

Looking back from page 1C

have to get them to look at and prepare for life after basketball."

Scott is the perfect role model. After graduating from Eastern with a degree in business communication, he took a job with Pepsi. He worked his way up the ladder there for three years before landing a job as district manager for the Chrysler Corp. He is currently in charge of the largest sales district in the Metro Detroit area. He was married last August and lives in Southfield.

"I hope they can look at me and see that I'm doing real well without playing basketball," Scott said. "I want them to know that the lessons they learned in sports relate to the real world. The things that make you great in business are hard work, the ability to work with people and be a part of a team. That's what these companies are looking for."

"I was lucky that when I was at Eastern I had people who helped me keep focused on academics. When I was done playing, I still had two credit hours left before I could graduate. I chose to come back and finish school. Who knows, if I didn't, I might still be chasing that NBA dream."

TOM DOMAKO

The dream still burns for Domako, but it is starting to flicker.

"I'm kind of at a crossroads right now," said the 26-year-old, who left Stevenson and became somewhat of a folk hero at Montana State University. "I'm getting on in years as far as basketball goes. There are so many things I want to do with my life. I want to go back and get my degree. I want to raise a family. I don't want to be 55 years old and have a kid in high school, you know?"

But, "I still think there is a lot of good basketball left in me."

Fate has intervened to give Domako some time to weigh all his options. He was playing in the top professional league in Belgium and averaging 22.5 points per game. But last week his step-mother died and he wanted to come home to be with his father. The Belgium officials wouldn't let him leave. He came home anyway and he was cut

from the team.

"This would be a good time to change course in my life," he said. "If I decide I want to change course."

He's certainly traveled a long and exhausting road since leaving Stevenson. He was a star at Montana State, averaging better than 21 points per game his junior and senior seasons. He was first team all-Big Sky both years and was the league's most valuable player his junior year.

"I scored 27 points in my first college game and from then on people started giving me all kinds of nicknames," he said. "They called me Downtown Domako. They called my three-pointers Livonia Layups. They called me Instant Offense."

He played a year in France before the Houston Rockets came calling before the 1989-1990 season and gave him a guaranteed contract.

"That was my one legitimate shot at it," he said.

But he wound up a victim of the numbers game and was the last person cut from the team. Since then, he's been a basketball vagabond, traveling throughout the Continental Basketball Association, making stops at Cedar Rapids, Columbus and Rockford, before heading out to Belgium.

Domako's production has steadily decreased over the years, largely due to a bum knee.

"I knew I needed surgery, but I couldn't afford to miss the games," he said. "Time is money."

He finally had surgery to repair the knee last fall and his game has shown a marked improvement.

"I wish I would have had it done years ago," he said. "I can't remember when it has felt this good."

So, maybe he'll return to the CBA and give it one more shot. Or, perhaps he and his wife of four years, Vicki, will move back to Montana where he'll return to school and pursue a degree in computer science. But for the time being, he's going to stay home and be with his father.

"I told my agent not to do anything until after the holidays," he said. "Then I'll see what's next."

DAVE HOULE

Sometimes it ends too quickly

and you don't get time to shift gears and chart a new course.

Houle was at the top of his game one minute, down and out the next.

"It was hard," said Houle, who went from being a 215-pound basketball star at Salem to a rugged 275-pound offensive lineman at Michigan State.

"When you are in a lifestyle as structured as sports, and then all of a sudden you are working and you're married — it's just not the same thing. It's tough."

Houle became the starting right tackle on one of the best offensive lines in Big Ten history. He, along with Tony Mandarich, Bob Kula and Pat Shurmer, anchored a line that propelled Michigan State to a Big Ten title and a Rose Bowl victory in 1987. Behind that line, the Spartans averaged close to 300 yards rushing per game and Lorenzo White amassed 1,572 yards and 16 touchdowns.

He was drafted by the New York Giants and then the spotlight was shut off. First, a series of shoulder injuries forced him out of pro football. Then came allegations that Houle, Mandarich and other Spartans took steroids; allegations that Houle vehemently denied, allegations that were never proven.

"The way everything ended left a bad taste in my mouth," Houle said. "I don't play sports anymore and I don't watch football on television. I haven't been back to East Lansing. It hurts too much. When it's over, it's over."

Don't misunderstand. Houle isn't unhappy with his life. Like everyone, he just has some bad memories. But the future, he says, is bright.

"I've got a good job (he's the safety director at Harlan Electronics in Southfield), a nice wife (Michelle) and nice home in Plymouth," he said. "Things are real good for me now."

GEORGE SIBEL

Speaking of bad memories. Sibel, after averaging 22.5

points per game and leading

Thurston to its first Northwest Suburban League title in 20 years, had a brief and unhappy college career at Siena Heights.

"I didn't really enjoy it," Sibel said. "I ran into some biased coaching."

After spending a season on the junior varsity, Sibel became a starting guard for Coach Ben Braun (now at Eastern). He played well, but when a couple of other players rejoined the team after sitting out academic suspensions, Sibel was relegated to the bench. He didn't return to Siena for his junior season.

"Everything is politics," he said. "I've learned that no matter what you do, no matter how good you are, you are expendable. There's no loyalty."

Sibel finished his education at Madonna University, getting a degree in criminal justice. But he has yet to settle on a career path. He's currently a security officer working the afternoon shift at the Ford Rouge Plant.

"I am keeping my eyes open," said Sibel, who married the former Julie Hultquist of Redford. "It's hard to find an occupation where there are jobs. I'm looking at a bunch of things. You are very lucky if you can do in life what you really want to."

