

S'western express flattens Borgess

By Bill Parker
staff writer

There was a little bit of everything Friday night at the University of Detroit's Callahan Hall.

There were blocked shots, missed shots, blind passes and steals. There were reverse lay-ups, slam dunks and even an un-chartered flight across the key.

The only thing there wasn't enough of were baskets for Redford Bishop Borgess.

The Spartans, champions of the Catholic League, squared off against Public School League champion Detroit Southwestern in the Operation-Friendship boys basketball championship.

Southwestern returned home with the championship trophy after knocking off the Spartans 92-64.

"They're just a tremendous team," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco. "Still it's a disappointment when you lose by 28. I don't think the loss will have a negative effect. We were 17-2 coming into the game. We're a good team and good teams are able to rebound after a loss like this. The kids are young and they're hungry."

THE SPARTANS got out of the gate in a hurry, and in the early part of the game it looked as if Southwestern was in for a battle.

After Southwestern's Roland Waller tied the game at 8-8 Borgess ran off six straight points to take a 14-8 lead.

Parrish Hickman drew a foul and aced both ends of his free throw opportunity. Cordell Robinson then intercepted an Anderson Hunt pass, drove the length of the court and slammed home two of his eight first-quarter points. After another

basketball

Southwestern turnover, Hickman filled the net from the corner to give the Spartans a six-point lead. It was the biggest lead they had all night.

Moments later Hunt found the range from the corner and put the Prospectors back in the game. His second bomb closed the gap to two, 19-17, with less than a minute remaining in the quarter.

Kevin Williams dumped in a short jumper for the Spartans as the quarter ended with Borgess holding a slim 21-19 lead.

THE PROSPECTORS struck gold in the second quarter, outscoring Borgess 25-8.

Midway through the quarter things turned sour for the Spartans. Hickman, the tallest player on the team at 6-foot-6, went to the bench after being tagged with his second foul. At the time Borgess was trailing 32-27.

Southwestern's transition game then began to click and Derrick Vinard (6-5), Doyle Callahan (6-5) and James Hunter (6-4) started crashing the boards for the Prospectors. The result was disastrous for the Spartans.

Southwestern, behind four points each from Callahan and Hunt, outscored Borgess 14-2 in the final 4:10 of the quarter to take a 46-29 lead by the break. The game was never close thereafter with 17 in pacing the Prospectors and Hunter added 14.

"We played well in the first quarter then we let them get into their transition game and our game plan

broke down," said Fusco. "That spurt in the second quarter really hurt us. We needed to handle a couple things that they do well. I thought we handled their press, but we didn't handle their break. Their transition game really hurt us."

ROBINSON TOOK control for the Spartans in the third quarter, pumping in 14 of his team's 20 points in the quarter. But it wasn't enough to off set the inspired play of the Prospectors.

Southwestern pulled ahead 51-31 early in the third when Hunt looked left and passed right, and James Hunter did his own rendition of the NBA's slam dunk contest.

Hunt then did a little aerial performance which brought a thunderous cheer from the Southwestern fans in attendance. Driving to the basket on a two-on-one break, Hunt faked a pass and went into flight from the middle of the key. He landed somewhere beneath the backboard, but not before he dropped the ball through the net. The quarter ended with Southwestern leading 64-49.

"Hunt is fantastic," said Fusco. "He looked a little like Michael Jordan out there at times."

Waller netted eight of his 15 points in the fourth quarter in leading Southwestern to victory. Hunt finished with 17 in pacing the Prospectors and Hunter added 14.

Borgess was led by Robinson with 20 and Hickman with 14.



STEVE FECHT/Staff photographer

Dajuan Smith (50) tried to stop Southwestern's Doyle Callahan, but Borgess had little success sidetracking the Prospectors.

sports shorts

COACHES NEEDED

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Those interested should contact the Farmington Department of Athletics, 32500 Shawansee, Farmington 48024, or call 471-6337.

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spring season. Those interested in this non-teaching position should call Mersey athletic director Ellen Sckerak, 476-2838.

