- *12/5 vs Misericordia W 81-78
- *12/8 @ Manhattanville W 91-87
- 12/18 vs Albright W 85-77
- y-12/29 vs #25 Scranton L 74-64
- y-12/30 vs Marywood W 74-70
- 1/2 @ Susquehanna L 88-64
- 1/5 @ Messiah W 80-73
- *1/9 @ DeSales L 97-85
- *1/12 vs Eastern W 94-74
- *1/16 @ King's L 81-53

- *1/18 vs FDU-Flor. W 96-53
- *1/23 vs Del. Valley L 99-90
- *1/26 @ Eastern L 79-69
- *1/30 vs Manhattanville W 76-62
- *2/2 vs DeSales W 78-77
- *2/6 @ Misericordia W 69-54
- *2/9 vs King's W 76-51
- *2/12 @ Del. Valley W 85-70
- *2/16 @ FDU-Flor. L 80-77
- **2/20 vs No. 3 Eastern W 79-72
- **2/23 @ No. 1 DeSales L 78-66
- *-MAC Freedom
- **MAC Freedom playoffs
- x-Lebanon Valley tournament
- y-Cross County Challenge





Getting to know...

Robert Pecorelli

Junior Basketball Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Feb. 12 - Feb. 18

Why Robert Pecorelli was selected: Pecorelli was crucial to the Colonels 85-70 win over Delaware Valley on Feb. 13, recording 26 points on 8-of-14 from the field, 5-of-8 from three-point range and 5-of-5 from the free-throw line. Despite losing 80-77 to FDU-Florham three days later, Pecorelli recorded 18 points and seven rebounds for Wilkes.

Name: Robert Pecorelli

Year: Junior

Major: Marketing & Management

Hometown: Huntington, N.Y.

High School: Harborfields HS

Position: Guard

Favorite building on campus?

UCOM, because it has Starbucks.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Kaster.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

An omelette.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I decided to come to Wilkes because of the great atmosphere to further my athletic and academic careers. Wilkes provided great opportunities that other schools didn't.

Coke or Pepsi?

Pepsi.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

The egg, no doubt.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduating, I would like to find a job in New York City that fulfills my career goals in marketing and management for a top organization.

Most influential person in your life?

My dad.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I first began playing in first grade because my brother played.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

Abe Lincoln.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Offensive-Mageddon.

A quote you live your life by?

"Life is short - smile while you still have teeth."

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

This season, I hope to win a MAC Championship.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means being a part of a school that takes pride in what they do and trying to be the best you can be.

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

Nothing.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

SAD6, minus Allie Peet.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Other than basketball, I enjoy "Star Wars" and hanging out with my friends.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Getting to know...

Allyson Joly

Freshman Ice Hockey Player

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week Feb. 12 - Feb. 18

Why Allyson Joly was selected: Joly received the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Goalie of the Week honor after the women's ice hockey program earned their first-ever point in a 1-1 tie against Lebanon Valley, with Joly stopping 44-of-45 shots. On Feb. 15, Joly finished with a season-high 66 saves in net against Utica. She followed up her impressive performance with 63 saves against Utica the following day in the Colonels last contest of the season.

Name: Allyson Joly

Year: Freshman

Major: Sports Management

Hometown: Lincoln, R.I.

High School: Tilton School

Position: Goalie

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I decided to come to Wilkes because of the facilities, the small community and the ability to play two sports - ice hockey and lacrosse.

Post graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduating, I would like to work at a New England boarding school.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started skating when I was 3 years old and began playing hockey when I was four years old. I started playing hockey because my older brother did as well as all my cousins.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Game-like situations.

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

Having more skaters.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Other than ice hockey, I enjoy partaking in lacrosse, listening to music and watching Netflix.

Favorite building on campus?

Marts.

Favorite professor?

Dr. Woojun Lee.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

A cinnamon raisin bagel from Starbucks.

Coke or Pepsi?

Coke.

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

The chicken.

Most influential person in your life?

My dad.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

Walt Disney.

A quote you live your life by?

"Win today and we walk together forever." - Ray Shero

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

To me, "Be Colonel" means working hard for the people around you to succeed, not only just for you.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

My teammates and coaches.

