

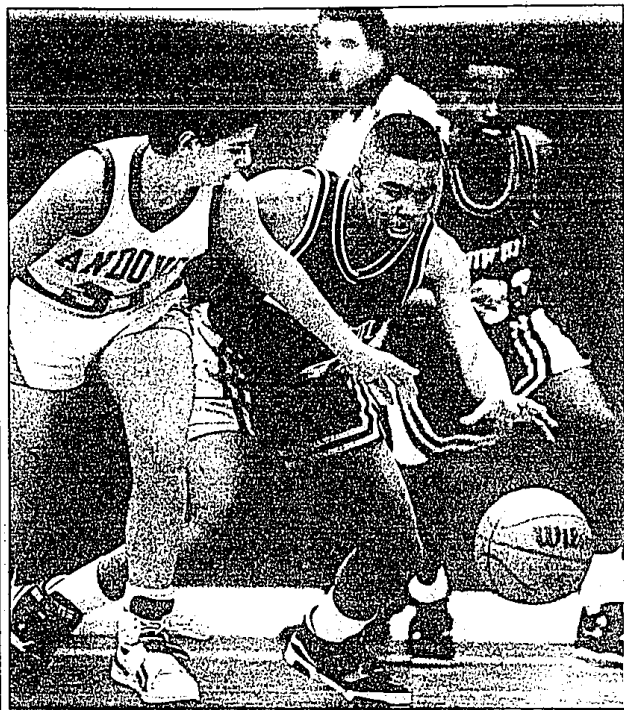
## Sports

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Andover's Pete Ginopolls (left) and Southfield's Les Mention chase a loose ball late in Thursday's game in Bloomfield Hills.

DAN DEAN/staff photographer

## Jays blitz Barons; record stays perfect

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

It was Thursday — only four days before Christmas — so Southfield boys basketball coach Harry Vandenbrink decided to give his best impression of the Grinch.

Lynell Collins scored 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead Southfield to a 60-48 win over host Bloomfield Hills Andover, but afterward Vandenbrink reminded his senior forward about the mistakes he made.

"Tell him (the reporter) about the two lay-ups you missed," Vandenbrink said to Collins.

Then, after being told the win improved Southfield to 4-0 overall, 2-0 in the Southeastern Michigan Association, Vandenbrink offered this response: "I don't care about that. I care about good defense and just trying to move up a level, one step at a time. I'm not sure if we took a step in the right direction or if Andover was just tough."

Are coaches ever happy, even when 'Tis the season to be jolly?

COLLINS SURE was, considering he missed a game earlier this month because of the Chicken Pox, and he is finally gaining full strength.

"I was tired," said Collins, who was eager to give his teammates just as much credit. "The Chicken Pox wears you out. I think we'll win a lot of games. We don't have a lot of size but we play together. That's what the coach emphasizes."

Contrary to Vandenbrink's be-

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Southfield coach

lief, Southfield gave Andover all kinds of trouble. It started at the chalkboard, where Barons coach Rick Krisinski wasn't sure what defense to employ.

The loss dropped Andover to 3-3 overall, 1-3 in the SMA. Krisinski rates Southfield right behind Troy High, the SMA favorite.

"They're too quick to play a man-to-man against, but we're too small to play a zone," Krisinski said. "You're kind of between a rock and a hard place as a coach. They're the second-best team in the league. Going in, we knew they had five guys who were capable of scoring."

"They're the second-best team in the league. Definitely, Troy has great talent and more size. That's why I feel Troy is a better team." Southfield took a 15-9 lead after one quarter and led, 30-19 at halftime. Three players scored in

double figures for Southfield, including forward Chris Grier, who scored 11 points and Tajuan Pickett, who added 10.

SOUTHFIELD, WHICH led, 40-31 after three quarters, scored the first eight points of the fourth quarter to open up a commanding, 48-31 lead. The lead stayed at 17, 58-41, before Andover's reserves scored seven points in the closing minutes to make the final margin closer.

Chris Pero led Andover with 17 points, while Jason Wilson added 10 points and Frank Darin contributed eight. One of Andover's starters, junior forward Joe Greenwalt, played sparingly because of the flu and Pero also has been hampered by a cold, according to Krisinski.

"That (Greenwalt's flu) really hurt us," Krisinski said. "Because in that position, we haven't had people step in and do the job (in his place)."

While Andover is idle until Tuesday, Jan. 9 at Royal Kimball, Southfield must prepare for the Grand Rapids Press Tournament opener Wednesday against Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills. The game is at Grand Rapids Junior College.

Other teams in the tourney include three-time Class A defending champion Detroit Cooley and Grand Rapids Creston.

"We're looking to be successful," Vandenbrink said. "Defense will keep us in most games. It's like a little vacation, but we're not looking for a good time. I look to play well."

## Thurston paces Falcon cagers to league victory over Lakers

By Mike De Villing  
staff writer

Rochester basketball coach Ed Wright knows his Falcons are capable of scoring a lot of points.

But before Thursday, Falcon opponents were burning the nets even more, resulting in a 0-4 Rochester start.

But against West Bloomfield Thursday, the host Falcons turned the heat up a notch on defense to post their first victory of the season, 58-43 over the Lakers.

The Falcons held the normally hot-shooting Lakers to just two points in the third quarter, taking a 42-24 lead going into the final eight minutes. Rochester held off a furious West Bloomfield rally in the fourth quarter to notch the victory.

"OUR GOOD defense in the third quarter was the turning point in the game," Wright said. "It gave us a lead they couldn't overcome. That kind of defense has to be the norm for us. We can't give up 75 points in a game and expect to score 78 every night."

