

Michael McCaskiii (above) was Southfield's main weapon as the veraatile senior played many roles during the Blue Jays' 24-3 season. McCaskili averaged 17.8 points, 10.2 robounds, eight assists and nearly three blocked shots and steals per game. Country Jay senior standout Troy Hudson (below) helped the Yellow Jackets enjoy their finest season in recent history, as he querterbacked the team to a 20-3 ceason.



Class of the court

McCaskill returns to All-Area cage crew

RIOR TO the start of the recent All-Area bankethall meeting. Detroit Country Day School coach Kurt Keener glanced at a page displaying hast year's honer team and quipped, "I think I could win a few games with that team."

No doubt Keener will be thinking along those lines when he looks at this year's first team, which fields five of the best senior baskethall players in Oakland Country. Of those honored last season, two talented individuals make return visits—Southfield coach Greg Sliwka and his versatile senior standout, Michael McCaskill. Also selected to the first team were Avondale's Hank Woodmore, Southfield coach Greg Sliwka and his versatile senior standout, Michael McCaskill. Also selected to the first team were Avondale's Hank Woodmore, Southfield coach Greg Sliwka and his versatile senior standout, Michael McCaskill. Also selected to the first team allot was McCaskill, who was a unanimous choice when the coaches gathered to select the top players. McCaskill, a 6-toot 4-twing man, had the talents to play like he's 6-10 or 5-11.

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McCASKILL CAN rebound with the best centers and run the fast break like the swiftest of point guards. When you watched Southfield play the game, your eyes automatically riveted on McCaskill. He wasn't a one-man show, but one man who could put on a show. It's just a matter of time before you'll find his name listed in Roget's Thesaurus along with other synonyms of excitement.

McCaskill averaged 17.8 points, 10.2 rebounds, eight assists and 2.4 blocked shots and steals per game.

"He gave us a lot of contidence as a steam, because we knew if we made a team, because we knew if we made a team, because we knew if we made a team, because we knew if we made with a shot and steam to the control of the control

Mark McGrath was Birmingham Groves' Inside strength with his rebounding abilities and smart shot selection. McGrath aver-aged 17.2 points and 12 re-bounds per game for the Fal-cons. The versatile senior for-ward shot 55 percent from the field and 70 percent from the freat-throw it.

WOODMORE, AVONDALE'S 6-1 senior point guard, averaged 18.6 points, 6.1 rebounds, 5.3 assists and 3.3 steal per game. The two-year starter was Avondale's floor leader. Without him, the Yellowjackets were hardly the same team.

"Hank was the reason we were 42-3 over two years," coach Larry Mahrle said. "He got the team up and down the court. His leadership spoke on the court. He was a very unselfish player.

"His quickness was one of the keys to his outstanding defensive play. Offensively, he made the other teams play him, and that opened up the other ballplayers."

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HUDSON WAS A four-year starter for Country Day, and in his senior season, the 5-9 point guard averaged 10.6 points, 8.5 assists, 5.5 steals and three rebounds per game.

"He was our quarterback," Keener said. "We weren't nearly as effective without him in there, He's a tremendous ball handler and he had a very positive attitude.

"He was the best practice player I've ever coached. He worked just as hard in practice as he did in the games."

WALTON'S IMPORTANCE to Southfield was magnified in the Southwestern game when he was on the



Hank Woodmore, Avendale's talented senior floor leader, averaged 18.6 points per game in leading the Yellowjackets to a 23-season.



Sliwka retains coaching honor

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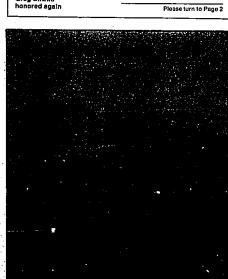
OUTHFIELD'S Greg Sliwka, for the second year in a row, was named by his peers as the All-Area coach of the year. Sliwka, who was a talented basket-ball player himself during his high school days at Wyandotte Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, coached Southfield to a return trip to the Class A semilinals this season, with just one starter back from last year.

He said a key to his coaching success was being aurounded by some of the season of the state. What he carms in the state.

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Joey Walton, Southfield's sen-ior point guard, led the Blue. Jays with a 19-point-per-game scoring average.