

the crusader

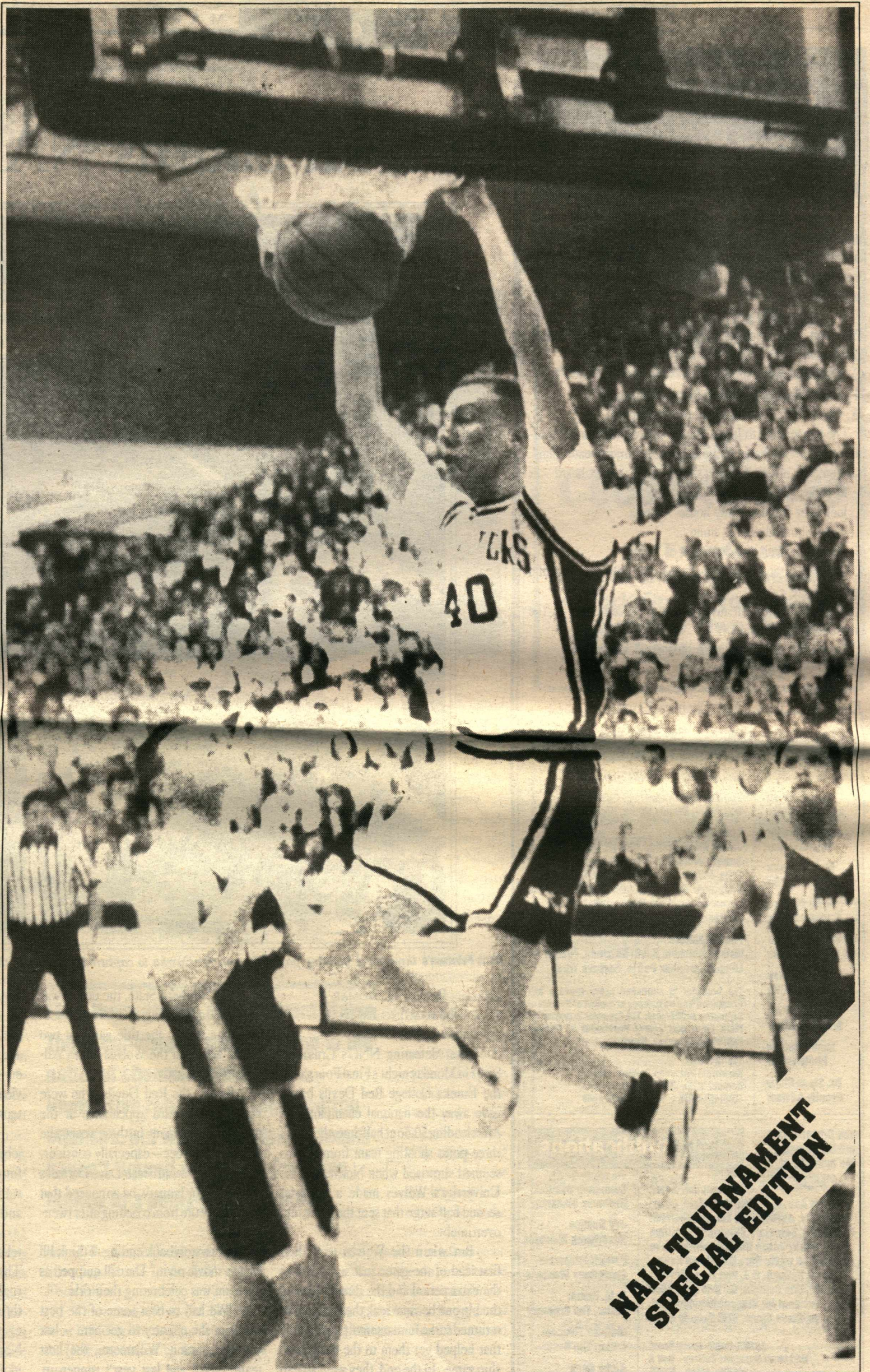
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**NAIA TOURNAMENT
SPECIAL EDITION**

NAIA BASKETBALL

Eureka claims NAIA title

the crusader

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Published by the Associated Students of Northwest Nazarene College to give Northern State reading material for the flight home

