

# Knights take district title win over Lakers

By Jim TOTH  
STAFF WRITER

He may not have the moves needed for a spot on Soul Train, but Bloomfield Hills Lakes basketball coach Chris Drogoch does know the dance steps that go along with experiencing some post-season success.

Drogoch was hit with a case of Dance Fever during the final seconds of Friday's 61-40 Class A District 26 championship victory over visiting West Bloomfield, turning in his best Hammerfoot work to celebrate the Knights' first post-season title since the 1985-86 season.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world and definitely the biggest win in my four years here," said a smiling Drogoch moments after the Knights pinned their 11th point loss on the Lakers. "I couldn't be more proud of these kids or the way the kids in school have come around to support them. It's just a great feeling overall."

Lakers supporters will have at least one more opportunity to root on their basketball team as the Knights (11-12) now face Southfield-Lathrup (18-4) Tuesday night in Class A regional play at Ferndale High School. Tip-off is set for 8:30 p.m.

While the Knights prepare for their first meeting of the season with the Chargers, the Lakers have nothing but time to reflect on a season that produced only eight victories in 22 starts.

"We may not have won much, but I really liked the way this team has played," West Bloomfield coach Tim Donkne said. "We really have seen seniors come a long way in their careers here and we also had a lot of young kids playing new positions. I'm really proud of the way the kids have played."

Donkne probably would have been a little more pleased if his Lakers would have been able to hit a few more shots, but an aggressive 2-3 zone by the Knights held the Lakers to no more than 12 points in any one quarter.

"That was an aggressive zone as we've played all year," Drogoch said. "We normally play a man, but we came out in a zone, played it pretty well and got help from them missing their shots."

Scoring was at a minimum in the opening eight minutes as the Knights managed just 11 points, but still good enough to produce a five-point advantage. The Lakers clawed back to within three points on a couple of occasions in the second period before the

Knights closed with a mini run in the final minute for a 25-18 lead at the break.

The third quarter produced much of the same with the Knights jumping in front by anywhere from five to seven points only to have the Lakers respond with a run of their own.

In the final period, more frigid shooting by the Lakers, combined with nine Lahser free throws, gave the Knights their third consecutive victory in post-season play.

It was a balanced night of scoring for the Knights as senior guards Nate Terrell and DeShawn Rogers tallied 11 points apiece. Junior center Jason Vestra followed with eight points, senior Andy LeFevre tossed in seven and Rusty Szurek and Pat Klaus each scored five.

For West Bloomfield, it was all Jeff Wilson. The 6-2 junior poured in a game-high 19 points, including nine in the third quarter.

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## Novi sends Salem to sideline

By Neal Zipser  
STAFF WRITER

It's hard to be disappointed about a 16-6 season, but Plymouth coach Bob Brodie left the Novi gym Friday feeling like something was missing.

The defending district champions had their season come to an end Friday when Novi used a Chad Dicken free throw with two seconds remaining to beat the Rocks 46-45 in the district semifinals.

"Even though we are 16-6, it feels empty because we haven't won any type of championship and that's not like Salem teams of the past," Brodie said.

The Rocks showed a lot of rustiness after a week off. Salem missed easy shots all night and committed 24 turnovers (to Novi's 10). Still, Salem had a chance to come away with the victory.

With the score tied 45-45 and eight seconds remaining, Novi (16-6) went for the win, but Jason Fannon's shot was no good. Dicken was called for a foul on the rebound and Salem received the ball out of bounds with four seconds left.

After a timeout, the Rocks' Doug Herriman threw the ball away on the inbound pass. Dicken picked up the loose ball and drove straight to the basket where

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he collided with Herriman. The Rocks calmly sank his first free throw and time expired as his second free throw rimmed out.

"We have had a lot of chances to win games this year," Brodie said. "We just threw the ball away. The pass went one way and the player went the other way. It was typical of how the night went."

