

Joubert amazes even the officials

By Tom Baer
staff writer

SOME PEOPLE BECOME mesmerized when the great Antoine Joubert puts on his basketball show.

Greg Sliwka, whose Southfield High basketball team got in the way of the Joubert-led Detroit Southwestern squad in the in the state Class A semifinal Friday, thought he recognized that problem.

In the second quarter, Sliwka was off the bench screaming at the officials, who responded by calling a technical foul — something rare in a big state-tournament game.

"I was simply trying to get them (the officials) to call the same things on Antoine that they were calling on everybody else," said Sliwka, whose Blue Jays were buried, 81-57, thanks to a 44-point effort by Joubert.

"I really thought the Southwestern guards were over-aggressive," Sliwka said. "I heard skin slapping all over the place. I really thought the officials were caught up watching Antoine."

"I tried to get them to get their feet on the ground and realize what was going on. They didn't want to hear it."

Joubert, the 6-foot-5 prep star, who

'We're optimistic about our future. We think we have a roll going here for the next three or four years.'

—Greg Sliwka
Southfield coach

may make the University of Michigan competitive next season, was truly on a roll against Southfield. After a slow start, he scored 15 points in the second quarter to ease a Southfield lead and send the Prospectors on to the A final.

Joubert, probably the most exciting Michigan high school basketball player since Earvin "Magic" Johnson in 1977, was a long-range shooting specialist, hitting 17 of 30 from the field. He also made 10 of 13 free throws and had seven rebounds, four assists and three steals.

AND SOUTHFIELD HAD to face this adversary without Joey Walton, the Jays' second-leading scorer, play-making guard and defensive specialist. Walton suffered a badly sprained left ankle with four minutes left in

Southfield's easy quarterfinal win over Sterling Heights Stevenson on the previous Wednesday. He finished his prep career on the bench, a pair of crutches nearby.

"I hate to say it, but I never realized how much Joey Walton meant to us," Sliwka said. "Going into the semifinal, I felt we had enough left to be competitive. But I never realized how many people would be playing out of their roles."

Raymond Kelsor, a 6-3 senior, stepped into Walton's spot and showed a deft shooting touch early on, scoring 18 first-half points on his way to a game-high 22.

"He (Kelsor) did a good job playing his game, but his game isn't Joey's game. The kids had a very difficult time adjusting to him."

"It's a very good shooter, but he has a tough time flowing with an offense or playing any kind of defense because of his size and physical development."

Walton's absence certainly affected Michael McCaskill, Southfield's 6-foot-4 standout who finished with 15 points and nine rebounds.

"Michael really overplayed. He tried to do everything. By the end of the second quarter, he was gassed out. He tried to play point guard, he tried to play the big defensive man, he tried to play big rebounder."

More photos
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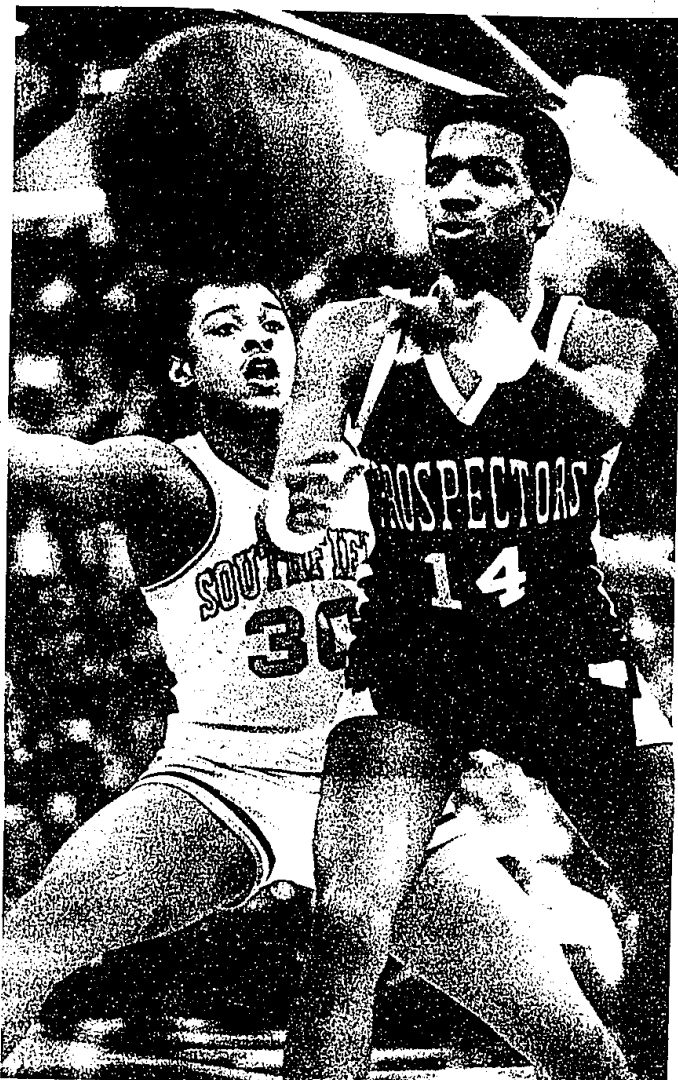
"Antoine doesn't do all that. Antoine scores."

