

Wayne's bomb deflates CC at buzzer

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

The diminutive Wayne High cagers continued to stand tall Saturday night, capturing the Howell Holiday Tournament with a 48-46 victory over Redford Catholic Central.

It was the sixth straight victory for coach Chuck Henry's club, only one of two observant-area teams that are still unbeaten. (Farmington Harrison is the other).

The Zebras, despite the loss of four starters from last year's 21-2 team, have been somewhat of a surprise thus

far. Wayne's tallest starter is 6-foot-2 junior Mark Robinson.

"It's something to be 6-0 with a tiny team like that," said Henry. "But really, our goal was to be undefeated at this time."

"We knew CC was a good team. This was a nice win for our school."

Wayne beat CC on Rod Sommons' jump shot from the dead corner with only two seconds left.

THE ZEBRAS trailed much of the fourth quarter, but tied the game with 59 seconds left. 46-41, on Robinson's rebound basket after steal by Spencer Williams.

CC then tried to work the ball and the clock, but was whistled for a five-second violation at the 29-second mark, giving Wayne possession.

Henry, setting up his strategy for a final shot, called a pair of timeouts, the final coming with nine seconds remaining.

"We wanted Spence to have the ball if they went man-to-man," explained Henry. "We wanted him to drive and pass off. And we were going to use Mark as a decoy."

But they stayed in a zone, so we threw it to the corner. We did exactly the way we wanted. And Sommons was loose as a zoose. I knew anyway if we

basketball

didn't make it, the worst we could do was overtime."

Robinson led all scorers with 20 points, while Sommons, a 6-foot senior, added 12.

ROBINSON AND WILLIAMS were named to the All-Tournament team along with CC's Paul Tavarna and Sean McCleary, who led the Shamrocks with 14 and 13, respectively. (Inkster Cherry Hill's Lewis Davis was also named).

Tavarna, voted Most Valuable Player, enjoyed a fine first half, scoring 12 points, as CC led 30-26. But the springy 6-4 senior was sorely missed after he was forced to the bench early in the second half because of foul trouble.

"Not having Paul was a factor, but Wayne is a very good team," said CC coach Bernie Holowicki, whose team slipped to 3-2. "They're no slouch."

"We did some bad things, but we did a lot of good things. I think our zone press and match-up (defense) hurt them. And some of our young kids played well."

Holowicki, whose team returns to action Tuesday at Bishop Dwyer, is looking

for improvement, especially on the scoring side.

"WE'VE GOT TO execute our offense better," said the CC coach. "I saw too many times when one guy had the ball and the other four stood around."

"We're a team-oriented group and you can see that. We have to play as a team. I've been searching for a lineup. We've played five games and had five different lineups. Right now, I have no different mind."

The Zebras, meanwhile, hope to play giant killer again Tuesday when they host Detroit.

Nothing to look ahead to in '86

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calls tails and wins the title, disappointing a vocal Livonia Franklin throng.

July

- Amy Frazier of Rochester becomes the new darling of the tennis world when she reaches Wimbledon's semifinals, beating such former teenage stars as Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin en route.

- Just one month after graduating from Troy High, John Locker announces he will forego a collegiate athletic career to sign a pro baseball contract with the Detroit Tigers. A unique clause allows Locker to leave the Tigers if they are 10 games out of first place on Labor Day to play football for the Detroit Lions.

- Bob Wasczenski signs a baseball contract to pitch for the Chicago Cubs, commenting that he opted for the National League so he could bat, too.

August

- Mike Lane retires from coaching the swim programs at Bloomfield Hills Andover and Bloomfield Surf Swim Club after Surf is upset in the Northwest Suburban Swim League championships. Lane's reason is that, for the first time in a decade, none of the team's he coached won a major championship.

- Former Brother Rice star Paul Jokisch explodes when asked once again to explain why he switched from basketball to football at University of Michigan. Jokisch storms from the U-M practices field, insisting he quit football and join the Wolverine hockey team as a goalie rather than answer that question one more time.

- In a surprise development, officials from the WIAA and MSAA announce plans to merge the two leagues. The new 10-team conference, to be known as the Western Metro Suburban Lakes Activities Association (WMSLAA), will be divided into five four-team divisions, with champions in each sport decided by computer.

- Bob Wasczenski leaves the Chicago Cubs after two weeks, claiming it had been four days since his last pitching start.

September

- A record 180 women register for the Observer & Eccentric golf tournament, but only two — Livonia's Geraldyn Repasky and Birmingham's Ann Lauer — sign-up in championship flight. The 176 remaining golfers all claim they have a better chance to win something in the other three flights.

- Suffering significant attendance drops, Pontiac Silverdome officials work out a deal for Brother Rice to play its home games at the Dome.

- Former Plymouth Canton, Farmington Harrison, Michigan State, University of Toledo and Chicago Cub standout Bob Wasczenski enrolls at Slippery Rock to resume his football career.

October

- In a showdown of Rochester-bred quarterbacks, Bruce Crosthwaite of Adrian and Dean Ulrich of Alma duel to a 52-52 tie, keeping both teams unbeaten and tied for first in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA). Crosthwaite tosses for 588 yards and five TDs, while Ulrich throws for 448 (with four touchdowns) and runs for 140 and a TD.

- Redford Thurston wins its fifth-straight football game, prompting WMSLAA officials to invite the Eagles to join the conference.

- Garden City runs its girls' basketball record to 10-0, prompting WMSLAA officials to invite the Cougars to join the conference.

November

- Oakland University completes an undefeated, unscored-upon soccer season to unanimously earn the No. 1 ranking in the NCAA's Division II. But OU's players and coaches, recalling the snub of their team the previous year, unanimously vote not to accept a bid to the playoffs.

- Schoolcraft College qualifies three teams — volleyball and men's and women's soccer — for the NJCAA championships, with tournament sites set for Buffalo, N.Y., Tallahassee, Fla., and Des Moines, Iowa, all on the same weekend. Athletic director Mary Gans attends all three finals, driving to each location.

- Brother Rice, playing on its home turf, wins the Class A football championship before a standing-room-only Silverdome crowd of 77,288. Some 33,118 stick around for the second game of the double-header — Detroit Lions vs. Green Bay.

December

- Paul Jokisch makes 33 saves in the Great Lakes invitational final to pace University of Michigan's hockey team to a 3-0 shutout of Michigan State in the finals. Following the game, Jokisch, the tourney MVP, is asked a dozen times how difficult it's been to switch from football to hockey.

- Officials beam as the Silverdome is sold out for the third Cherry Bowl. All of Rochester is in attendance as a pair of 9-0-1 teams take the field. The game ends in a 63-63 tie, with Alma quarterback Dean Ulrich and Adrian quarterback Bruce Crosthwaite each tossing six touchdowns passes.

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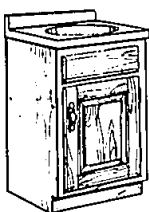
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