



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Parish Hickman was a force inside all season for Borgess. He is pictured here with future MSU teammate Mike Peplowski (right) of Warren DeLaSalle.

Honor roll announced

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Viti averaged 14.7 points, 11.2 rebounds and 4.2 blocks per game for the Spartans. He blocked 11 shots in the district final against Detroit Henry Ford.

"Just a great kid who can jump out of the gym," said Holowski of his three-year starter and co-captain. "He was a fourth-quarter player. Very coachable, too. He'd be an asset to any team."

Wayne Kelley, guard, Redford Bishop Borgess. The Spartans' foot leader averaged 12 points per game and led the team in assists.

The 6-3 senior, headed for Central Michigan, was one of the area's most improved players.

"This year we put Wayne into a position to score more," said the coach of the All-Catholic League choice. "It became evident over the summer that he had to score in order for us to be successful. We looked to him as our creator. When he had the ball in his hands, he made both Parish and Da Juan Smith better."

Da Juan Smith, forward, Redford Bishop Borgess. Eastern Kentucky and Kent State are both the 6-5 senior, who was second on the team in scoring (12.5) and rebounds (7.1). He led the team in blocked shots.

"He was out blue collar worker," Fusco said. "Da Juan did the job for us going to the offensive and defensive boards. He's a tremendous athlete who runs the floor very well. He often raised our kids together."

Smith was also an All-Catholic League selection. Anthony Arrington, guard, Redford Catholic Central. Probably the area's most unsung player, the 6-foot, 165-pound guard had a knack for finding the basket in the right spots.

The three-year starter and co-captain averaged 11.1 points per game and led the team in assists and steals. He shot 44 percent from the floor and 71 percent from the free throw line.

"We always put Anthony on our team's best player, which took away a little from his offensive game," said the CC coach. "He had incredible quickness. He was also excellent at finding the basket."

Pioneers start over

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Should Jacoby — who played for two seasons at Calhoun CC in Decatur, Ala. — be unable to fill the stopper's role, Dorfman would. Otherwise, Dorfman would start.

"We're so young, with eight new pitchers, it's hard to tell how we'll do without seeing them in game conditions," said Chapoton. "Everyone on the staff has to be consistent and come through."

Chapoton's aims are clear: start the reconstruction with pitching and defense.

"I want you to be respectable every time we get out on the field," he said. "It's going to be difficult. We've got one senior (second baseman Tom Zerna of Wayne Memorial) on the staff who has more experience than we do."

AMONG THE EVERY-DAY players Chapoton is counting on are junior outfielder Bob Alvin of Birmingham (Groves), sophomore catcher Dave Walczyk of Detroit (Harper Woods Notre Dame), sophomore shortstop Tim Bradley of Fenton, sophomore first baseman Chris Takemoto of Huntington Woods (Royal Oak Shrine), and sophomore outfielder Dennis Milobar of Sterling Heights (Stevensen).

Alvin will be trying to rebound from a disappointing first 45-game season in which he batted just .190. He tied for second on the team in runs batted in with nine.

"He's got to come through and hit the ball better than last year," said

Chapoton of his co-captain. Alvin will share those duties with Walczyk. Walczyk had a solid freshman season for OU, batting .317 with eight RBI and five doubles. Chapoton, though, is looking for defensive improvement.

Which is what shortstop Bradley is expected to provide. An all-league performer while at Fenton, Bradley is a transfer from Albion College. "Our defense at shortstop has got to improve," said Chapoton.

TAKEMOTO AND MILOBAR are also transfers expected to contribute immediately. Takemoto, who played a year at Northwood Institute, has the best power on the team; Milobar, with a year of experience at Olivet College, is listed as a good contact hitter with extra-base power.

Two other returnees who should see plenty of action are Zerna, who hit .353 for OU last year with seven RBI and a team-leading 16 walks, and sophomore outfielder Bill Frazzen from Sterling Heights, who batted .329 and drove in nine runs, both second best on the team.

"I'm guardedly optimistic," said Chapoton. "I've seen improvement from last year's club, but we're still so young. If we make solid gains in pitching and defense, we'll win some ball games."

OU's 45-game schedule includes 20 GLIAC games. The Pioneers opened yesterday with a home double-header against Findlay College. On Saturday, they host Aquinas College in a p.m. twin bill.

Memories of '78 team recalled

IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO, but it only seems like yesterday.

I was fortunate, in my first year working for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, that I covered a basketball team that went all the way.

The year was 1978 and the team was Orchard Lake St. Mary's, coached by Bob Shoemaker. It was a well-oiled machine, this state Class D championship team.

They went undefeated, 27-0, because all five starters knew their roles so well.

I can still reel off the names of the five starters: Evaristo Perez, the 6-foot-7 Dominican kid in the middle; Jim Paolorek (Mr. Everything) and Barry Bugal (the shooter) at the forwards; David Kay (the ball-handler) and Gregg Williamson (what a leaper at 5-8) at the guards.

That team was special to me because they were so enjoyable to watch.

I GOT THAT same feeling this year watching Redford Bishop Borgess play.

Although they fell short in the Class B state final by three points, this is a team that won many big games against some of the state's best teams.

I may never forget the spectacular alley-oop



Brad Emons

dunks by Parish Hickman, the shot-blocking of Da Juan Smith, the penetrating drives of Drayne Kelley, the steady play of Eric Emanuel (the ultimate role player) and the emergence of sophomore Shawn Respert as fifth cog in the Borgess wheel.

This team impressed me because they did it without one of their best players, Cordell Robinson, who transferred to Detroit Mackenzie before the season began for reasons that still escape me.

But coach Mike Fusco was prophetic: "We'll be a good team, with or without him." He was so right.

THIS BORGESS TEAM, upset by Warren DeLaSalle in the Catholic League finals, never got a rematch with PSL champion Detroit Southwest.

Dropping down to Class B because of failing

enrollment, the Spartans never got a shot at Detroit Cooley either, another PSL team, had beaten them at the district a year earlier.

But this Borgess team, in my opinion, could have played with the PSL's best.

There were some sad faces Saturday when Borgess lost to Grand Rapids South Christian in the state finals.

It wasn't a game Borgess blew, although some may point to the eight-point lead that evaporated in the fourth quarter.

Mr. Basketball, Matt Steigenga, was most responsible for their defeat. He is simply the most impressive player I've seen since Earvin Johnson.

But the most impressive thing I saw in this Borgess team was the way they matured, especially at state tournament time.

THEY HANDLED their final defeat with class — no posturing, crying or throwing of trophies. They congratulated their victors and took their medicine like men.

This Borgess team is in the same class with Bob Shoemaker's 1978 club.

These guys I'll never forget. Thanks, fellas, for many enjoyable times. You'll be missed.

BULLETIN

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