"THAT JUST WASN'T our team. We had to make major adjustments without Joey and play against Antoine as well. It just shattered our confidence."

"After the game, the kids were proud of what they accomplished this season, but they were a little bitter, too. We really didn't get the opportunity to show what we can do."

Southfield's growing frustrations with Joubert and Southwestern could be seen in two incidents in the second half.

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photos by MINY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Ron Austin (30), one of Southfield's hopes for the future, keeps an eye on Southwestern's Clancy Scott near the end of the semifinal basketball game.



Charlie Hart hangs his head after fouling out of the Class A semifinal game against Southwestern.

Transfers help Seaholm

By Tom Baer
staff writer

THERE WAS A definite shift of swimming power when the Kramer twins, Rich and Rob, transferred from Birmingham Brother Rice to neighboring Seaholm last fall.

The Kramers, who became eligible to swim in their second semester at Seaholm, made the good Maple team even better — good enough, in fact, to finish a lofty third in the recent state Class A meet at Michigan State University.

"We were a very competitive team without them," said Seaholm coach Dick Rosenthal. "With them, we really got over the hump. They were a big factor in our doing so well."

AS EXPECTED, the Kramers and several Seaholm teammates were honored by being named to the Observer & Eccentric's All-Area swimming team, picked recently by a panel of area coaches.

Seaholm swimmers were voted first-team honors in four of the 15 events, including both relays.

The Kramers, both seniors, combined with freshman Mike Noonan and senior Al Kovach to form the first-team 200-yard medley relay. That crew earned a second place at the state meet with a time of 1:47.65.

Seaholm sophomore Scott Christie didn't let an upper respiratory ailment stop him from turning in some sparkling state-meet swims. He was the first-team choice in the 200-yard freestyle thanks mainly to his time of 1:44.66, good for fourth place at state.

"He (Christie) was absolutely incredible," Rosenthal said. "Anybody else probably would have withdrawn from the meet. He's a coach's dream — a real hard worker and an inspiration to the rest of the kids."

all-area swimming

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY — 1. BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM (ROB KRAMER, RICH KRAMER, MIKE NOONAN, AL KOVACH), 1:37.65; 2. Bloomfield Hills Andover (Shawn Copeland, Tony Cacciarelli, Bill Zelt, Dave Paneratz), 1:58.74; 3. Rochester Adams (Doug Cleland, Kevin Reed, David Krull, Tom Warnica).

200-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. SCOTT CHRISTIE (SEAHOLM), 1:44.66; 2. Ted Rude (Farmington Harrison), 3. Dave Major (Rochester).

200-YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY — 1. BILL ZEITZ (ANDOVER), 1:57.41; 2. Rob Kramer (Seaholm); 3. Alec Campbell (Farmington).

50-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. DIXON KANE (BIRMINGHAM BROTH RICE), 22.02; 2. Kevin Schack (Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook); 3. Dave Paneratz (Andover).

DIVING — 1. MATT CLARK (TROY ATHENS), 354.95 POINTS; 2. Mike Cloutier (Birmingham Groves); 3. John Seeling (Birmingham Groves).

100-YARD BUTTERFLY — 1. JIM BRUZZESE (ROCHESTER), 51.59; 2. Brian Golts (North Farmington); 3. Mike Noonan (Seaholm).

100-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. AL KOVACH (SEAHOLM), 47.57; 2. Rich Kramer (Seaholm); 3. Jerry Misse (West Farmington).

500-YARD FREESTYLE — 1. ROBERT PAPP (BROTHER RICE), 4:46.39; 2. David Krull (Adams); 3. Tom Warnica (Adams).

100-YARD BACKSTROKE — 1. DOUG CLELAND (ADAMS), 54.03; 2. Shawn Copeland (Andover); 3. James Webster (Groves).

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE — 1. DAN WERY (ROCHESTER), 58.74; 2. Matt Olson (Andover); 3. Kevin Reed (Adams).

400-YARD FREESTYLE RELAY — 1. BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM (MIKE NOONAN, RICH KRAMER, SCOTT CHRISTIE, AL KOVACH), 3:11.31; 2. Brother Rice (Dixon Kane, Tim Harkness, Rob Hill, Robert Papp); 3. Farmington (Chris Edwards, Fred Courville, Randy Gallinger, Alec Campbell).

COACH OF THE YEAR — GEORGE O'BRIEN, BROTHER RICE.

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