-Compiled by Kirsten Peters, Co-Sports Editor



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The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

MBB: Wilkes can't finish cinematic comeback in Championship

By Ben Mandell
Co-Sports Editor

CENTER VALLEY, Pa -- If Wilkes would have come back to beat DeSales in the MAC Freedom Championship after falling behind 18 points at halftime it would have been a scene out of a movie.

But this wasn't a movie, and the Colonels lost 78-66.

"We didn't play our best basketball in the first half and a lot of that was DeSales. They had a good game plan," Wilkes head coach Izzi Metz said. "Unfortunately, when you play a good team like DeSales you can't spot them 18 points like we did in the first half. We almost came back even after going down 18 points at halftime. We cut it down to four so I think if we were down 10 instead of 18 we would've won the game."

The first time these two teams met, DeSales went off in the second half for more than 60 points to win 97-85. Wilkes was able to win the second game between the two thanks to a missed buzzer-beater from Ben Pratt.

Pratt went on to be named the MVP of the game thanks to his play on both ends of the floor. He scored 13 points and had three assists while helping shut down the Colonel offense.

With the loss, Wilkes' season could be over depending on whether they can get an at-large bid to the national tournament or the ECAC tournament.

"Getting an at-large bid for the national tournament in our region is tough," Metz said. "There are so many good teams in our region. We hope we can keep playing basketball and get to the tournament or the ECACs."

Wilkes started the game in a funk and the Bulldogs took advantage jumping out to an 11-2 lead less than four minutes into the game. The Colonels had three turnovers in that stretch.

The Colonels struggled in the first half as they shot under 40 percent from the field and just nine percent from beyond the 3-point arc.

The Bulldogs on the other hand went 6-13 from beyond the arc for three, helping them score 48 first half points.

DeSales appeared to be running away with it when they went into halftime leading 48-30, but the Colonels fought their way back into the game.

"Our guys kept fighting and I will always be proud of that," Metz said.

"In the second half, instead of playing offense east and west, we started to move the ball down hill more and drive the basketball. We also played better defense and made DeSales work harder. They were comfortable in their offense in the first half and we needed to take them out of it. We just kept on fighting"

Wilkes opened the second half by cutting the Bulldogs lead to 10 with 16:55 left in the game. Wilkes cut the lead all the way down to four before the Bulldogs pulled away for good. The Colonels went the entire game without taking a lead.

All five of the Colonels' starters contributed to the offensive effort as they all reached double figures on the score sheet. Tommy Bowen led the group with 15 points, followed by Mark Mullins and Marcus Robinson who picked up 13 points apiece and 11 each from Rob Pecorelli and Connor Evans.

For Wilkes' five seniors, Robinson, Evans, Bowen, Zach Walser and Clay Basalyga, this was their last chance at a conference title. The five also had a shot their freshman year when they lost to Delaware Valley in the championship game.

The Colonels earned their spot in the MAC Freedom Championship after they beat Eastern 79-72 in the conference semifinal game at the Marts Center.

"I'm excited to go back to a championship game," Metz said. "I think we've earned everything up to this point. Our guys work extremely hard and tonight was a hard-fought game like we expected."

Wilkes was led by the top four scorers of the season in this one as Bowen, Pecorelli and Robinson each ended the game in double figures.

"When those four can play well scoring and playing well in the other spots in the game we have a good chance to win every game," Metz said. "Those four guys are capable of scoring in double figures every night and they did tonight."

Eastern scored the game's first basket and led 5-4 but Wilkes took a 7-4 lead and held the lead for the rest of the game.

"We were able to start right from the get go and make some shots and come up with some stops on defense," Metz said. "We played with a lead for the entire game which helped us play with confidence."

Eastern did make a run early in the second half, cutting a 13-point lead from the first half down to just one.



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Wilkes head coach Izzi Metz embraces distraught senior guard Marcus Robinson after losing in his last chance at a conference title.

Wilkes players were able to get their feet underneath themselves and build the team's lead back up to a comfortable position.

Wilkes spent most of the game leading by at least five or six.

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