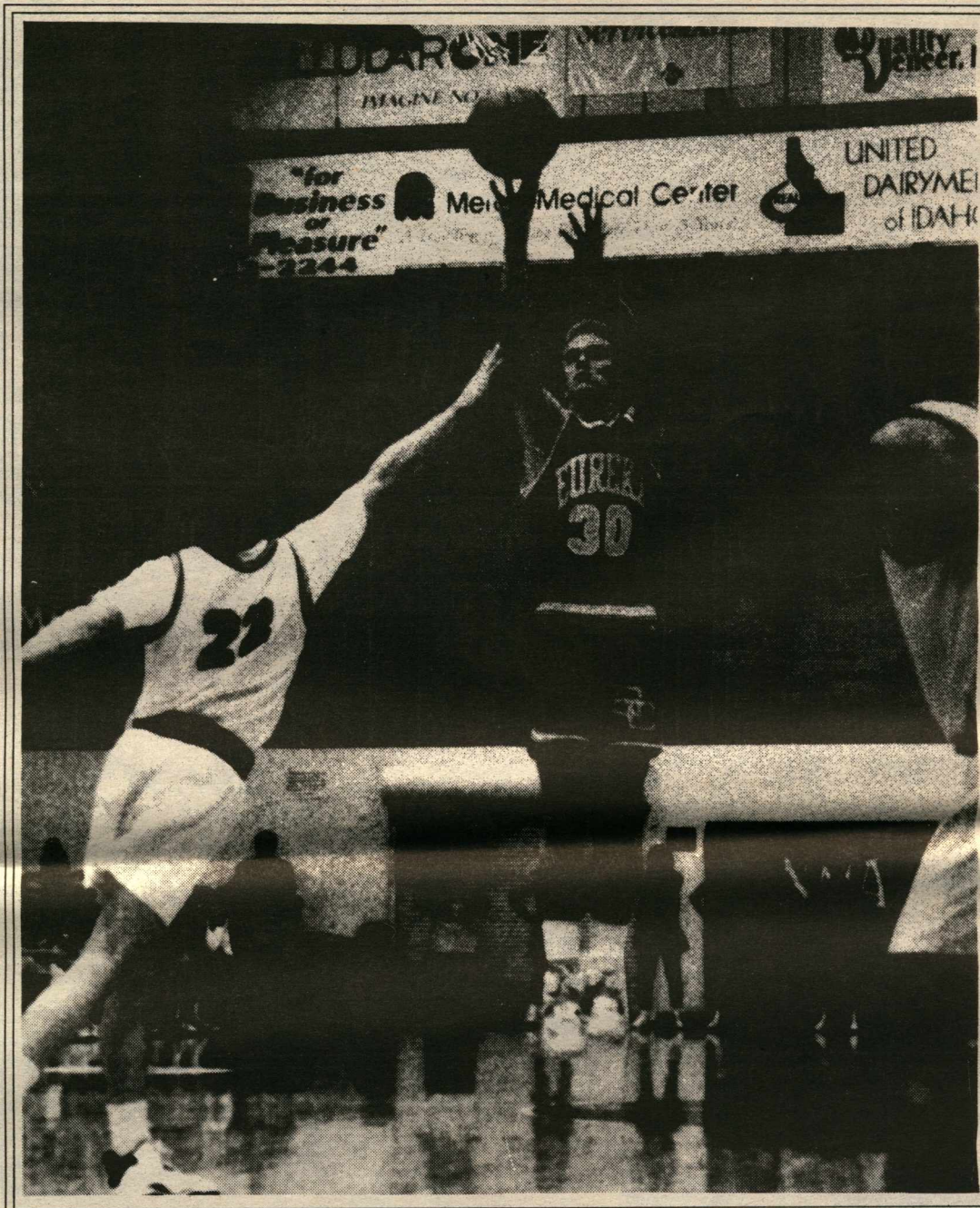
Hail to the Crusaders!

As a tribute to Crusader basketball's best season ever, the Crusader staff has conceived...

column one

- The Top 13 Reasons NNC Returned to the Final 4
13. Husson, Alice Lloyd, and Northwestern
 12. Darren Mayer's timely fouls
 11. Reid Kornstad and Shane Collins' tan
 10. Chad "The Rifleman" Herron's fan club
 9. The Kinneavauk to Justin Marion half court ally-oop-power-play-in-your-face-Paige-Crafton-loved-it-buzzer-beater-jam
 8. Memories of Eric Spencer's Vlade Divac power beard
 7. Decibles
 6. Joel "Get that out of my house" Marion
 5. Todd Shumacher's big smile
 4. Sheldon McLain, the demi-god of Trey
 3. Emiko "If at first you dont succeed, rebound, rebound again!" Ete
 2. Rolando "Climb on my back and I'll carry you to the promised land" Garcia
 1. Coach Ed "Mr. Halftime Adjustment" Weidenbach

DAVE MCEWEN, OFF-CAMPUS EDITOR



Chris Peterson's three-point shooting paved the way for Eureka to capture the national championship. (Huisman)

BY D. M. BOMAR
MANAGING EDITOR

After defeating NNC's Crusaders 83-67 in Monday night's Final Four game, the Eureka College Red Devils barely gave away the national championship. After leading 50-36 at halftime, the tough three-point shooting team from Illinois seemed surprised when Northern State University's Wolves made a powerful second half surge that sent the game into overtime.

But when the Wolves took their first lead of the game just seconds into the extra period and the threat of losing the big one became real, the Red Devils returned to the fundamental playing style that helped get them to the championship game. In the end, they were able to hold on for the win, 98-95.

For Northern State, the defeat was doubly disappointing, as it was their second time to lose the title game in two years. Last year the Wolves fell to Willamette University.

But for the Red Devils, who were making their third appearance at the national tournament in three years, the victory was sweet -- especially considering that it was head coach Dave Darnall's last game. In January, he announced that he would retire from coaching after twenty years.

"It's a storybook ending. I think I'll write a movie on it," Darnall quipped as his team was celebrating their title.

"We had to beat some of the best teams in the country to get here -- last year's champion, Willamette, the host team, NNC, and last year's runner-up, Northern State -- so that really proves

that we are the best team in the nation."

Two Eureka players were named to the All-Tournament Team: Chris Eaton and Chris Peterson, who hit 6 three pointers and scored 36 points in last night's victory. Peterson was also selected as the tournament's MVP.

"My teammates really did a great job," Peterson said, explaining how he found so many open shots. "They worked their hardest to get me the ball and some clear looks at the hoop."