K OF C SOFTBALL

Softball leagues for men, women and co-ed teams are forming at the Farmington Hills Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Council.

Call 476-1100 or 476-1101 for registration information.

SOFTBALL SIGNUP

The Farmington Hills Recreation Division has openings available for new teams for the 1987 adult softball season in resident, open and industrial leagues.

Reservations can be made at the recreation office, 31555 11 Mile. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required.

Call 473-9579 for more information.

District pits city foes

By C.J. Hisek
staff writer

No fanfare, please. Forget the blaring trumpets and the fever-pitched rhetoric, all aimed at whipping the masses into a frenzy.

It's not really needed, anyway. Not when Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem clash on the basketball floor.

They will again. Tonight's state district basketball tournament opens at Salem with the Rocks meeting — who else? — Canton. It's hardly a surprise. Every year, it seems the Chiefs and Salem draw each other in the first-round game.

At least this CEP showdown won't pit two teams that practice in gyms connected by 150 yards of sidewalk, but are otherwise totally unfamiliar with each other. They've met on the hardwood before, and both times Salem came away with wins. The last time was only 10 days ago, in the Western Lakes Activities Association championship game.

YES, THESE two opponents are well-acquainted. The only mystery surrounding them: Can the Chiefs find a way to beat their cross-town nemesis?

"I think it's a challenge," said Canton coach Tom Niemi, who guided Canton to a 12-8 record and a Western Division title. "We'll have to work awfully hard. We have to play a near-perfect game to be successful against them."

Don't expect some miracle cure to save the Chiefs. They'll go in as underdogs, as almost everyone will

when facing the 18-2 Rocks. There's no hidden formula, no new strategy to unveil to guide them to that elusive victory. Besides, it's far too late in the season to start tinkering with a winning team.

"We have to go to the dance with what got us there," said Niemi. And what got the Chiefs to the top of their division was pressure defense aimed at forcing mistakes and an up-tempo offense to score off those created opportunities.

What Niemi would like is for his team to execute with perfection against Salem. In the first meeting, the Chiefs lost 64-63 in overtime when Salem's Bryan Kears sank two free throws with three seconds left. The WLAA title game was a different story, as Salem dominated in a 59-45 victory.

"All year long, our bench has done very well," said Niemi. "In that (second) game, we didn't get a spark from them. Everybody has to contribute for us to be successful."

WHILE NIEMI has tangible, physical problems to work out — like how to stop Salem's all-league front line tandem of 6-foot-5 Mike Hale and 6-7 Rick Taylor, and contain all-WLAA point guard Kears — Salem coach Bob Brodie is concerned with his team's mental attitude.

"It's always tough playing a team three times," said the Rocks' coach. "Our only salvation is that it's Canton. When you beat a team twice, it's hard getting up for them again. I don't think that'll be a problem with Canton."

"At this point, all we're doing is fine-tuning. The main thing is to be ready emotionally mentally."

The week layoff between the WLAA championship and the start of district play was frowned upon by both coaches, but Brodie figured it any team benefitted, it was his. "After two emotional games like we played back-to-back (against John Glenn and Canton), the week off probably didn't hurt us as much as some others."

BRODIE IS planning no surprises for the Chiefs. Why should he? "We've had a successful season, there's no reason to change," he said. "We'll use our size, like we did before. It won't be any different from our last games."

What Brodie hopes won't be repeated is the Rocks' first-game performance. "The thing that caused us problems the first time was, we did not take advantage of our size and we did not box out well on the boards," he said.

The winner of the Salem-Canton game advances to play Farmington, which went 2-18 and occupied the cellar of the WLAA's Lakes Division, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

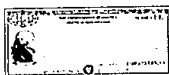
Get the picture? Monday's victory is almost certain to reach the district finals; the other finalist will be the winner of the Novi-Northville game. None of those teams can match Salem or Canton in ability.

But, as both Niemi and Brodie said, in the state tournament anything can happen.

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