Dragons survive late Borgess rally

Staggered and nearly on the ropes, Mount Clemens Clintondale proved it could take Redford Bishop Borgess' best shot Wednes-day, advancing in the state basketball tour-

day, advancing in the state basketball tour-nament.

The Dragons pulled out a 56-53 victory over the Spartans in the Class B regional at Warren Woods-Tower.

After falling behind by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, Clistondale appeared down for the count as the Spartans staged a furious fourth-quarter rally.

Junior Shawn Respert sparked the come-back for Borgess by scoring 17 straight points after Scott Nielsen's layup with 6:02 crimalining gave the Dragons a 39-20 advan-tage early in the third quarter.

But but the end of the third quarter Borges.

But by the end of the third quarter Borgess had cut the deficit to nine, 48-39.

Borgess then made its move.

BORGESS THEN came up with a steal, but missed two shots in the final 20 seconds. Clintondale's Jerry Howard grabbed the sec-ond miss and dribbled to midcourt where the

Clintondale's Jerry Howard grapped the second miss and dribbled to midcourt where the
ball was slapped out of his hands.
With the ball being inbounded and only 10
seconds left, Borgess was forced to foul
Nielsen, who caimly connected on two free
throws to scal the victory.
Following the free throws, which gave
Clintondale a three-point cushlon, Howard
stole a Borgess pass and ran out the clock as
the Dragon fans streamed onto the floor, jubliantly hoisting Nielsen (15 points) and 6foot-10 center Greg Grant (15 points, 17
counds and eight blocks) on their shoulders.
"Nielsen is probably our second best free
throw shooter, but in the clutch he's o'r
best," said Clintondale ceach Tom Simon,

basketball

whose team will take a 20-3 record against Detroit Benedictine in Friday's final. "We didn't make any foolish passes; we didn't do anything foolish. They (Borgess) had a good ballclub and have the ability to come back."

BORGESS DUG ITSELF a hole by shooting only nine of 42 (including 0-for-7 on three-pointers) from the field in the first half.

half.

The Spartans had a hard time solving Clintondate's zone, which featured the 6-10 Grant on the wing denying the ball.

"When we play a tough team we play zone," Simon said. "We protect Greg in so far as his stanning is concerned. We don't

going to try and make him foul and take him out of there, and we don't want to put the pressure on sombody clse."

Grant, bound for the University of Detroit, put plenty of pressure on Borgess carby, seering 12 points, to go along with 10 rebounds and seven blocks. Teammate Mike Danlioft tallide elight of his 15 in the opening period as Clintondale led 18-14.

The Dragons then hold Borgess to four second-quarter points to make it 31-18 at the half.

half.
"They (Clintondale) were extending their defense the first half, and we couldn't hit any shots," said Borgess coach Mike Puscowhose team bowed out with a 14-10 record. "We didn't do anything to stop them in the first half, but the kids showed a lot of heart and character coming back."

RESPERT BEGAN to find holes in the Clintondale zone and put on a spectacular display of offense by scoring 17 of his game-high 25 points within an eight-minute span.

But the 6-2 sharpshooter couldn't get a shot off when Borgess made its bid to take the lead in the final minute of play.

"Give then (Clintondale) credit," Fusco sald. "They played a good game, and they're a good team. I knew all live of their players could hart us at any time. They came in confident, polsed and ready."

Only four players scored for Borgess — Resport (25). North (16), Artie Brown (six) and Carl Woods (six).

anu cari woods (six).

"I thought Rashawn Sumler and Carl
Woods did a good job against Grant," said
Fusco. "We hit the boards bard and went to
the glass, but we just couldn't put it (the
ball) down."

Meanwhile, Grant showed he could put the ball down, even from long-range, bitting a couple of key shots from 16 feet. "He can shoot from outside," Simon said, but he has a tendency to get our there and stay there. We don't want him out there." "That's my shot — the free throw line right there," offered the senior standout.

Warriors edge past

By Brad Emons

Spartans

staff writer

It didn't take lunch pails or hard hats to figure out what kind of baskethall team Livenia Stevenson brought into Tuesday's Class A ragional at Willow Run.

The Ind-working Spartans took unbeaten Woodhaven to the limit before failing, 71-86, as senior guard Eric Higgs won it on a three-pointer as time expired.

The Spartans proved that Friday's come-from-behind 71-70 up-set victory over Western Lakes Activities Association champ Plymouth Salem in the district final was no fluke.

Stevenson, which trailed by as many as 12 points during the Second period, railled in the second half and made things interesting right until the final born.

Higgs' game-winning shot eluded the out-stretched arms of 6-foot-6 Slevenson center Mike Vrooman.

The Spartans' Rick Laven

The Spartans' Rick Laven forced Woodhaven's hand when he nailed his fourth 3-pointer of the night, knotting the count at 68 with 33 seconds left.

"WE'VE HAD quite a few games go right down to the wire like this," said Woodhaven coach Michael Krogel, whose team is 23-0 overall. When we called the timeout (with 24 seconds to play) what we wanted to do is take the first available shot with four sec-oids left. We didn't want to shoot any earlier and take a chance by letting them come down and get off a 3-pointer."

letting them come down and get off a 3-pointer.