Teamwork has been crucial to Eureka's campaign for the championship. The Red Devils' five starters played virtually every minute of every game throughout the tournament. Just when everyone thought fatigue had set in and Northern State would win, Eureka's fabulous five fought hard in overtime to secure the national title.

the crusader

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NAIA BASKETBALL

Midwest and Northwest overpower NAIA scene

► Schools from Northeast and Southeast may have more tradition, but they can't compete against teams from stronger conferences

ANALYSIS BY PETE BRUMBAUGH
SPECIAL TO THE CRUSADER

The 1994 NAIA Division II National Men's Basketball Championship showed the observers (and hopefully the NAIA officials) something about the power cells of basketball around the country.

In the past three years, crowds at nationals have seen a lot of the same from Southeastern teams: they're fast, athletic, exciting to watch, and usually lose in the opening rounds.

This year, Lynn College provided the best highlight footage (Arteus Sullivan's 540-degree baseline explosion was, to say the least, incredible) and St. Thomas was a sympathy case (having no actual homecourt, they play at different sites and often practice outside), but both teams exited in the first round, losing to teams from the Midwest.

Then there are the schools from Maine. These contestants usually come to the national championships with impressive records and high-scoring offenses, but what these Maine teams haven't figured out is that they play bullies to a pinky-puff schedule.

Meanwhile, the rest of the nation swam upstream through difficult stretches of games to condition themselves for the tournament. The results were not surprising: Husson and Westbrook, Maine's representatives to Jam Fest '94, were demolished in the opening round by Northwest Nazarene and Ohio Dominican.

Poor Tarleton State. This was the Texans' third straight trip to the Big Dance without a win. All-Americans Chris Givens and Sean Walker provided much of the ammunition for TSU; Givens broke Brian Locke's tournament scoring record with 40 points. However,



Northern State's Eric Kline exemplifies the power of the Midwest. (Huisman)

they were ousted by a very sound Huron (SD) team.

Conversely, McMurry University (TX) made a successful run during the national tournament, putting up a good fight, but falling eventually to Northwestern (IA) in overtime, 100-99.

This year's power came from the same places as it did last year: the Midwest and Northwest.

The Elite Eight was comprised completely of teams from these two regions. Two teams from South Dakota

College (OR), but Eureka (IL) returned the favor by knocking out the defending champions of Willamette (OR). NNC proved too much for Northwestern College. And the stage was set: two Northwest teams vs. two Midwest teams.

Northern State pulled away from Lewis & Clark in closing moments and Eureka shot the lights out on NNC's season. And last night, the Red Devils of Eureka College outlasted NSU in overtime, 98-95, to win the national championship.

This year's tournament results put up a strong argument against the long standing theory among NAIA raters that the teams from the east and south have the monopoly on talent -- and it's high time for the league's officials to heed the new order.

Then there are the schools from Maine. These contestants usually come to the national championships with impressive records and high-scoring offenses, but what these Maine teams haven't figured out is that they play bullies to a pinky-puff schedule.

met in the quarterfinals, and Northern State beat Huron in the battle for the Black Hills.

Three teams from the Northwest went into Elite Eight. Top-seeded Taylor (IN) was ousted by Lewis & Clark

When the preseason standings come out in the fall, don't be surprised to see more teams from the Midwest and Northwest ranked up there with the perennial top ten teams from Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa.

