

# CC falls short in bid to upset Aquinas

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Brian Paluk scored the last eight points Thursday night for Redford Catholic, but three more were too much to ask.

With Paluk unable to get off a shot, Andy Kummer's potential game-tying three pointer missed and Southgate Aquinas escaped with a 54-49 Catholic League semifinal win before a sellout crowd at Schoolcraft College.

With Aquinas ahead 52-49 and 27 seconds left, the Raiders missed a one-and-one free throw attempt. CC's Jeff Gutt got the rebound and the Shamrocks intended to have Paluk take the game-tying three-pointer but Aquinas' defensive pressure would not allow one.

Paluk penetrated inside the three-point arc, then realizing he didn't have a shot, passed the ball to Kummer, who had four points and taken only one shot since the first quarter. Aquinas rebounded Kummer's three-point miss and made a pair of free throws with two seconds left to ice the win.

"I tried to get open, but they had two or three guys there," said Paluk, who finished 9-of-17 from the field for 26 points and eight rebounds. "We played well and could have won. It's something to build on."

CC, 10-8 overall, led much of the way against Aquinas. But Aquinas' Mr. Basketball candidate Jon Garavaglia scored 30 points and made a pair of free throws with 52 seconds left to give the Raiders a 52-47 lead.

Paluk, who should be a shoe-in for the All-Catholic team, was the most likely candidate to take the final shot after making the Shamrocks' only three-pointer in the first half. Paluk had three baskets in the last two minutes, including a left-handed tip-in of his own miss with 1:05 left, and a pair of free throws with 22 seconds left that made it 52-49.

"We wanted Brian to get the three to tie it but he got in too deep and they wouldn't let him get it up," CC coach Bernie Holowicki said. "We didn't care what our record was. We wanted to go for it. We didn't just come here to play the game."

Paluk scored 12 points and CC held Aquinas to 11-of-34 shooting in the first half to lead 28-24 at intermission.

CC sophomore point guard Damien Baskerville, who contributed nine points and a team-high nine rebounds, has two years left but Aquinas coach Ernie Price is

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*Bernie Holowicki  
CC coach*

glad to see Paluk graduate. "Paluk is a senior, right?" Price asked reporters. "Thank God."

Aquinas gained momentum and the lead in the third quarter, forcing eight CC turnovers. The Raiders outscored CC 11-2 at the start of the third quarter to open up a 35-30 lead. Paluk had trouble getting free in the quarter, taking only two shots and making one.

Garavaglia, held to four points in a first-round win over Warren DeLaSalle, was 13-24 from the floor and had 10 rebounds. He made only three-of-seven free throws but hurt the Shamrocks

with turnaround jump shots, a three-pointer and two alley-oop dunks.

"You can contest him, but he really gets up on his turnaround," said the 6-foot-6 Paluk.

Aquinas led 40-36 after three quarters and with the lead 44-40 and about four minutes left, Gutt missed a pair of close-in shots with Garavaglia the closest opponent.

Gutt isn't the first player to be intimidated by Garavaglia, who has signed with Michigan State. "Give CC credit, they played well," Price said. "But give Jon some credit, too. He stepped up a level."

CC shot 45 percent from the field (19-42) and outrebounded Aquinas 23-27. Aquinas made 12-27 shots after halftime to finish 23-61 for the game (87 percent).

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Tuesday, March 2  
Bishop Borgese at Oak Park, 4 p.m.  
Del. Northern at Redford CC, 7 p.m.  
Taylor Light & Life vs. Huron Valley at W. Marshall Jr. High, 8:30 p.m.  
Luz. Westland at A.P. Inter. Ry., 7 p.m.  
Taylor Baptist at Glenview, 7:00 p.m.  
Ply. Christian at Whitmore Lake, 7 p.m.  
Garden City at Melvindale, 7 p.m.  
Red. Thurston at Milford, 7 p.m.  
Wayne Memorial at A.A. Huron, 7 p.m.  
Farmington at Liv. Church, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Stevenson at Liv. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.  
H. Farmington at Ply. Canton, 7:30 p.m.  
W.L. Westland at Northville, 7:30 p.m.  
Western Lakes Seminars  
Wednesday, March 3  
Westland Glenn at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.  
Ply. Salem at Farm. Union, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 4  
Ply. Christian vs. A.A. Greenhills, TBA.  
Friday, March 5  
Mt. Lakeland at Red. Thurston, 7 p.m.  
Del. S. western at Bishop Borgese, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden City at Dearborn, 7:30 p.m.  
Woodhaven at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.  
Wayne Memorial at Southgate, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Stevenson at Farmington, 7:30 p.m.  
Liv. Franklin at Liv. Church, 7:30 p.m.

## HOCKEY

**STATE TOURNAMENT REGIONAL HOCKEY PAIRINGS CLASS A**  
at OAK PARK (Cotton Arena)  
Monday, March 1: (A) Redford Catholic Central vs. (B) Livonia Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 2: (C) Southgate-Lathrup vs. (D) Birmingham, 6:15 p.m. (E) Livonia Franklin vs. (F) Bloomfield Hills Laker, 7:45 p.m.  
Thursday, March 4: Birmingham Brother Rice vs. E.F. winner, 4:15 p.m.; A-D winner vs. C-D winner, 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday, March 6: Championship final, 4:15 p.m. (Winner advances to the First All-Area quarterfinals, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 vs. Lapeer-Northeast regional champion.)  
at WYANDOTTE (Yack Arena)  
Monday, March 1: (A) Harper Woods North Darna vs. (B) Wyandotte Roosevelt, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 2: (C) Livonia Church St. (D) Groves Pointe South, 6 p.m.; (E) Southgate Anderson vs. (F) Trenton, 8 p.m.  
Thursday, March 4: Groves Pointe North A-D winner, 6:15 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner, 8:15 p.m.  
Saturday, March 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Ann Arbor Yost Arena quarterfinals, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 vs. Ann Arbor Pioneer regional champion.)

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