West Bloomfield coach Tim Domke watched his team shoot a paltry 36 percent from the floor in the first half to fall behind by a 31-22 count. Things went from bad to worse for the Lakers in the third quarter. Rochester went on a 10-0 run in the first four minutes. Domke had seen enough and brought the Lakers second unit into the game.

"The first half was just dismal," Domke said. "I'm surprised we shot as high as 38 percent. I brought in the second unit because they couldn't do any worse. I sat down the starters and talked to them and pointed out a few things."

Whatever Domke said seemed to work.

West Bloomfield came off the bench with Rich Johnson hitting a layup and drawing a foul to open the fourth quarter. Mark Buerle grabbed Johnson's missed free throw and converted the hoop to give the Lakers four quick points

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— Ed Wright  
Rochester  
basketball coach

17 seconds into the fourth quarter.

Johnson added another hoop off a missed free throw the next trip down the floor. Josh Koby stole the inbound pass, hit a lay-up and was fouled. He hit the free throw to exp a nine-point West Bloomfield run in just 1:01.

CHUCK SELINGER added two free throws and Johnson hit another inside bucket to cut the def-

icit to seven points with a little more than three minutes remaining in the game.

The Lakers run ended when Rochester's Scott Wallace hit a layup and was fouled. Bill Thurston grabbed the rebound and scored to give the Falcons an 11-point lead. West Bloomfield never threatened again.

"I said at halftime West Bloomfield would make a run," Wright said. "We didn't know when, but they did. It was just a matter of holding them off."

Bill Thurston led Rochester with 24 points and eight rebounds, while teammate Scott Wallace added 11 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. Both players drew rave reviews from Wright.

"Thurston's a load in there," Wright said. "When he plays well, he's one of the finest kids that's played here. He can really shoot."

And Scott Wallace was a man out there tonight. He got some real big rebounds for us."

WITH THE WIN, Rochester improved to 1-4. West Bloomfield, evened its record to 3-3. Despite the records, don't think of calling the decision an upset in front of Wright.

"I don't care how talented they are or if they're higher in the standings," Wright said. "We beat them. We won because we played well."

Scott Houser added 12 points for the Falcons.

Koby finished with 11 points and six assists to lead the Lakers.

The Falcons will be back in action Thursday at The Palace to take on Southeastern Michigan Association representative Ferndale.



JIM RIDER/staff photographer

Laker coach Tim Domke's (left) bubble burst in a league game Thursday evening in Rochester.

### basketball

## The Palace shoot-out set

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Will Lorenzo dunk on Chris? And will Chris return the favor?

We'll find out Thursday when Lorenzo Orr's Detroit Pershing team meets Chris Webber and Detroit Country Day at 4:45 p.m. in the 1989 Big Michigan Shoot-Out at the Palace in Auburn Hills.

Pershing, No. 3-ranked in Class A, meets Country Day, No. 1 in Class B, in the featured attraction of an all-day event which begins at 11 a.m. when Rochester Adams meets Lake Orion.

The 6-foot-8 Webber, considered the nation's best junior, will face-off against Orr, considered Michigan's top senior player. Earlier this fall, Webber said he'd be embarrassed to get dunked on by anybody, including Orr.

"I think it's going to be a very interesting matchup, but they are human beings and neither one of those guys are God," Pershing coach John Goston said. "They have to come prepared to play each game, that's the bottom line. With Chris, I hope he has a strong constitution in terms of his inner self. His mind will overrule his body. And the same with Lorenzo."

THE DAY'S games will be divided in two sessions. In the first session, Adams plays Lake Orion at 11 a.m., followed by Inkster vs. Flint Beecher, 1 p.m.; and Rochester vs. Ferndale, 3 p.m.

In the second session, beginning at 6:45 p.m., Saginaw, No. 4 in Class A, plays Class B's No. 5-ranked team, Redford Bishop Borgess.

Keith Lewis, promoter of the Big Michigan Shoot-Out, expects more than 5,000 fans to show for the final session.

Pershing, which will lose Orr in January because of eligibility reasons, is one of the state's most-feared teams. Orr averages 12 points, as does senior guard DeJuan Sewell. Kahli Felder is one of the team's leading rebounders, grabbing eight per game.

Country Day, 3-1 overall, is highlighted by Webber, but also relies on junior Tygo Montgomery and junior Myron Potter. The Yellow Jackets are looking forward to participating in more events promoted by Lewis, from Elite Sports & Fitness in Birmingham.

"I think we're all excited; Pershing's one of the better teams in the state," DCD coach Kurt Keener said. "Lewis is anxious to have it continue. He's into marketing and promotions and would like it to become an annual event."

THE SAGINAW-Bishop Borgess game should be another interesting game. Saginaw (4-0 overall) defeated Borgess last year, 98-45, but the Spartans were without guard Shawn Respert, who was injured.

Respert is averaging 20 points per game, and is a cause of concern for Saginaw coach Marshal Thomas. Respert, a guard, has signed with Michigan State.

Junior forward Jesse Drain leads three Saginaw players in double figures, averaging 16 points and 12.3 rebounds per game.

"The way (Borgess coach Mike) Fusco uses him, I thought Respert was one of the best players in the state last year," Thomas said. "He's so diversified, I wonder how we'd guard him. He keys the team in so many different ways."

Fusco said he'd like to "forget" last year's game. The Spartans are 3-0 this year, but know Saginaw offers the biggest early-season test. Randy White, a forward, supports Respert in scoring with a 15-point average.

"We're going to have to play extremely well," Fusco said.