Stevenson coach Jim McIntyre and his staff countered with a zone defense with a man guarding Destin Snell, Woodnaven's longrange abouting threat. But Snell was nearly the goal earlier when was nearly the goal earlier when the goal earlier when the goal earlier when the key, selting up Laven's game-tying basket.

"We tried to cover Snell and we were upset that he got the ball," said the Stevenson coach. "It wan't like he (Higgs) wasn't being guarded. We'll take that the guarded. We'll take that it was a free-wheeling, wide-

week. The kid just hit it."

It was a free-wheeling, wideopen game from start to finish.
Stevenson fell behind 26-17 after one quarter and 35-21 with
4:38 left in the second period after a free throw by Vernon
Crump.

Crump.

And despite missing six straight free throws, including four one-and-ones in the second period, Stevenson clawed back to trail by only six at intermission, 34-28.

THE SPARTANS, helped by a balf-court zone trap which forced numerous Woodhaven turnovers, began to make their move in the third period.

'An acrobatic layup and free throw by Chris Nazelli with three minutes to play in the quarter pulled the Spartans to within one, 42-41.

pulled the Spartans to within one,

\$2-41,

Stevenson then took a brief lead (45-42) on two straight hoops by Scott Kosikowski.

It was 49-all after three quarters, but Woodhaven regained the lead and appeared to have the game clinched when Higgs scored with 1:29 left to make it 86-83.

But a nifty layup by point and the second three points of the second three points provided with Soell's poor decision and Laven's three-pointer, forced the Warriors to into the final shot.

Krogel said he was leery of Stevenson's never-say-die attitude, particularly after hearing the acouting report on the Salering the scotting report of the Salering the scotting report of the Salering the scotting the scotti

Cooley cruises past CC in regional game

sinf writer

Bill Vitti was there, but all he could do was cheer.

Redford Catholic Central could have used the former Shamrock star Wednesday in a Class A regional semiliana basteball game against Detroit Cooley. The two-time dending Class A champions ran away from CC, scoring an impressive, 64 win at Southfield Lathrup.

Vitti, who watched from the stands, used up his eligibility last year when CC nearly upset Cooley in the regional final, and now he plays for Saginaw Valley State.

CC didn't have much of a chance this time, with 6-foot-7 center Daniel Lyton and 6-6 forward Kenneth Conley roaming the paint for Cooley.

The win sends Cooley (21-1) into the Lathrup regional final at 7 p.m. Friday against Wayne Memorial (20-5).

"CC HAD A chance to play the way it wanted to last year (against us)," said Cooley coach Ben Kelso, recailing last year's scare, 58-52. "They had Vitti, but they didn't have him this time, and I think it wore on

last forever!

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them trying to handie our 211-pouna guys.
"But Bernie (Holowicki) is a very, very good coach, and he knows what his team can do and what it can't do. He did not have the manpower, so we put him in a situation where couldn't use any tricks.

C. A. The catholic Logue champion and the country of the country

week, ended the season at 15-9. The loss also ended the fine high school carcers of five Shamrocks seniors, including polnt guard Terry Boykin and center Ray Richards.

"This was a senior-oriented team," Holowicki said. "I had five seniors (Scott Hauncher, Jeff Schaner and Pat Fælling were the others) and we had great senior lead-crahip. They're outstanding players and outstanding gentlemen. The district title was another nice notch for these guys."

Boykin returned the complience high with size of the could have ended on a finer note. He finished with five points. Hauncher led CC with 12 points and Richards added 11.

LYTON PACED Cooley with 19 points, and guard Michael Tailey, a leading candidate for Mr. Basketball, added 13.

"I didn't set a good tone and that threw everyone off," Boykin said. "Cooley's real talented and they crashed the boards. They've got a lot of experience and that's what counts

of experience and that's what counts now.

"We were so close last year and said we'd get 'em this time. It didn't work out and I feel bad for coach followich because he's a great coach. We just earne out flat."

CC led #- early in the game, but Cooley scored 17 of the next 21 points to take a 21-10 lead after one quarter.

Cooley made 58 percent (15-for-

quarter.

Cooley made 58 percent (15-forCooley made 58 percent (15-forCooley of its first-half shots and built a
14-point lead, 33-f, by halftlime. Cr.
meanwhile, shot 35 percent (62-3) in
the first half and 32 percent (13-41)
for the game. Schaner, the Shamrocks' best 3-point shooter, made
only one of nine shots and finished
with five points.

CC PLAYED ZONE most of the game because of Cooley's height and

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quickness advantage, and Cooley countered by holding the ball much of the third quarter in its half-court

of the bins and offense.
"We were in control of the ball was running out "We were in control of the ball game, and the clock was running out on him (Holowickl), not me," Kelso said of his decision to slow the tempo in the third quarter. The Cardinals outscored the Shamrocks 8-4 in the third quarter and took a commanding, 41-23 lead

Into the final quarter.

"They cat-and moused it on us, and that was a smart move," Holowicki said. "We knew goleg in we needed a perfect game and wanted to be within eight or 10 coming into the fourth quarter.

"Cooley did some good things against us. They tried to alter our shats instead of blocking them, and they played tough against Terry (Boykin) and Jeff (Schaner)."











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