Herriman scored a game-high 14 points in his Salem finale. Senior Dan McKinn finished his career with 12 points.

The Wildcats advanced to play Plymouth Canton Saturday for the district title. They were pipped by Fannon's 12 points. Jeff Kastura added 11.

"We knew we had a chance to beat them," Novi coach Pat Schluter said. "Our plan was to keep them under 45 points, and we knew we couldn't get into a run-and-gun game with them. The win is a tribute to our seniors who never gave up and didn't lose their composure when Salem made a run at us late."

The game was close throughout. The score was tied 12-12 after the first quarter and 22-22 at half-

time. A 7-0 Salem run gave the Rocks a 35-24 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Novi opened up a 42-37 lead midway through the fourth quarter, but the Rocks rallied to take a 43-42 lead after a McKinn layup. The Wildcats regained the lead after two Dicken free throws.

Herriman got the lead back with a driving, off-balance banker. Fannon then hit one foul shot to tie the score at 45-45 with 45 seconds left.

Salem got sloppy as Novi forced a jump-ball and regained possession. Fannon seemed to get away with two travels before calling timeout and setting up the series of events that led to Dicken's heroics.

"I don't think we were looking ahead to playing Canton, but I think it was a combination of things," Brodie said. "I think the week off put us out of sync. Novi did play a great game and was in our face all night."

"I knew they would come at us with a tough man defense, but I never would have dreamed that we would turn the ball over that much and miss so many easy shots. We were out of sync the entire game."

The Wildcats held a big advantage at the foul line, making 17-of-27 free throws. Salem converted 4-of-6 chances.

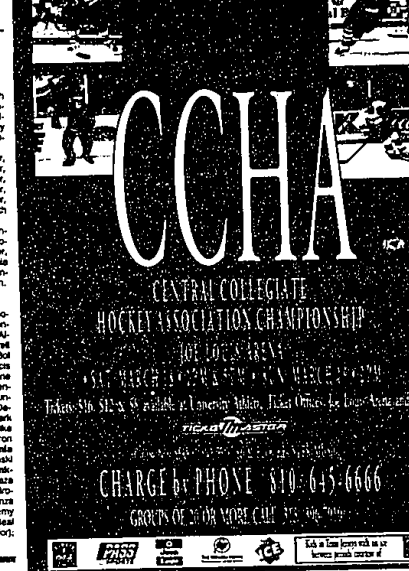
### BASKETBALL

#### 1994-95 ALL-WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

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**All-Western Division:** Mike Anderson, senior, Livonia Franklin; Kevin Benkenberg, sophomore, Farmington Hills Harrison; Brian Baker, senior, Northville; Rudy Hartsell, senior, Livonia Stevenson; Dan Sumakali, senior, Plymouth Salem; Paul Whiting, senior, Westland Lake Central.

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## Zebras trounce Cougars in final

By Brad Emmons  
STAFF WRITER

Winning the Belleville boys basketball district, one of the most difficult in Class A, was no piece of cake.

Wayne Memorial, however, applied the icing by licking upstate Garden City in Friday's final, 63-46.

The Zebras (18-4 overall) move on to Wednesday's regional semifinals at Jackson. They will face Monroe at 6 p.m.

Garden City, meanwhile, bows out with an 11-11 record.

"This district was very difficult," said Wayne coach Chuck Henry, whose team survived a tough 87-80 overtime win Wednesday over host Belleville.

"There are four very good teams down and we're the one going on. I feel very fortunate."

Garden City, an upset 68-59 winner over co-district favorite Westland John Glenn on Tuesday, couldn't work its magic again against the Zebras.

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"I was very impressed with their game versus John Glenn," Henry said. They took care of the basketball. They were hitting and they were rebounding. Everybody just sees their record, but we remember we won a nailbiter in their gym the last time out. We knew they were capable (of winning) because they're very well coached."

The Cougars, however, never really got going, losing to Wayne for the third time this season. They shot miserably, only 29.5 percent from the floor (18 of 61).