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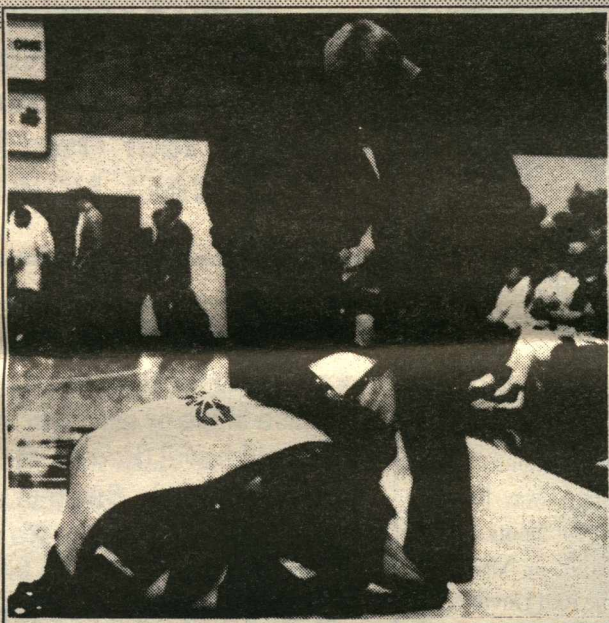
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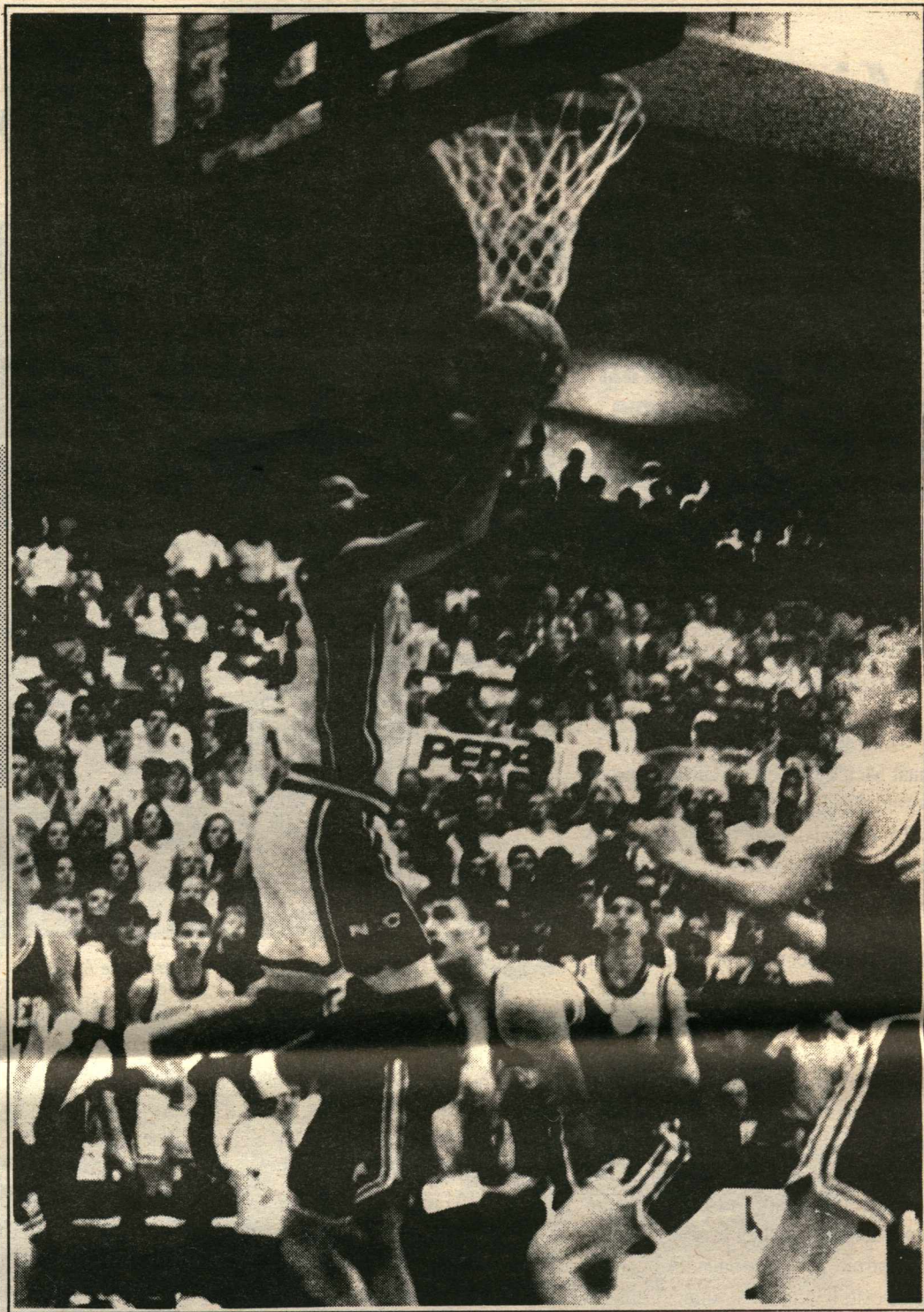
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INSTANT REPLAY

THREE TRIPS TO NATIONALS
TWO FINAL FOUR FINISHES
ONE GAME YET TO PLAY
... THE CHAMPIONSHIP



CLYDE TRIES TO BRIBE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.
(Huisman)



AS POINT GUARD, SENIOR ROLANDO GARCIA LED THE CRUSADERS' RETURN TRIP TO THE FINAL FOUR. HE WAS NAMED TO THE ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM. (Huisman)

BY RICK SKEEN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Crusaders came into the national tournament on a 13-game win streak. During that streak they were beating their opponents by an average of 14 points a game. They won the regular season Cascade Conference Crown before breezing to the post-season title as well. Heading into the national tournament, the question everyone seemed to be asking was, "Will the Saders keep playing at this level?"

The answer is no. NNC raised their play to an even higher level for the national tournament. Sheldon McLain appears to have been prophetic with the statement he made after winning the Cascade Conference Tournament: "We are playing extremely well right now, but we still have things to work on and areas we can improve."

NNC opened the tournament on Thursday night against the 12th seeded Husson College Braves from Bangor, Maine. The Braves entered the game with an impressive 28-3 record. When the game was over, their record stood at 28-4 after a 114-84 shellacking at the hands of the Saders.

The Crusaders used a big rebounding edge and red-hot

"I WAS GETTING OPEN LOOKS AT THE BASKET AND MY TEAMMATES AND COACHES WERE TELLING ME TO SHOOT. LUCKILY THEY WERE GOING IN."

ROLANDO GARCIA

shooting to beat Husson. NNC outrebounded Husson 49-35. Emiko Etete led the team with 14 boards. The Saders shot 52.9 percent from the field, including 50 percent on 14-of-28 from behind the three-point line. Sheldon McLain and Rolando Garcia were especially hot from behind the three-point arc, hitting 3-of-4 and 4-of-6 shots, respectively. The team also hit 26-of-30 free rows for 86.7 percent.

"I was getting open looks at the basket and my teammates and coaches were telling me to shoot," remarked Garcia. "Luckily, they were going in."

