

Oakland County's finest



Southfield coach Greg Sliwka talks strategy with the Blue Jays. Sliwka, for the

second straight season, guided the Blue Jays as far as the Class A semifinals.

MINDY SAUNDERS/Staff photographer



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Michael McCaskill sizes up the opposition before Southfield's quarterfinal game against Sterling Heights Stevenson.

FROM THE START of the high school basketball season to its recent final, Southfield High, Auburn Heights Avondale and Detroit Country Day School — which racked up 67 victories between them — were the top three teams ranked in the Observer & Eccentric rankings.

The Blue Jays advanced to the Class A semifinals before bowing out to state runnerup Detroit Southwestern. Southfield (24-3) was led by the play of versatile senior Michael McCaskill, whose inside game usually tore up the opposition.

Southfield, en route to the district championship, topped Farmington Harrison, West Bloomfield and North Farmington, and defeated Southfield-Lathrup and Ferndale in regional play. Southfield upended Sterling Heights Stevenson in the quarterfinals before it met Southwestern in the semi.

Southfield's other two losses came against

state powers Lansing Eastern and Saginaw. Avondale, the only team in either Class A or B to go through the regular season undefeated, closed out its most successful campaign with a 23-1 record. The Yellowjackets sported a diversified and balanced attack, led offensively and defensively by senior Hank Woodmeyer. Avondale defeated Cranbrook and Oxford in district play and Fenton in the first round of regionals. The Yellowjackets were eliminated from state contention with a 54-51 loss to Flint Powers.

Country Day closed its season with a 20-3 record with its only losses to Detroit Kettering, Ypsilanti, and dePuerres in the regional final.

Country Day, led by the strong play from Troy Hudson, Damon Jones, and the Redford St. Mary's District, and then defeated Lutheran West in the regional opener.

Marvin Mathis looks for an opponent to pass to in Avondale's appearance at the Class B Oxford Regional. Avondale's bid for a regional championship fell three points short.



Kurt Keener shouts instructions to his Detroit Country Day School team during the Class C Regional final against Detroit St. Martin dePorres. The Yellow Jackets lost that contest, 67-62.

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