He thinks he might like to try robotics. He may return to school and study computer science or seek a master's degree in corporate law. He is looking into a job as a probation officer.

"My life is moving full-speed ahead," he said.

As for athletics, Sibel is the scourge of the area's recreation leagues.

"My brother (Jim) and I kill," he said. "We played in this four-on-four league and I averaged 52 points per game. My game is better now that it was in high school."

He has put on about 30 pounds of muscle mass since his high school days and he has developed an inside game.

"I can still dunk," he said. "Not bad for a 27-year-old."

Atchinson from page 1C

"Sitting out that year made me realize how much I loved playing basketball," she said. "I played against some of the girls from the team at The Rock and they kept telling me I should try out for the varsity. It was something that was always in the back of my mind, wondering whether or not I could make it. I just decided that I would rather have somebody tell me that I couldn't play. I needed to prove to myself, either I could or I couldn't. Really, I had nothing to lose."

So, last fall, she and 12 other non-scholarship players showed up for varsity practice all hoping to win the one open spot on the team. The selection process was grueling, both mentally and physically.

"It was so crazy, nobody would tell you anything," she said. "Every day I would check the list for my name. I told myself, if it was there, fine; if not, well, at least I tried."

The list shrank to eight, then to four, then to two — but Atchinson's name was always there.

"One day I showed up to practice and I was the only one there," she said. "The manager started asking me what shoe size I wore and I said, 'Does this mean I made it?' She said, 'Oh, yeah, didn't anybody tell you? Congratulations.'"

Atchinson has never been told why she was chosen over the 11 other girls.

"I don't think it had much to do with talent," she said. "I think it had more to do with desire and attitude. I wanted it so bad that I would do anything to make it. I wasn't frightened by the amount of time it took or by all the hard work and I think the coaches

picked up on that." What the Notre Dame coaches saw in Atchinson were the same qualities that Coach Larry Baker marveled at and applauded her for at Mercy.

"She is a terrific self-made player," Baker said. "When we first saw her, we were impressed by her quickness. But she broke her leg and had to sit out her entire freshman season. And the quickness was gone. She had to re-create her style of play. As coaches, we really appreciated her attitude and dedication to the sport. And I am sure she impressed the Notre Dame coaches with what she will bring to the practices in terms of her talent and her attitude."

So far, Atchinson has played in two games. She got four minutes against Purdue on Dec. 4 (no shots, one foul, one turnover) and two minutes against Georgia on Monday (no statistics).

"I basically just ran up and down the court," she said. "But it was great. I was ready to play and I was under control. I never thought I would get to play when the game was still on the line. But now I figure, hey, I can play an integral part for this team. If they get in trouble, I can help."

Atchinson isn't allowing herself any delusions. She knows nothing is guaranteed. She isn't counting on winning a scholarship and she knows that she will have to win her spot back again next season.

"I just want to help this team be better in any way I can," she said. "If I can help in a game, great. If not, then I will help in practice. I'm not even thinking about next year. I still can't get over all that's happened this year."

SPORTS SHORTS

Items for the Sports Roundup should be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday (for Thursday edition) and 5 p.m. Friday (for Monday edition).

person. Space is limited. Call 397-5110 for information.

■ GYMNAST EXCELS

■ MEN'S RACQUETBALL

The Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring a 15-week men's racquetball league beginning Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Rose Shores of Canton on Ford Road. Court times are at 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Players are divided into divisions based upon their playing ability. Price is \$95 per

Canton's Shay Murphy, competing for the Blake Acronauts Level 10 Gymnastics team in Bloomfield, took first place in the 16-over age group with an all-around score of 34.65 at the Turkey Trot gymnastics meet in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was first on balance beam (8.35) and second on vault (8.85), bars (8.85) and floor (8.60).

COLLEGE SPORTS

Sarah Ruete, a 1991 Plymouth Salem graduate, is averaging 9.8 points per game for the Adrian College women's basketball team. Ruete, a sophomore guard who has started three of nine games, scored 19 points in a 113-60 win over Taylor University at the Tri-State University Tournament.

The victory gave Adrian third place in the Tri-State Tournament. The point total was the

most ever scored by an Adrian team in a single game. Adrian lost the opening game of the tourney, 83-81, to Indiana Tech but Ruete was instrumental in keeping the Bulldogs close with a three-point basket late in the game.

Ruete is 34-of-88 from the field (39 percent) and leads the team in steals with 23.

Williford honored

Capping one of its best soccer

seasons ever, Oakland University had two players named to the all-NCAA Division II second team by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

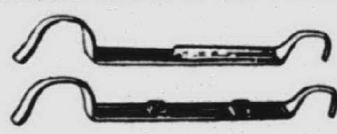
Sweeper Derek Williford, a sen-

ior from Livonia (Stevenson), earned second team honors for anchoring a defense that jelled in the last half of the season. Williford also contributed eight assists.

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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NOTICE OF PROPOSED FORFEITURE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to declare forfeit to the United States the following items seized at Detroit, Michigan:

four (4) bags containing 20 kg of dried processed deer velvet (Cervus elaphus)

The items were imported in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C.A. §§ 1538(c)(1), 1539(e), 3372(f)(1), and 50 C.F.R. §§ 14.61 and 14.11. Any person having an ownership interest in the items, who desires to file a claim for them, must file the claim and post a bond with the Office of the Field Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Room 686, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4007, in accordance with the provisions of 50 C.F.R. Part 12 (1991).

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