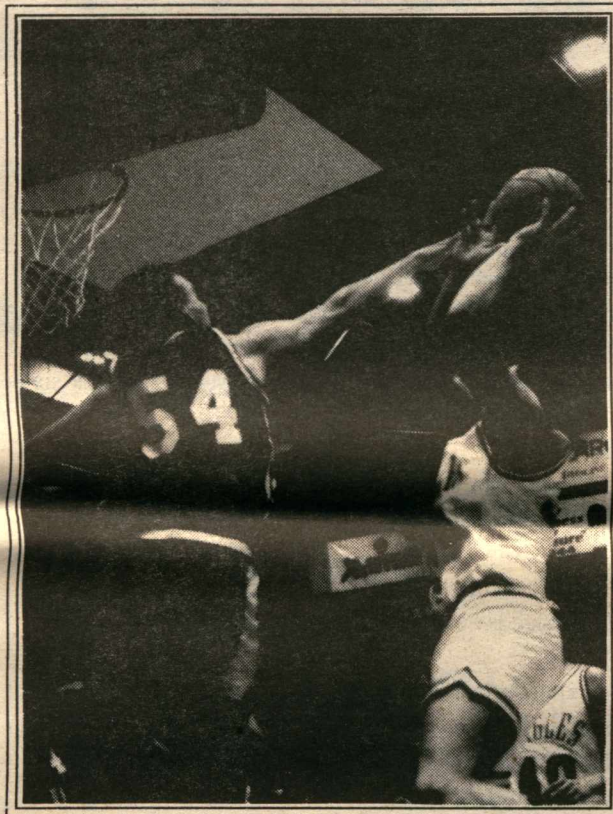
Seven Saders scored in double figures, led by Garcia's 18 points and Eric Spencer's 17 points. Etete added 15 points, while McLain and Chad Herron each netted 14 points. Todd Schumacher and Joel Marion had 11 points apiece. Schumacher had 6 assists and Etete had 4 steals, both team highs.

Garcia had this to say about the win. "The difference was

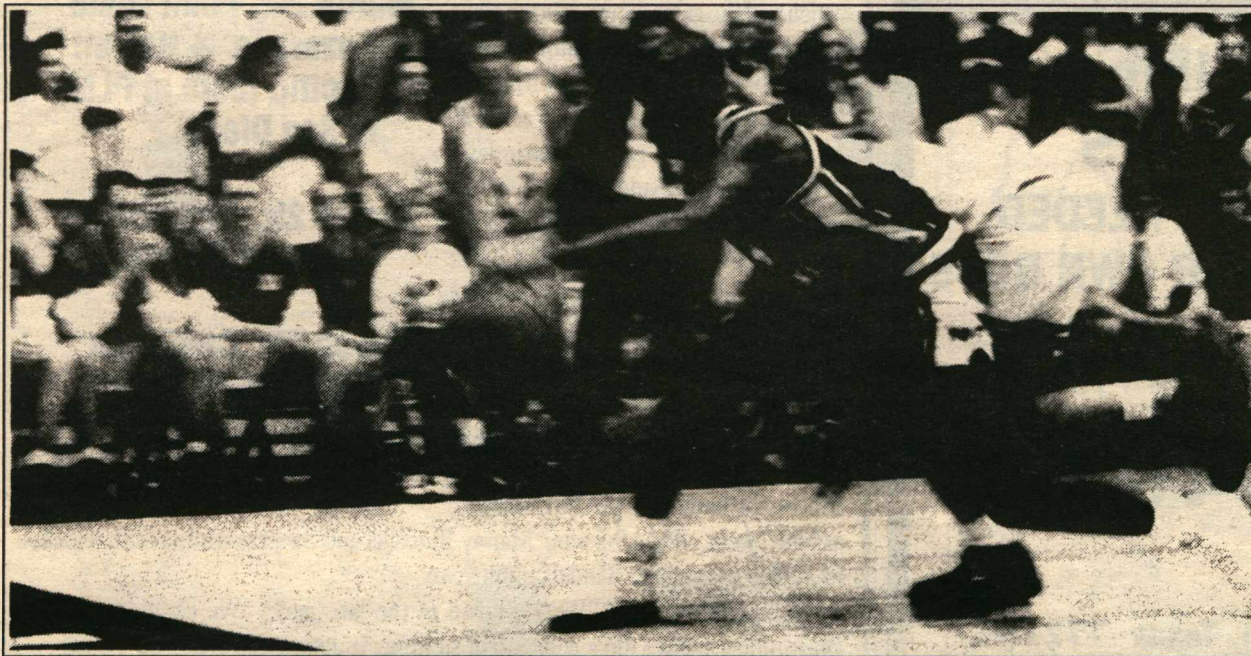
we came out and jumped on them right from the start. We had no hesitation at all."

In the second round, NNC faced 7th seeded Alice Lloyd College from Kentucky. Alice Lloyd was very similar in their style of play to Husson College. They were an up-tempo team who scored close to 100 points a game while holding their opponents to only 80 a game. However, it was NNC who hit the century mark in their 105-88 victory.

Controlling the boards while shooting the ball extremely well were again keys to victory for NNC. The Saders held a 45-36 rebounding advantage. Emiko Etete led the team in rebounding with 11 boards despite playing only 17 minutes because of foul trouble. The team shot 51.3 percent overall



SENIOR ERIC SPENCER BLOCKS A SHOT BY THE ALICE LLOYD COLLEGE EAGLES. (Huisman)



EMIKO ETETE, NNC'S KING OF THE STEAL, BREAKS AWAY WITH ANOTHER ONE. (Huisman)

from the field, and connected on 14-of-29 three-point attempts for 48.3 percent.

