

McCaskill's skills kill Troy High

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Southfield basketball star Michael McCaskill flashed that Super Troy Leonard grin of his and summed up his Friday night performance which coach Greg Silwka simply termed "awesome."

"I felt that was my best performance of the season, and I wanted it to be," said the 6-foot-4 senior guard who's 23-point performance sparked the Blue Jays' 72-46 rout over Troy. "It was my last regular season game as a senior, and I wanted it to be the best for me. I was ready."

"Ready" just may have been an understatement. McCaskill, who played slightly less than three quarters of the game, had five roof-raising slam dunks, was 11 of 12 from the line, ran the first break like he invented it and pulled in nine of his team's 37 rebounds.

McCaskill put on a show early in the second quarter. After Southfield built a 20-7 first-quarter lead, McCaskill aided the assault with three straight buckets to open the second quarter. His first basket was a reverse layup on a base-line drive, and he followed with back-to-back jams.

With the game still somewhat in the

air, the Blue Jays quickly put it away in the third quarter. Ahead, 35-21 at the half, Southfield — fueled by two McCaskill jams — outscored the Colts, 25-6, during the course of the third quarter.

"I THOUGHT Michael McCaskill's awesome display of slam dunks took some air out of their wind," Silwka said. "They kind of gave up a little in the third quarter, and that's when the game was still 12-15 points."

The win, Southfield's 18th in 20 games this season, gave the Blue Jays their second straight undefeated Southeastern Michigan Association season.

Troy finished the regular season with a 13-7 overall record, and an 8-6 league mark.

"I didn't think we'd come out and play as poorly as we did," Troy coach Jim Clary said. "I thought Southfield was a lot more intense than they were the first time we played them."

Although the Blue Jays played with a great deal of intensity, Silwka said he was concerned his squad might experience a letdown after Tuesday's big win over Highland Park.

"Yes I was concerned, very much so," Silwka said. "Especially with the game starting so late (after a lengthy

and late-starting junior varsity game). And also with the state tournament coming up."

"That's what we're coaching now. It's not just X's and O's, you're dealing with human beings."

Silwka's worries were put quickly to rest, though, as it was evident from the outset that the undefeated league season would not be in jeopardy. Southfield raced to a 15-2 lead as McCaskill ripped the defensive rebounds and effectively ran the fast break.

THE BLUE JAYS took turns feeding each other on the offensive end with passes that were so crisp and fluent that it left the beneficiary of the pass with an uncontested layup.

Southfield opened its biggest lead of the game (60-27) at the end of the third quarter as the Blue Jays' fast break continued to reek havoc on the outmanned Colts. Both coaches substituted freely in the fourth quarter as the Colts outscored the Jays in that stretch, 19-12.

McCaskill's 23 points led Southfield.

trio of players who dented the double digit scoring column. Joey Walton scored 15 and Charlie Hart collected 14.

John Fox was the only Colt in double figures as he hit for 10 points.

Troy will participate in the Troy Athens District 7 p.m. Tuesday against Rochester, while Southfield hosts Farmington Harrison tonight in a 7:30 district game.

Last season, the Blue Jays advanced to the semifinals of the Class A tournament before Flint Central chucked out a one-point win on a desperation shot at the buzzer. And this year, McCaskill — the only starter from that Blue Jay team — is determined to make it back this year.

"We're going back," McCaskill said as he nodded his head in approval of his statement. "We're going to the state finals. We'll get it together, and we'll get our confidence up. I know we can do it."

McCaskill, the man who single-handedly stole the show against Troy, made sure he emphasized the word "we."

Christian falls

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook, with Adam Murphy and Peter Long carrying the load, used a second-half rally to beat Southfield Christian, 78-51, Friday in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Christian trailed by six (12-8) after the opening quarter, but came back to take a 33-30 halftime lead. Cranbrook put it away by scoring 23 third-quarter points to Christian's five. The mismatch continued in the fourth quarter: Cranbrook 25 points, Christian 13.

Murphy, the Cranes' 6-foot-7 senior forward, had a game-high 28 points to go with his three blocked shots and 10 rebounds. Long, a 6-foot-10 point guard, scored 23 points, snatched 10 rebounds and dished off five assists. Crane playmaker Les Sparks was credited with five assists.

Doug Dietzman led Christian with 16 points, and teammate Dan Severn had 10.

