

# The axe falls on Glenn's basketball coach

By DOUG FUNKIE  
and SANDRA ARMSTRUSTER

Dan Henry, who coached Westland John Glenn to a 10-12 record last winter during his first season in charge of the varsity boys' basketball team, was relieved of his coaching duties last week by Thomas Svitkovich, principal at Glenn.

Henry had renewed his one-year basketball coaching contract in June. Coaching contracts in the Wayne/Westland Community Schools are extra work contracts and are renewed every year.

The Wayne-Westland Education Association filed a grievance against the school administration on behalf of Henry, who coached the JV basketball team three years before taking over the varsity when Gordie Davis resigned.

Bob Kowalczyk, executive director of the WWEA, said that in addition to the grievance, the WWEA would file an unfair labor practice charge against the Wayne/Westland Board of Education with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

The grievance alleges that the firing violated the "just cause" provision of

the contract between the WWEA and the school board, Kowalczyk said.

The unfair labor charge is based upon that fact that Henry did not have union representation when he was dismissed as coach in a meeting with Svitkovich.

The unfair labor charge also alleges that Henry's working conditions have been changed in violation of the contract. Originally scheduled to teach one physical education class at Glenn and four at Stevenson Junior High, Henry now is assigned solely to Stevenson.

"We're seeking an injunction and restraining order through Wayne County

Circuit Court," Kowalczyk said. "In other words, we're seeking to have him retained until this is adjudicated."

He added that the court action will be taken after the unfair labor practice charge is filed.

Henry, 28, was fired Sept. 2 in a meeting with Svitkovich. He has been employed by the district since September 1973.

"From what I could gather, it wasn't because of my record," Henry said. "There's been a personality clash between me and him."

Svitkovich previously held an administrative position at Stevenson Junior

High before he moved to Glenn this March.

"We never got along," Henry said. "I can't put my finger on it. If I felt in any way it (firing) was justified, I wouldn't fight it."

Henry said that he was surprised with the actual dismissal but "had a feeling in the back of my mind that he (Svitkovich) might try something."

"I've had no problem with the team whatsoever," Henry said. "The kids have been with me since the ninth grade and that's why they're fighting. I'm really getting support from the kids."

Tony Dalimonte, who played for Henry last season, spoke for a delegation of eight students in support of Henry before the school board Monday night.

Thomas Barrett, school board president, said the board was aware of Henry's dismissal but could not comment about the matter because Henry indicated he planned to utilize the grievance procedure.

Henry said that he did not believe the dismissal was related to personal family problems he has been experiencing the past year.

## Country Day slips by Eaglets, 17-16

A poor snap from center ruined Orchard Lake St. Mary's last-second field goal attempt and saved a 17-16 victory for Detroit Country Day's football team Saturday afternoon.

After mounting a 17-0 halftime lead, the Yellow Jackets saw the advantage slip away in the final quarter, as St. Mary's eagerly tried to salvage its home opener.

A long pass took St. Mary's, trailing by the single point, down to the Country

Day three-yard line with 12 seconds left in the game. Two plays and nine seconds later the Eaglets were at the Country Day two-yard line.

The Eaglets set up for a field goal, but the snap from center was off target. The Eaglet holder picked up the ball and desperately tried to cross the goal line, but was tackled by the on-rushing Yellow Jacket defensive line.

"WE WERE REALLY thankful that

it came out that way — even though I thought we deserved to win," said Country Day coach Joe D'Angelo.

"We had a great first half, actually three quarters of the game we really played well — and then things started happening."

"We made some mistakes, and they (St. Mary's) took immediate advantage of it — and when that happened we lost a little composure."

Sophomore quarterback Troy Hud-

son, who had three completions for 51 yards, ran 25 yards for the game's first touchdown late in the first quarter. Senior John Wilson followed with the first of two extra-point kicks for a 7-0 Yellow Jacket lead.

Hudson threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Wilson midway in the second quarter to make it 14-0. Wilson then kicked a 30-yard field goal before the half ended for a 17-0 Country Day lead.

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