

## Bishop Borgess' Decosters

## Twins handle team's scoring

By KEN VOYLES

Dave and Dan Decoster are twins. Dave is 6-7, while Dan is 6-5. Both have similar facial expressions but they really don't look like twins. They are 17 years old. Oh, yes, and they are both basketball players for Redford Bishop Borgess.

The pair, Plymouth residents, are not just average basketball players. They are closer to excellent ones. Both have started for the Borgess' varsity since their first year out for the team. Each has been chosen to the all-Catholic League squad once and the all-Central Division squad twice.

Under the coaching of Ron Gutkowski, Dave and Dan, have been key parts in the Spartan's basketball plans for the past two years.

"In the last two years, the two have definitely been a key to the Borgess squad," Gutkowski said, adding that the distinctive styles of the two really add punch to the Spartan team.

The Decoster dynasty started when

the twins found basketball to be their game back in the fifth grade. Two older brothers and a driveway hoop started the pair on their way in the basketball world.

"Basketball was something to do. Our older brothers, Chuck and Mark, taught us and were very influential," Dave said.

"We really got into the game in sixth grade even though we started playing the year before. Our interest was boosted that year mostly because one of our brothers was playing for the University of Detroit, and we'd go down and watch him," Dan added.

That first year, in fifth grade, didn't prove to be promising as the brothers were cut from the St. Robert Bellarmine Elementary School squad. However, the next year Dave and Dan made the team, which went on to win a league championship with a 21-3 overall record.

"After that first year, we weren't sure if we wanted to go out again but we did," said Dan.

At Borgess, the twosome have racked up some impressive statistics in the last year. Dave, a center, is averaging 22 points a game, 13 rebounds, and three to four blocked shots per game. Dan, a guard, is averaging 17 points, 13 rebounds, and five assists per contest.

"Both boys have great abilities—Dave is a fine scorer, rebounder, and defensive player, while Dan has great ball-handling skills, good rebounding and good defensive work," Gutkowski said. "Their two styles of play complement each other on the court. One

is an inside player, the other an outside man."

Considering the fact that the two have played together for so long, it's no wonder that they know each other's plays inside out.

"I know exactly what he (Dave) is going to do, while with the other players I have to react. But I think we pick up the rest of the team's style," Dan said.

"I would say that they are probably the two smartest basketball players to come through the school," said Gutkowski.

When not playing basketball during the regular season, the two continue to work year-round on their skills, going to camps, and playing in tournaments and summer leagues. However, they also like to take a break from the world of sports to, as Dave said, "relax for a little while."

But why basketball? "We found out early that basketball would be the only way to go to college and it helps tremendously in that way," said Dave. "Also, of course, we enjoy the game very much."

"That college thing is the most important for us. We want to go to school and this will be the best way," added Dan.

Both Dave and Dan are high B students at Borgess, which should help when it comes to getting a basketball scholarship.

The pair have been getting offers from around the country and most of the offers are for both the brothers. "We plan to go together, no matter what," said Dave.

"But we're waiting until the season ends before we look any closer. The most important thing, though, is that we go together," said Dan.

Basketball is, as would seem natural, the main topic of conversation at the Decoster house. The boys said that during the season they eat and sleep basketball, but during the rest of the year the devotion is not so fanatical.

"We have two younger sisters and they are into basketball also. Our brothers influenced us and we are influencing the girls," Dave said.

Coch Gutkowski has high regards for the Decoster talents and thinks them to be fine college choices.

"Overall, they have three assets that make them good basketball players. They are disciplined in what they do, they are very dedicated to what they do, and they are very unselfish. Put those three things together, along with their fine talents and you have two excellent college prospects," said Gutkowski.

The rarity of it all is that the two are twins, and that as twins, excel in the same sport. "It is rare to find a pair of such caliber," concluded Gutkowski.

## Michigan's third in twister deaths

Michigan has the third highest average number of tornado deaths per year with a total of 227 persons killed due to tornadoes since 1950. During this time 391 tornadoes occurred in the state.

## D SMOKING



Dan was at his best pumping the ball toward the hoop from middle- and long-range distances.

## In The Pocket

By W.W. EDGAR

It may be a long time before there is a more dramatic finish to any bowling league than that provided by Bud Hansen and Fred Ringrose in the Classic at Wonderland Lanes last Tuesday night.

In a match that went down to the final frame, and with each breaking the 700 barrier, Hansen finally recorded a 745 series to take top scoring honors of the night by a margin of only four pins.

On his way to the top Hansen put together games of 220, 298 and 227, while Ringrose opened with a 227, added a 248 and closed with 246 for his 741.

While gaining his victory, Hansen had the unusual experience of leaving up one of the most unusual set-ups and it cost him a perfect game. After 11 consecutive strikes in his second game, he left up the 9-10 and had to settle for the 298.

Almost lost in the great duel was Jerry Hay, who also broke the 700 barrier with a 720 series that included a finishing game of 278.

Among the other highlights at Wonderland, Dolly Kovacs and Chris Kra-

mer earned memberships in the 600 club sponsored by the Ladies senior house league.

WORD FROM TOM MCKAY, secretary of the Greater Detroit Bowling Association, is that the entry deadline for the men's city tourney has been extended one week. The event opens April 15 at Satellite.

ANOTHER CLOSE FINISH marked competition at Garden Lanes, where John Mondella rolled a 299 to beat John Walsh for scoring honors by a single pin in the St. Linus league. In the ladies classic, Ann Ferris took center stage with a 616.

TOM GOW pushed his name to the top of the honor roll at Merri-Bowl with the highest score of the season in the house.

Finding the range to the 1-3 pocket, he toppled the maples for a 286 opener, followed with a 246 and closed with 254 for a 766. It is one of the highest 700 series rolled in the area this season.

While Tom was ascending the heights, Dorothy Molner, a 149 average bowler, rolled a 246—the highest of her career.

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