

Sports

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(F18)

Heavenly 7

Catholic sharp-shooters trigger 1985 Observerland cage squad

By Brad Emons
staff writer

THERE'S A NEW kid on the block, and he's made quite an impact on this year's All-Area boys basketball team.

Wayne Memorial, which enjoyed as much success as any Observerland team this season with a 21-2 record, joined the coverage area in January.

The Wolverine A and district champions placed two players on the first team.

Garden City, which also won a district and Northwest Suburban League (NSL) crown, is represented by one player and one coach in the elite group.

This year's team also features two of the state's most prolific scorers, a prolific student and a talented underclassman.

There were many memorable moments this season.

Farmington Harrison shook its image of being just a football power by winning the Western Division title and the WLA playoffs.

The season was also marked by North Farmington's upset of state-ranked Southfield for the district championship at West Bloomfield.

Two coaches announced they would not be back.

Livonia Stevenson's George Van Wagener said goodbye after racking up 494 career victories, putting him in an elite group statewide. The other coach, RU's Lee Bjerke, was a victim of times. He wanted to teach and coach in the RU building, but could not get his wish.

Sixteen of 19 area coaches attended the selection meeting. Here are the results:

JOHN MCINTYRE, REDFORD CATHOLIC CENTRAL: The 6-foot-4 senior guard is a consensus all-star with big-time credentials.

This season he averaged 29 points, 10 rebounds and 4 assists per game. He scored a season-high 46 points against Bishop Borgess.

In three years at CC, McIntyre tallied 1,553 points.

"John is an excellent blind-side

passer, has keen basketball sense and has great anticipation on defense," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki. "He's the finest player I've ever coached."

The University of Detroit-bound cager was a marked man most of the season, often being double- or triple-teamed.

He recently finished sixth in the state's Mr. Basketball voting.

JOE GREGORY, REDFORD BISHOP BORGESS: The 5-8 senior point-guard is an offensive machine as evidenced by his 28.5 scoring average this season.

In the Catholic League, Gregory averaged 30.8 per game.

A unanimous all-Catholic pick, the easy-going Gregory pumped in a season-high 44 points against Royal Oak Shrine, including 20 of 20 free throws.

"Joe can do many things offensively," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco.

"He can penetrate and score, or he can penetrate and dish off."

"He can shoot from the perimeter effectively — 21 feet and in. He can also shoot well off screens and is just as good of a shooter from the pass."

A Division I prospect, Gregory also can leap with the best. He scored many of his points on offensive tips.

POLLIS ROBERTSON, WAYNE MEMORIAL: The 6-6 senior center, bound for the University of Wisconsin, averaged 19.8 points and 13.3 rebounds per game this season.

He shot 51 percent from the floor and blocked 3.3 shots per game.

A two-time Wolverine A pick, Robertson was voted the conference's MVP.

Earlier this month he was nominated for the McDonald's All-American squad.

"Pollis is an excellent leader," said coach Chuck Henry. "He has a great attitude and is a tremendous worker."

"I feel that his best years are ahead of him and that he will have a fine college career."

all-area boys basketball

1985 ALL-AREA BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

John McIntyre	Catholic Central
Pollis Robertson	Wayne Memorial
Howard Flowers	Wayne Memorial
Joe Gregory	Bishop Borgess
Rick Anderson	North Farmington
Bob Sluka	Livonia Stevenson
Steve Dunning	Garden City
Bob Dropp (coach)	Garden City

SECOND TEAM

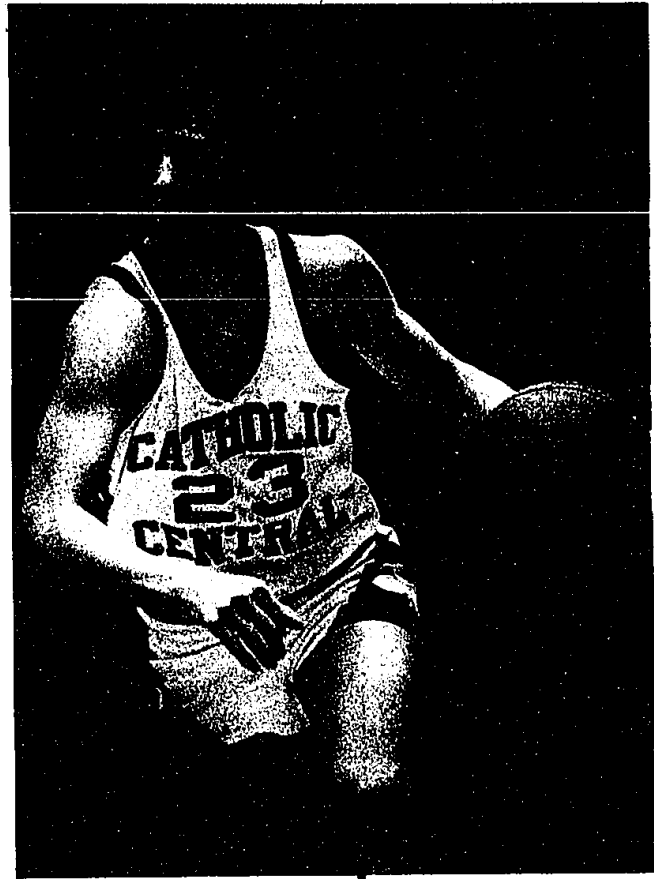
Mike Baydarlen	John Glenn
Ken George	Farmington Harrison
John Miller	Farmington Harrison
Mike White	Plymouth Salem
Donna Bushart	Redford Union
Bruce Kraft	Farmington
Bob Chwalek	North Farmington