"We wanted to contest every shot," Henry said. "Their style is to force help and then dish off to their shooters."

"Pete Males is their quarterback and we wanted to stop his dribble penetration. We could not help out on him or (Brother Ryan) because you're not going to shut them all out."

GC stayed relatively close for a half, trailing 32-23, but Wayne was firmly in control despite a slower-than-usual tempo.

The Cougars never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way. Sophomore point guard Lorenzo Gueza, who paced the winners with 16 points, quelled a mild GC rally midway through the fourth quarter with a big three-point shot.

James Wood added another three-pointer with 3:48 remaining to put Wayne comfortably on top, 63-37.

Wayne, despite hitting only 21

of 58 shots from the floor (36.2 percent) kept Garden City at arm's length by making 17 of 19 free throws (89.4 percent).

Richard Reed led 8-3 sophomores, contributed 15 points for Wayne, while Wooden and Roland Patterson chipped in with eight apiece.

Pete Males, who played his final game as a Cougar, led GC with 11 points. Brother Ryan, who had 28 against Glenn, was limited to five.

Mike Marlow, another senior, came off the bench to score 10, while the 6-4 sophomore Buddenberg added nine. Senior Larry Sanders finished with eight.

"They (Wayne) stepped up their pressure," GC coach Greg Williamson said. "That and our defensive rebounding hurt us. That's been a big problem all season and we got hurt on the offensive boards."

"We're not very big, so we've got to put bodies on people."

The Cougars, however, just couldn't find the basket with any consistency.

"They (Wayne) did a good job on the ball," Williamson said. "Our kids need to square up and get a look at the basket. But their coaching is so good, they take away things you like to do."

"I thought if we held them to 60, we're looking good. We played hard throughout. Marlow did a nice job off the bench and (Ian) Randies did a good job on Gueza."

## Shamrocks from page 1C

Ridley was 6-9 from the floor and led CC's balanced scoring with 19 points. Misiak had 12, all on three-point shots; junior forward Michael Jordan scored 11 off the bench; and McDonald had 10.

Junior forward Richard Turk, who scored eight points, also was dangerous on the perimeter with a pair of three-point shots in the second half.

"Almost all of them can shoot three," Coach McDonald said. "Our starting five made 19 of 31 shots from the floor compared to Stevenson's 10-40."

Stevenson's starting guard Jim Grewe missed all five of his shot

attempts, junior Matt Quinter was 1-10, and junior forward Jim Below finished 0-7.

The Spartans were led by Jovcovic, who was a respectable 4-8 from the field and finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Eric Giovannini, one of four juniors in the Spartans' starting lineup, added 10 points on 5-10 shooting.

"We matched up well down low with two kids, but their outside kids were still penetrating and dumping off," McIntyre said. "Give CC credit. We had some good efforts throughout the season."



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**SATURDAY, MARCH 27**  
1:00 Financing your dream home presented by Standard Federal Bank  
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5:00 Landscaping tips presented by Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28**  
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Wednesday, March 15: Wayne Memorial vs. Monroe, 6 p.m.; Taylor Kennedy vs. Jackson, 8 p.m.  
Friday, March 17: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Class A quarterfinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Lansing Sexton vs. Belleville Creek Central regional champion.)

**at SOUTHFIELD**  
Wednesday, March 15: Detroit Cass Tech vs. Dearborn-Detroit Southeastern district winner, 5 p.m.; Redford Catholic Central vs. Detroit Coolidge, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 17: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Class A quarterfinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Lansing Sexton vs. Belleville Creek Central regional champion.)

**at FERNDALE**  
Tuesday, March 14: Plymouth Canton-Hamilton district winner vs. Detroit Pennington, 6 p.m.; Southfield-Lathrup vs. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 8 p.m.  
Thursday, March 16: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the Class A quarterfinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, at Ferndale vs. Lahser Central regional champion.)