Cranbrook takes its 12-8 record into the Class B Oxford District to play un-

beaten Auburn Heights Avondale at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Christian, 15-5 and co-champions with Gross Pointe University Liggett of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference, hosts Plymouth Christian in a Class D district at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

SOUTHFIELD MANOOGIAN, which won't be playing in the state tournament this season, finished the season with a 49-34 loss to Bloomfield Hills Roper last week.

The result left Roper with a 10-8 record. Manoogian fell to 2-16.

John Evey led the winners with 14 points, and teammate Harry Chaney had 12. Vahan Karabakjian led Manoogian with 12 points. Razmig Boghikian had nine.

Roper meets the winner of the Lutheran Northwest-Oakland Christian game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Class D district at Oakland Christian.

Oakland University to host cage regional

Oakland University was selected last week as a host for the 1983 Great Lakes Region playoffs for the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament, and also received a berth in the three-team tourney.

The Pioneers, the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions on the past two years, earned a top seed in opening round action due to its 23-3 regular season record and its fifth-place national ranking by the NCAA.

Two other teams will participate in the tournament, which begins March 11, including Dayton, the 1980 AAIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) national champion. The other spot will be filled and announced today.

Oakland will play the winner of Friday's game on Tuesday night, 7:30 in the Lepley Sports Center.

"WE'RE very pleased to be hosting a regional playoff game," Oakland coach Dwayne Jones said. "Our players always play well at Lepley, and it's an advantage I wouldn't trade for anything."

The confines of the OU basketball facility have been pleasurable to the Pioneers, as evidenced by their home record. In the last 30 home games, OU has won 29 times. The Pioneers had won 25 straight at home before Saginaw Valley snapped the streak with a 72-65 victory earlier this year.

The Pioneers closed out their season last weekend and will be playing their first playoff game with two weeks rest. Last season, OU advanced to the final four of the tournament before losing to Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, 88-82.

"We have everybody back from last year's team, and they are ready for just about anything," Jones said.

CC hangs tough against vs. Joubert, S'western

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

The verdict is in.

Those who feared Detroit Catholic Central would get blown out by Detroit Southwestern and All-American Antoine (The Judge) Joubert were wrong. The Shamrocks had their chance Friday night but came up just short in the Operation-Friendship basketball final, 53-52, before 9,837 fans at Cobo Arena.

CC had the crowd buzzing in the first half, building a 35-28 halftime lead behind the play of 6-foot-6 center Mike Maleske, point-guard Stan Heath and head sophomore John McIntyre. The trio controlled the tempo of the game and had the Prospectors confused.

Joubert, the 6-5 senior with all the press clippings, shot miserably for two quarters, making just three of 14 shots.

But in the third quarter CC went stone cold, going scoreless for almost a four-minute stretch at the outset of the period. Southwestern outscored the Shamrocks 16-7 to take a one-point lead heading into the final quarter.

THE PROSPECTORS held a slim advantage through much of the fourth quarter until Tom Malone sank two free throws with 2:53 left to make the count 50-41.

The two teams followed by trading turnovers.

Heath then fouled Southwestern center Clarence Jones with 1:48 to play. The 6-7 junior hit one-of-two shots at the line to give his team a 51-50 advantage.

CC missed two attempts near the 1:10 mark and Southwestern regained possession. The Prospectors worked the clock, only to have Joubert throw up an off-balance shot at the 17-second mark which caromed off the glass and into CC's hands.

The Shamrocks, however, failed to convert a layup on the trip down the floor and were forced to foul Joubert, who sank two free throws with eight seconds remaining. Heath then drove six seconds later, but the Shamrocks couldn't stop the clock. They ran out of timeouts.

JOUBERT, complaining of a bad thumb, led all scorers with 21 points. He was just five of 23 from the floor, but made up for that at the line, hitting 11 of 14. Jones added 19 points.

McIntyre, who upstaged The Judge at times during the proceedings, scored 15 points. Maleske led CC 17 and also grabbed 14 rebounds. Heath chipped in with eight.

"We had some good shots in the second half that we didn't convert and we missed some free throws, that didn't help," said CC coach Bernie Holowski, whose team finished the regular season at 16-3.

"THE TEAM played sky-high and we thought maybe it was our night," he added. "This was a dream chance to play them. They feel down, but they have nothing to be ashamed of."

"We came here to win. We weren't going to back off and we didn't."

Southwestern bothered CC somewhat with its pressure full-court defense in the second half.

"The defense," said Southwestern coach Perry Watson, "that's what won it for us. That's always been our cornerstone."

"They dug down in. That's what's nice about winning the championship."

The Prospectors, the state's No. 1 ranked Class A team, will enter tournament play with a 19-1 record.



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