THIRD TEAM

Paul Tervani	Catholic Central
Mickey Katschur	Livonia Churchills
Matt Burdick	Livonia Stevenson
Jeff Vukobrat	Claremont
Steve Frier	Garden City
Joe Miles	Plymouth Canton
Ladawn Haygood	Plymouth Edison

HONORABLE MENTION: Farmington: Bill Robinson, Kyle Metz; Farmington Harrison: Vince Wright, Mike Dempsey; North Farmington: Rick Fennell, Paul Wehrman, Dean Temple; Plymouth Canton: Kevin Hawkins, Brent Stacic; Plymouth Salem: Eric Boyne; Livonia Bentley: Sal Demko, Pat Schneider; Livonia Churchills: Mike Harrison, Scott Hill; Livonia Stevenson: Ed Oberl, Vic Hettie; Livonia Franklin: Jeff McCine, Mark Hayes, Tom Phillips; Garden City: Dave Waggon, Kevin Sheridan, Skip Barrett; Westland John Glenn: Phil Kowalski, Steve Hawley; Redford Union: Pat Lowrey; Redford Thurston: Scott Falpak, Jeff Frick; Redford St. Agatha: Jim Kontas; Redford Bishop Borgess: Charles Albright, Gerald Lowe, Mark Brown; Redford Catholic Central: Lance Vaccaro; Tom Goodwin; Claremont: Ron Parris, Tom Colak; Plymouth Christian: Pat McCarthy; Jim Stephens, Rod Winder; Wayne Memorial: Spencer Williams; Redford Temple Christian: John Greenwood and Eric Campbell.

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DAN DEAN/staff photographer

John McIntyre has been one of Observerland's most dominant, exciting players over the course of the last three years. The Catholic Central sen-

ior, making his second and final All-Area appearance, headlines the '85 cage team.

All-Area Cagers



John McIntyre
CC



Joe Gregory
Bishop Borgess



Pollis Robertson
Wayne



Howard Flowers
Wayne



Bob Sluka
Stevenson



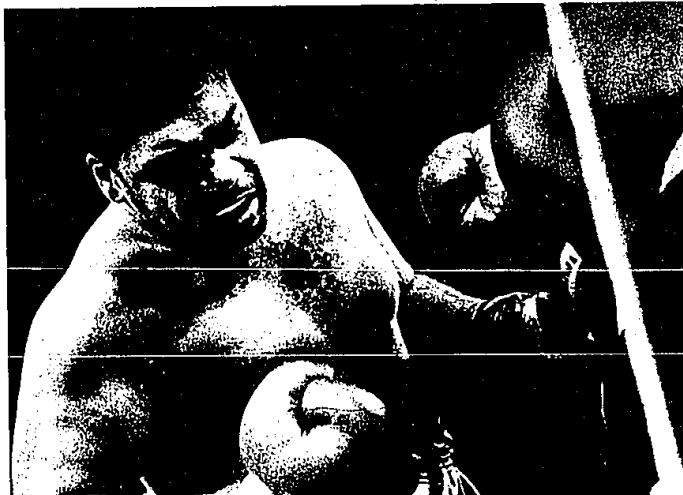
Rick Anderson
N. Farmington



Steve Dunning
Garden City



Bob Dropp
Coach of the Year



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Livonia heavyweight Craig Payne sent his opponent, Cleveland Ingram, to the canvas in the second round of his first pro fight Thursday.

Pudgy Payne punches way to sudden KO in pro debut

By C.J. Riska
staff writer

The professional boxing debut of Craig Payne Thursday was not all it was hoped to be.

Payne did fight. And the Livonia heavyweight did win on a second-round knockout, thrilling a large local cheering section among the 3,359 Cobo Arena fans on hand for the 9-bout card.

"My right hand to the body did it," Payne said afterwards. He kept up the attack even after Ingram went to his knees, he said, because "the refs got to stop me. I'll keep hitting him until he stops me."

BUT THE FIGHT wasn't much of a test. Ingram was the third opponent lined up for Payne. Mike Evans of Chicago bowed out — "I don't know why," Payne said — and Ingram was a late substitution.

"I knew nothing about him," said

boxing

Payne of Ingram, who was also making his pro debut. "I knew he had been in an Ohio penitentiary, and that he had had about 8 amateur fights."

It wasn't so much a sparkling night for Livonia's boxers — junior middleweight Mike Darnell also fought and beat an opponent from Cleveland — as it was a pathetic one for Cleveland's.

Ingram took his 10-count while resting on one knee in the corner. He did not appear dazed, just tired. He shook his head and said "No more" as the referee counted him out.

DARNELL'S FIGHT was scheduled for 4 rounds against Larry "Flat Top" Petty. Darnell came out fast but Petty floored him with an overhand right in the first 15 seconds of the bout. Darnell bounced up unhurt, and by the end of the first round Petty was gasping for air through his mouthpiece.

Midway through the second round Petty was gassed. At one point he clung to Darnell's waist and the Livonia fighter pushed him to the floor. Petty nearly took the count then, but he managed to climb to his feet. Moments later he collapsed again from exhaustion and was counted out.

The knockout improved Darnell's record to 4-0-1.

PAYNE BOBBED into the ring garbed in a lavender robe and shoes. He did not resemble the fighter that beat Olympic medalist Tyrell Biggs last July or Cuban gold medalist Teofilo Stevenson.

Payne weighed 225 when he fought Biggs 8 months ago. He was announced at 235 Thursday. "I wish he was 235," said trainer Dick Quinton — but admitted afterward that his weight had ballooned to 255.

"My weight didn't bother me at all," said Payne. "I'm not in the best of shape. I've been out of boxing for 8 months."

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