

basketball

Cooley too hot for the Spartans

By Brad Emmons
staff writer

Detroit Cooley's basketball team flexed and posed like it was Muscle Beach Friday.

The Cardinals kicked and, in-your-face-style, scoring a convincing 75-53 victory over Catholic League champion Redford Bishop Borgess in the finals of the Class A district at Detroit Cody High School.

In all fairness, though, it was Borgess' fourth game in seven days against a talented Public School League team. The Spartans, who finished with their best record ever (16-4), were simply in the wrong district at the wrong time.

Pumped up from the start, the PSL runners-up played like they had something to prove.

Sophomore Daniel Lyton, a 6-foot-6, 220-pound sophomore who reminds some of a young Terry Tyler, pounded Borgess into submission. Lyton, an ironman around the basket, scored a game-high 25 points, including two monster dunks.

Cooley's four other starters scored in double figures including guard Michael Talley (15), forward Earl Stark (14), 6-9 center Yarnes Sanders (11) and guard Rafael Peterson.

"WHAT I SAW from this game was that we've got to get into the weight room by next year," said Borgess coach Mike Fusco, who returns four starters. "And we've got to have a little more mental toughness. We didn't really have complete control mentally. We were intimidated."

Cooley coach Ben Kelso, the former Detroit Pistons, had a simple game plan to beat the Spartans. He put his best defenders on Borgess' high-scoring frontline of 6-7 Parrish Hickman, 6-4 Cordell Robinson and 6-4 DeJuan Smith.

"I got some ideas from the other coaches in our league and I thought the best way to attack Hickman was to play him physical man-to-man," Kelso said. "We challenged Hickman (man-to-man and zone) after the first pass was made and I can't believe how it worked so well."

Kelso also said it was important to beat Borgess to the gym.

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"We found out they get here (for a p.m. game) at 3:15," Kelso said. "I didn't want to take anything for granted. I wanted to get here early."

Cooley made Borgess play its tempo, a half-court game, by continually pounding the ball inside to Lyton and Sanders.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Cordell Robinson scored 13 points to pace Redford Bishop Borgess Friday in its loss to Detroit Cooley in the district finals at Cody.

THE CARDINALS led 12-9 after one quarter and 32-25 at the half.

Borgess started to unravel near the end of the first half, 33-25.

A Hickman free throw was disallowed by a lane violation. The Spartans stepped on the inbound line and Cooley capitalized with two straight baskets in the final 15 seconds to take a nine-point lead, only to have Robinson slice the deficit to seven at intermission with a last-second shot.

In the third quarter, Cooley gradually began to pull away, building a 39-point lead that eventually mushroomed to 25 by the final buzzer.

"We never did get into our tempo," said Fusco, who tried a variety of stunts to quicken the pace of the game. "We had a problem getting into a flow. The tempo, see, had the last three games was more up and down. This was different because they play slow and pound it in."

"What impressed me about them is their strength. They're very strong and they took care of the ball. They'd come at us and we did not blink an eye. But they did a good job of neutralizing our three scorers."

Rice wins district

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Mike Lanier — alias Captain Hook — spotted Birmingham Seaholm's party Friday night.

The 7-foot-4 junior center, who's scored 46 points in the last three games in perhaps his best streak ever as a member of the Birmingham Brother Rice basketball team, sparked the Warriors to the Southfield-Lathrup District No. 30 championship with a 45-43 verdict over Seaholm.

It was the 15th District championship in the school's history and the fourth in Nick Conti's six years as Brother Rice coach. The Warriors now play 8 p.m. Tuesday in a first-round regional game at Fernalde against the Walled Lake Western District winner (either North Farmington or Walled Lake Western).

It was a physical game featuring a lot of bumping and bruising around the boards. Seaholm's strategy was to simply avoid the middle of the much taller Rice forecourt which, besides Lanier, included 6-8 Scott Zimos and 6-7 Leo Fitzpatrick.

The Maples hoped to use their strong perimeter game to shoot Rice's defenders. While on defense, Seaholm wanted to bump Lanier as far away from the middle as possible and control Zimos.

DAVE MARCINKOWSKI did an admirable job on Zimos and held him to five points. Lanier, however, finished with a game-high 16 points — five short-distance hook shots — and added eight rebounds despite the persistent defensive efforts of Seaholm's 6-0 Tim Buse. That performance came on the heels of a 12-point Lanier showing Wednesday in a District win over Groves.

