

# FVCC heads for nationals

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If there's an easier way to qualify for a national tournament, the FVCC Mountainettes will probably discover it some day. Until then, Wednesday night's example will have to suffice.

Faced with a one-game playoff to determine Region 9's entry in the upcoming AIAW national junior college cage tourney, the Mountainettes took the simple and direct route. They simply overwhelmed Clark College of Vancouver, Wash., with 16 straight points early in the first half, and let the pieces fall where they may in an eventual 79-36 rout. The triumph lifted coach Mike Persha's club into the AIAW meet in Vincennes, Ind., in two weeks.

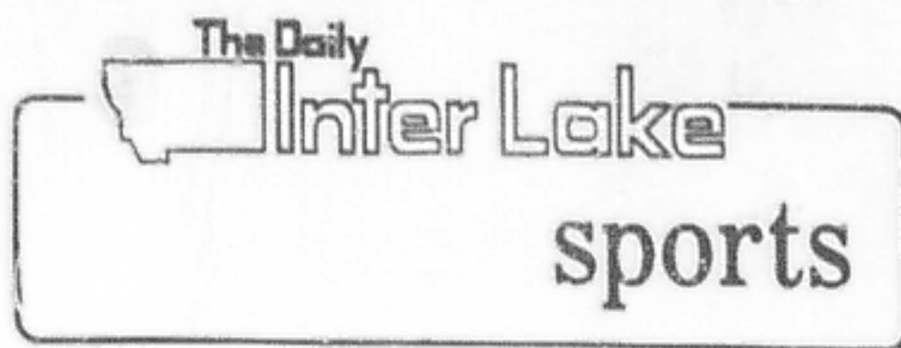
Persha's basic problem Wednesday — as it has been most of the season — was not winning, nor was it keeping the score reasonably close. "We don't want to be charged with running up the score against anybody, but let's face it — I've got to play my regulars more minutes to

get them ready for nationals," Mike said.

That can only be bad news for the seven other teams assembled here for the Northwest Colleges Women's Sports Association (NCWSA) tournament, which started today at Flathead High. Although the FVCC reserves played well and often Wednesday, it was a strong burst by the regulars which iced the game early.

The Mountainettes led just 11-6 after the first four minutes, as curly-haired Janelle Kathan had all of the Chicklettes' points. With freshmen wingers Cynthia Owens and Cathy Finberg each connecting on a pair of outside baskets, the lead quickly grew to 17-6, and eventually to 27-6 before Clark got back on the scoreboard.

Whenever Clark got close enough to the hoop to score, Kerry Clawson made sure the Chicklettes went without. The 6-0 sophomore leaper from Deer Lodge racked up nine blocked shots in the first 14 minutes, before sitting out the rest of the half. She also added nine points and seven



rebounds, all in 14 minutes.

Although the Mountainettes led 37-13 at halftime, Persha said "we didn't shoot very well." So his women remedied that oversight in the second half, knocking the bottom out from 15 feet and in. Cynthia Owens, reserve Lyndi Ash and Launa Kennedy each contributed several baskets as the Mountainettes coasted to their 20th win in 22 games, with both losses coming against four-year universities.

Cynthia Owens and Vicki Hileman shared scoring honors for Flathead Valley with 14 points each, while nine other Mountainettes scored. The winners enjoyed a 55-34 margin

in rebounding, with Kennedy getting 10, Hileman nine, Clawson and Maureen Peters eight apiece, and Finberg and Rhonda Nelson six each.

Kathan topped Clark with 12 points and Linda Hansen and Linda Smedley chipped in seven apiece.

In today's games, Clark faced Walla Walla at 3; Columbia Basin meets Edmonds at 5; Shoreline plays Lane at 7; and the Mountainettes face Lower Columbia at 9.

CLARK COLLEGE (36) — Skilling 2, Kathan 13, Hansen 3, Hummel 4, Miller 4, Smedley 9, Adams 1.

FLATHEAD VALLEY (79) — Ash 6, Owens 14, Hileman 14, Flannery 3, Doney 2, Finberg 8, Nelson 4, Coughlin 6, Clawson 9, Kennedy 9, Peters 4.

But Rose isn't yet