For the second night in a row, seven Crusaders scored in double figures. McLain had 22 points, including 4 three-pointers. Garcia had 16 points, 10 assists, and 3 steals. Herron hit 5 three-pointers to account for all 15 of his points. Etete had 14 points, 2 blocks, and 3 steals. Joel Marion netted 12 points to go along with his 9 rebounds. Spencer and Schumacher had 11 points apiece. Schumacher also had a team-high 4 steals.

"We shot the ball extremely well again and the crowd was a huge factor," said McLain. "It's awesome to see the fear in our opponents' eyes when we start to make a run and the crowd just gets louder and louder."

The 2nd seeded Red Raiders from Northwestern College were the Saders' quarterfinal opponent. Northwestern, from Iowa, was a very physical team as NNC was outrebounded for the first time in the Tournament, 43-37. The Red Raiders held a 37-34 lead at halftime. The Saders looked human for the first time in the Tournament after shooting only 39 percent from the field in the first half.

NNC raised their shooting percentage to 48.5 percent in the second half and hit enough free throws down the stretch to hold off Northwestern and claim an 85-75 win before 4000 frenzied fans.

Spencer kept the Saders in the game in the first half with many of his 18 points.

"The guards were setting some good screens, and I was getting good looks at the basket," recalled Spencer. "My outside jump shot really feels good right now."

Other Crusaders in double figures were Herron with 16 points, Etete with 15 points, and Schumacher and Garcia with 13 points apiece. McLain and Etete each had 8 rebounds, and Schumacher had 7 assists and 4 steals.

Spencer commented on the play of the team. "Everyone is on fire. We are shooting the ball really well right now and we

"IT'S AWESOME TO SEE THE FEAR IN OUR OPPONENTS' EYES WHEN WE START TO MAKE A RUN AND THE CROWD JUST GETS LOUDER AND LOUDER."

SHELDON MCLAIN

have such a balanced attack that it is hard to focus on one person."

In the Final Four, NNC faced Eureka College from Illinois. The game was a rematch of last year's quarterfinal game that NNC won 69-60. The 6th seeded Red Devils came ready to play on Monday night. Both teams shot the ball well from the outside in the first half. Eureka connected on 7-of-10 three-point shots, while NNC was good on 7-of-11 long-range bombs. The Saders held a slim halftime advantage at 41-37.

The Red Devils came out smoking in the second half, while the Crusaders began to cool off. Eureka made 9-of-11 shots from behind the three-point arc in the second half, while the Saders could only manage 2-of-15 from the same range. Eureka's Chris Peterson made 9-of-10 three-point shots, and finished with 31 points and 7 assists. He went on to be named tournament MVP.

Down by 13 points with about 8 minutes to play, the Crusaders began to execute a full-court press. The move by Coach Weidenbach helped the Saders make a run and cut the lead to four points with six minutes to play. The crowd was roaring and it looked as if the Saders were going to do it again. However, as was the case all night, three straight Eureka three-pointers put the lead back to 13 points with less than four minutes to play. NNC's winning streak was stopped abruptly at 16 with the 83-67 Eureka victory.

Senior guard Rolando Garcia did all he could to get the Saders into the Championship game. Garcia finished the night with 25 points, 7 assists, and 3 steals, and was named to the All-Tournament Team last night. Chad Herron totaled 12 points on 4 three-pointers. Emiko Etete had 12 points and 10 rebounds for NNC, and was selected to receive the tournament's Hustle Award.

Tears said it better than words after the game as players, coaches, and fans were all hard hit with emotion. However, the Saders have nothing to hang their heads about as they finished 26-8 and, for the second consecutive year, as one of the top four teams in the country.

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BASEBALL

Bats awaken just in time to sweep Pacific's Boxers

BY TOBY JEFFREY
STAFF WRITER

After a Friday loss to Pacific, the Crusaders baseball team came back to sweep their Saturday doubleheader with the Boxers.

Winning two out of three on the weekend, the Saders upped their overall season record to 4-5.

In Friday's game, Crusader ace Mike Mortimer pitched a very strong game, but did not get any support from the Sader bats. Going into the sixth inning, Mortimer had allowed only one run. In the sixth inning the Boxers put together three hits, scoring three runs to give a win to Pacific ace Rick Olsen who held NNC to three hits on the game. Mortimer went on to finish the game, throwing a very respectable six-hitter and striking out eight. Unable to cross the plate, the Saders fell 4-0.

Head coach Brian Muir said, "Mortimer pitched his best game of the year so far."

He added, "We hit the ball hard but were not finding the holes as much as we need to."

On Saturday, the Saders put the ball into hurler Mike LaJoice's hands. LaJoice came through with a complete game four hit victory. The Saders were hitting the ball hard but managed only one hit in the game.

The Saders lone hit was a two run double by Travis Tindall in the fourth which tied the game at two. Two innings later the Saders scored the game winning run on a bases loaded walk drawn by Josh Kinney. Final score, NNC 3, Pacific 2.

In the second game of Saturday's double header the Saders wasted no time in pounding the ball to make up for their previous two games. Tindall and Brent Swartzentruber both popped solo home runs in the first inning to set the pace for the game. In the fifth inning, the Crusaders added four more runs behind another solo blast by Tindall. Although the pitching didn't hold up as well for the Saders, the bats made up the difference as NNC went on to a 9-5 win. Manny Burciaga and Swartzentruber both knocked in 3 RBIs apiece with Tindall adding two.