"We saw another spark (by Mike Lanier) a week ago against Divine Child. He scored 20 points and dunked the ball at the end of a press which we had never seen before," said Conti, whose team will take a 12-10 record into the regionals.

"I think what's a key for him is that he has to get off to get a good start," said Conti. "His mind tends to wander. We pretty much program him and tell him where he gets his shots from. Seaholm did exactly what it wanted for the first three quarters."

The Maples, despite a sub-par shooting performance on the night (18-49 for 36 percent), trailed by only one

point at halftime, 24-25. Seaholm led by two points after three quarters (30-34) and held its last lead (41-40) with five minutes remaining.

Lanier then scored on two straight hook shots to give Rice a 44-41 advantage. Marcinkowski scored to make it a 44-43 game with 1:49 left, but, after Dave Van Meter missed on a one-and-one opportunity for Seaholm, Lanier grabbed a crucial rebound.

FITZPATRICK THEN missed a free throw with 33 seconds left and Seaholm took the ball downcourt and called time out with seven seconds remaining. The Maples in-bounded the ball but Rice's Jason Wolf came up with a big steal under the basket and was intentionally fouled to seal the victory.

It was a tough loss for the Maples who finished with a 14-6 regular-season record and a second-place showing in the Southeastern Michigan Association (SMA).

"We thought we really had a good chance at winning a District championship," said Seaholm coach Gary Chamberlain. "We showed we could play with the best of teams."

"Percentage wise we didn't shoot as well as we normally do and when we got down to the end of the game we usually get clutch free throws. Tonight that didn't happen. We had our own chances and just didn't convert."

Another key was that A.J. (Aaron Johnson) got in foul trouble and that hurt us on the boards."

"I thought we matched up fairly well with them — not height-wise but in what we could do against them," he said. "They're just a big group of kids basically."

Each team scored 18 baskets but Rice made three more free throws. Rice was 10-14 from the line while Seaholm was 7-14.

Fitzpatrick scored a dozen points and was the only other Warriors player in double figures. Van Meter finished with 11 points for Seaholm.

"Our feeling was this game was going to be a real white-knuckler," said Conti. "We knew they were going to play methodical. . . and we were going inside with it and see if they could stop us."

"We're not artistic," he said. "We're just going to come down and grind, grind and grind."

The Warriors will have to grind again this week in Regional competition if they want to continue their run in the state tournament. Conti would like to see the grinding continue from inside with Captain Hook.

North beats Andover in OT

Continued from Page 1

the game. After North's Chuck Howard canned the top half of a one-and-one to put the Raiders back on top by two, Campbell went to the line for Andover and tied the game at 51-51 as he heeded both of his pressure free-throw opportunities.

WITH :40 left in the contest, Andover's Ken Ariz stole the ball and dashed off to Campbell, who went in for the bucket to put the Barons up 53-51.

It appeared Andover would advance to the District finals when North's Mark Taylor missed a jump

shot with three seconds remaining. But Howard answered the call for North, grabbing the rebound and filling the net at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

Karcher opened the extra period for North sinking the top half of a free throw as the Raiders pushed ahead 54-53. Campbell answered with a basket for Andover before Karcher hit the game-winner for North. Andover was hindered by two traveling calls in the final seven seconds of the game to squelch any attempt at a final shot.

"I'm very proud of my players' efforts," said Andover coach Rick

Kriziaki. "We were down by 10 late in the fourth and they came back and got right back in the game. The kids came through when we needed them. Our pressure really hurt (North). Unfortunately our team is too slow to apply that type of pressure the whole game. We put it on them in the fourth quarter though and it came through for us."

Karcher paced the winners with 15 points and 18 rebounds. Howard (11 rebounds) and Taylor added 13 points each for North, which entered Saturday's championship contest with a 9-12 overall record.

sports roundup

CANTON GRAD MAKES SPLASH IN NAIA

John Simone, a graduate of Plymouth Canton and currently a Junior at Fairmont State College in West Virginia, set four varsity records during the NAIA swim championships last weekend in Millwaukee.

The records were set in the 100-yard breaststroke (58.20, fourth place) and the 200 breaststroke (2:01.15, fifth). He also swam in the record-setting 400 medley relay (5:30.68, fifth) and 400 freestyle relay (5:08.02, third).

Simone swam on the eighth-place 800 free relay (7:01.91).

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