

Cold shooting dooms Lady Saints

■ Patrician settles for runner-up in area title match with Marion

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

MARION — Patrician was leading 25-17 in the closing minutes of the third period before cold-shooting and a string of fouls doomed the Lady Saints in their 33-29 loss to Marion on Saturday morning in the AISA Class 2A West Area tournament championship game. Despite the loss, the Saints still advance to the Elite Eight where they will face Sparta Academy this Thursday.

In the loss to Marion, Patrician suffered through cold-shooting all game, while allowing the Lady Panthers to get to the free throw line too often according to Saints' Head Coach Wendell Barr.

"We lost that game at the end of the third," Barr stated of the 13-0 Marion run that would eventually erase his team's eight-point lead. "The momentum was gone after that, and we just couldn't make a basket in the fourth. They also shot 26 free throws in the second half. Couple that with our cold-shooting and it's hard to win, especially on the road."

Even with Marion on a 6-0 run to end the third, Patrician still led 25-23 heading into the fourth. Marion took the lead, however, on

the very first possession of the period with a 3-point basket from tournament MVP Emily Easley.

Easley would then hit two free throws to push the Marion lead to 30-25 with just three minutes to play. Patrician finally ended the 13-0 Marion run with a free throw by Savanna Smith and two more from Tori Walters.

The drought ending baskets cut the Marion lead to 30-29 with 1:17 remaining in the game. Over the final minute, however, the Saints could not make a basket, and after three free throws by Marion's Amy Boyle, the game was over with Patrician trailing 33-29.

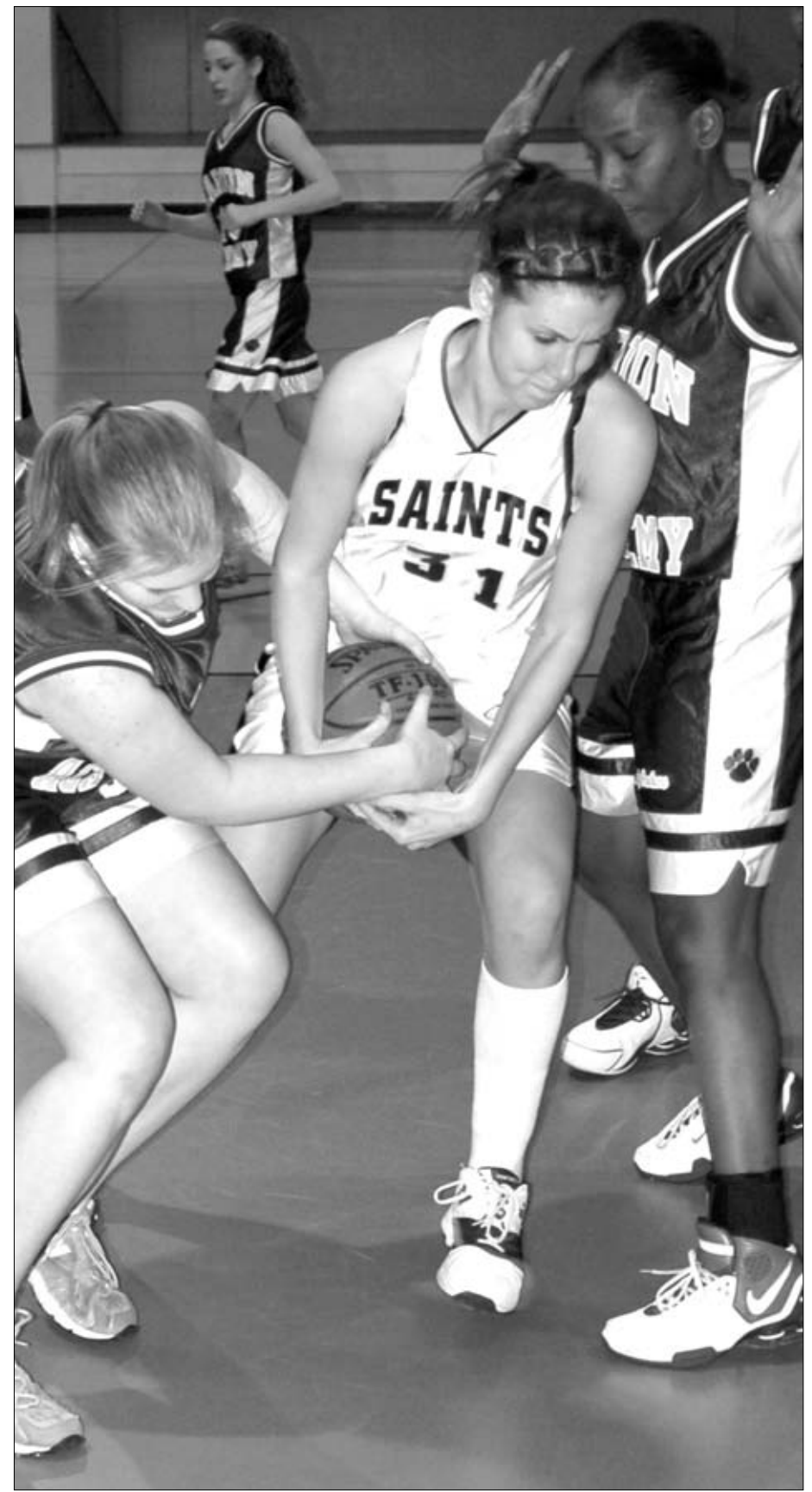
Stephanie Caudle led the Saints with seven points and ten rebounds, while Kylie Lewis added six. Anna Lewis had four points and eight rebounds, while Savanna Smith had four points and Codi Stafford had two points and ten rebounds.

To reach the final game, Patrician blasted Southern Academy, 54-15, in the tournament's first-round on Friday. The Saints jumped out to a 32-7 halftime lead thanks to an eight-point opening half from Savanna Smith that featured two 3-pointers. Shayna Jimerson, who scored six points in the games opening period, hit a three to start the second half as the Saints walked away with the easy victory.

The Lady Saints (24-3) will play Sparta in the Elite Eight at Faulkner University in Montgomery on Thursday (2/8). Game time is 4:30.

Patrician
29

Marion
33



Choctaw Sun photos by Colin Merritt

Patrician's Stephanie 'Doodle' Caudle (#31) battles for the ball against Marion's Amy Shelton and Emily Easley. Doodle, along with Kylie Lewis, were named to the All-Tournament team, while Easley was named MVP. The Lady Saints are: (bottom row l-r) Nancy Dasis, Tiffany Lewis, Kylie Lewis, Anna Lewis, Tyler Armistead, Thea Luker, (back row) Jessie Boykin, Shayna Jimerson, Savanna Smith, Stephanie Caudle, Codi Stafford, Amber Dobbins, Tori Walters and Harley Glass.

BUTLER DIXIE YOUTH Softball & Baseball



SIGNUPS

Registration dates
Sat., Feb. 3rd
Sat., Feb. 10th
Sat., Feb. 17th

8 a.m. – noon each day
Butler Civic Center

\$40.00 registration fee per player
All players must bring copy of birth certificate
(Boys must bring proof of insurance)

BOYS ages 5-12 (age as of May 1, 2007)
GIRLS ages 4-15 (age as of May 1, 2007)

For more information about GIRLS registration call:
Steve Kliebert, 205-459-4039 or
Shane Jimerson, 205-459-3348

For more information about BOYS registration call:
Lindy Long, 205-654-2651