Coach Muir noted, "We exploded in the last game. We cashed in a lot of baserunners and we did a good job of stepping it up offensively."

The Crusaders will take the week off and travel California to play a six game road sweep starting at Azusa Pacific next Tuesday, March 22.

Crusader Baseball's Spring Break California Tour

**March 22: Azusa Pacific
University (Azusa)**

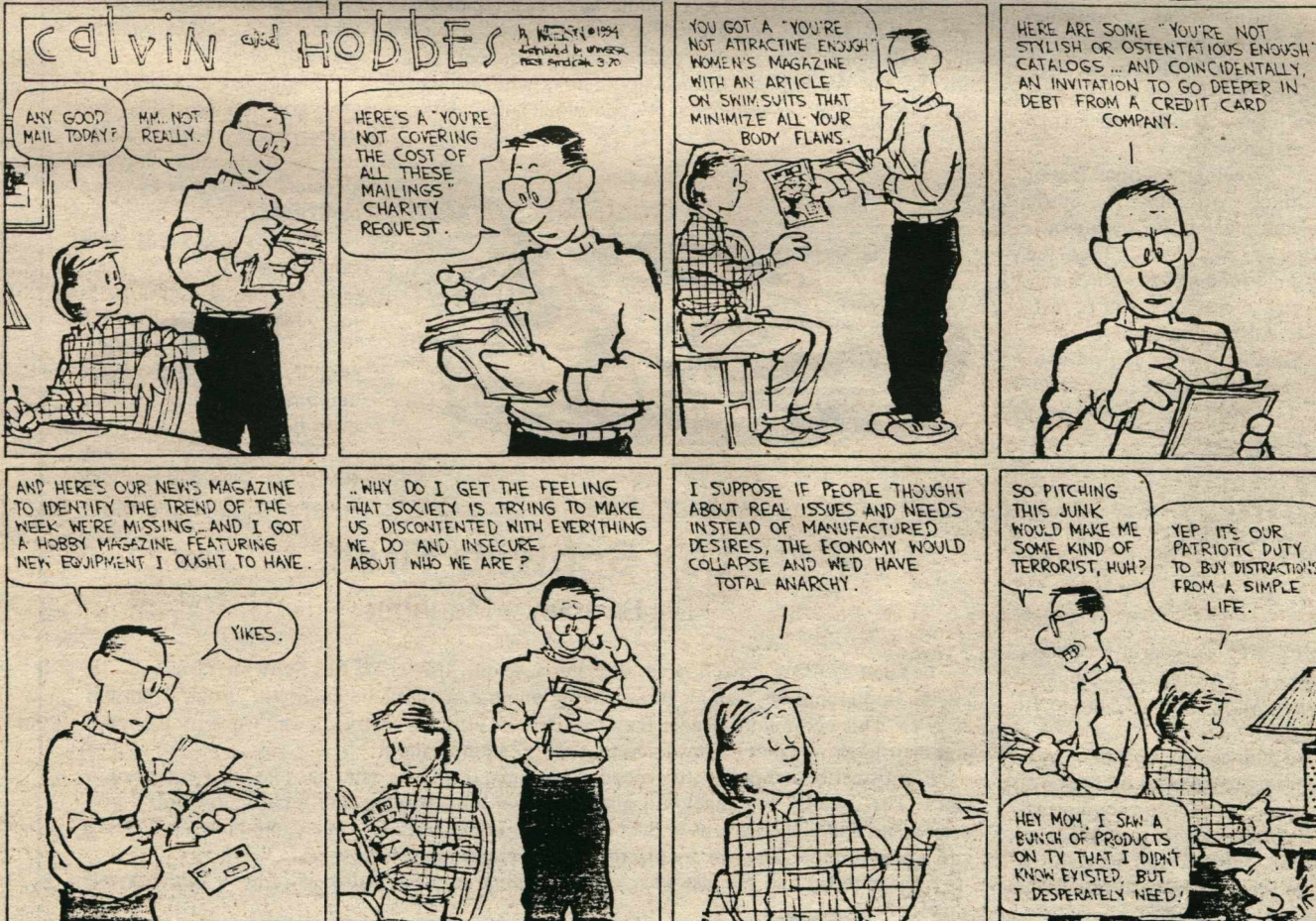
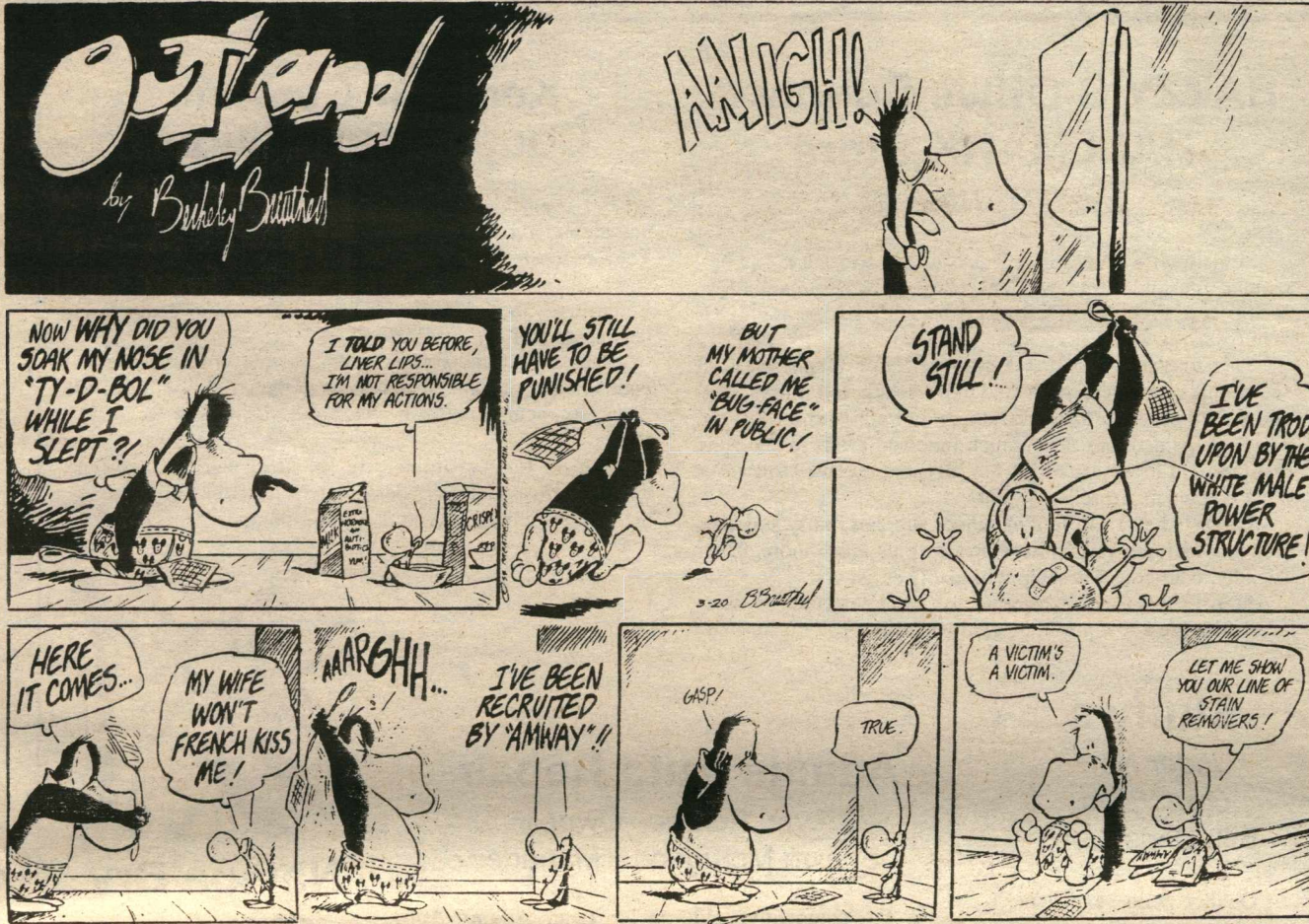
**March 23: Master's
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**March 24: Point Loma
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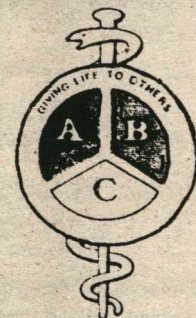
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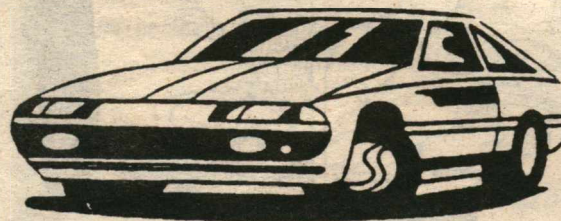
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Bill Stradley—Manager

Located at 133 Caldwell Blvd. in Nampa, phone 467-2127, **Les Schwab Tires** is well-known throughout the Nampa area as being one tire store where quality is just as important as price. This community leader features tires for virtually every car and truck on the road, and their large inventory allows you to "re-tire" immediately!

From steel-belted radials to dependable recaps, this fine center has just what you need in stock. The friendly personnel will gladly explain the advantages of a particular tire, if you desire, and will advise you as to the best buy for your needs. Of course, mounting, balancing and a host of other services are offered by this outstanding firm.

Stop in today and see just what kind of quality your tire dollar will buy at **Les Schwab Tires**.

Ken-Mar Ceramic Country Collections

For everything in ceramics and beautiful gifts for all occasions, it's **Ken-Mar Ceramic Country Collections**. They're located in the Boise Town Square Mall (Mervyn's wing downstairs), and the center of Karcher Mall by the Emporium. They feature the best of the valley's artists—handmade crafters.

They do Special Orders to match your color scheme in your kitchen or bath (business or home). Floral and wood items, soft sculpture, leather tack and much more are available.

Stop in for the ultimate in beautiful, handcrafted and unusual gifts which say "personally selected"! You'll enjoy the creative atmosphere at these fine shops.



Nampa Dry Cleaners

Specializing in expert care and cleaning of your garments, **Nampa Dry Cleaners** has given quality service for many years. They are located in Nampa at 1015 2nd St. South, phone 466-0211...when going to the post office, just drop your clothes off. They clean most all materials, and can handle really tough jobs.

Their special techniques are completely safe for draperies, down-filled clothing to suits and dresses, sweaters, etc.—they can take care of it.

There's also 1-day shirt laundry service.

Your clothes return looking clean and fresh when they've been cleaned professionally. They use the latest equipment, and quality is in everything they do.

We suggest to our many readers to trust **Nampa Dry Cleaners**.