

Preps display skills

BY JIM TOTH
STAFF WRITER

Not all of the champions were crowned last weekend in high school basketball.

Thirty-six of Oakland County's first slam-dunk artists and 63 3-point specialists are scheduled to be on hand Friday night at Troy High School when the Troy Community Coalition for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse sponsors its fifth annual Oakland County Slam Dunk and 3-Point Shoot-Out.

Making a move from weekends the past four years to Friday night this time around, the event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Those Eccentric-area players slated to compete in the slam dunk competition include Shane Battier (Detroit Country Day), Rich Beal (North Farmington), Mike Bell (Cranbrook-Kingswood), Dave Bowers (Orchard Lake St. Mary's), Mike Chappell (Southfield-Lathrup), Mike Ciaramellano (Rochester), Robert Conner (Bloomfield Hills Raiders), Craig Erquhart (Lathrup), Gary Fralick (Troy), Josh Grenadier-Odetto (Birmingham Groves), Brian Lee (Rochester), Chuck Mondo (West Bloomfield), Pete Owen (Bloomfield Hills Andover), Alfonso Porter (Farmington Harrison), Roger

Randolph (Auburn Hills Avondale), Rusty Szurek (Bloomfield Hills Lahar), Greg Trimmer (Birmingham Seaholm), Jason Whalen (Walled Lake Central), Paul Whitting (Walled Lake Western), Lester White (Rochester Adams), Jason Webber (Country Day) and Ken Williams (Southfield).

Eccentric-area players expected to participate in the 3-point shoot-out include Darryl Adams (St. Mary's), Brian Alexander (Groves), Kevin Bambenek (Harrison), Chappell (Lathrup), Kurence Chaumley (Southfield), Jason Coburn (Avondale), Brad Crighton (Adams), Tim Domke (West Bloomfield), Rudy Elliott (Groves), Ryan Elliott (Adams), Scott Emery (W.L. Central), Rashad Ferguson (Rochester), Greg Grays (Lathrup), Steve Hauff (Troy Athletics), Drew Hayes (Seaholm), Jeff Jacob (Andover), Dan Kukus (Andover), Ken Lawrence (Rochester), Andy LeFevre (Lahar), Corey Meehan (Cranbrook), Joe Poyer (Birmingham Brother Rice), Mike Price (Troy), Brad Rivers (North Farmington), Jim Spadafora (Country Day) and Whitting (W.L. Western).

Tickets on sale at the door will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. Children five years of age and under and accompanied by an adult, will be admitted free.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BASEBALL

Sunday, April 2
Redford Union at Oak Central (2), 11 a.m.
Wayne Mem. at Redford Thurston (2), 11 a.m.

SOFTBALL

Tuesday, March 28
Red. St. Agatha at St. Agatha Aquinas, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 1
Lath. Westland at Lake View, noon

GIRLS SOCCER

Monday, March 27
Ladywood at Woodhaven, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28
Livonia Stevenson at Birmingham Livonia, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29
Garden City at Livonia Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 30
South Lyon at Farm. Harmon, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, March 31
Ladywood at Bishop Foley, 5:30 p.m.
Grand Blanc at Plymouth Salem, 7 p.m.
Livonia Stevenson at Troy, 5:30 p.m.
Livonia Franklin at A.A. Huron, 5:45 p.m.
Saturday, April 1
Berkeley at Farm. Harmon, 12:30 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK

Thursday, March 30
Dom. Edell Ford at Garden City, 4 p.m.
Livonia Franklin at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.
A.A. Huron at Walnut John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
Redford Thurston at Taylor Kennedy, 3:30 p.m.
Redford Union at Monroe, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 1
Spartan Relays at MSU, noon

BOYS TRACK

Monday, March 27
Livonia Franklin at Lincoln Park, 3:30 p.m.
Redford Thurston at Lincoln Park, 3:30 p.m.

Marion takes pass on baseball

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

It's almost a surprise, really. Do the major league clubs actually plan to start the baseball season with these replacement players?

That debate, of course, has been raging for months. And the uncertainty that accompanies it has kept at least one potential player away from the game.

Todd Marion. Todd Marion, one would figure, could take a shot at replacement baseball. After all, the Plymouth Salem graduate pitched for the University of Michigan for four years; he still holds career records for pitching appearances (106) and saves (32).

Second on the career save list and third in appearances is Greg Everson, a Livonia Bentley grad who is playing for the Tigers' replacement team.

"Obviously, I've thought about it," Marion said. "But they haven't exactly been pounding at my door."

And even though he's considered it, he's not certain he'd try — for different reasons.

"It's such a hard thing," he said. "You never know when the players' strike is going to end. It's hard to drop everything in your life for something that could end tomorrow."

"It's too risky," he said. Also, Marion has other things to think about — like his future. He is currently completing his student teaching in psychology at Salem. And he's already committed to be an assistant to new Salem baseball coach Dale Rumberger this spring.

Marion won't deny the hunger to play is still there. He was the closer for Winnipeg in the Northern League, an independent Class AA league, last summer. They ended up winning the title. "It was the first time I ever won a championship, in high school or college," Marion said.

He figures he could compete at the replacement level. "I've seen a lot of players I know I could play with," he said. "The problem is, how big is his appetite to play?"

"It's such an ugly thing," he admitted. He has no resentment toward the replacements: "I have nothing but respect for them. At least there are people out there playing who love the game."

His problem is with the striking players ("they are so selfish") and the owners. "It's such an ugly situation," Marion said. "I think it's killing baseball. The whole thing is a bunch of crap."

And although he knows he could play with the replacements, he has little interest in watching them.

"I can't watch more than two outs before turning the channel," he admitted. "Yeah, it's a dream (to play), but that's not the same kind of game. The players out there, that's like A ball."

"It's just not the same thing. I don't know if I ever made it there that I'd be satisfied."

Things could change. If replacement ball starts in earnest, better players may start defying the strikers. And who knows? Fan support could swell.

Maybe then Marion would give it a go. It figures he could be someone's late-inning closer.

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veroux, who replaces a three-year starter and second-team all-area player in Mackie.

"She has natural ability. It'll just take a little time to refine her skills," Brubaker said. "But she's stepping in there where Kate Mackie and Amy Kelman were as juniors."

Ouellette, a good fielder with good range, hit .222 and had 10 RBI. She improved her average by more than 40 points last year, and Brubaker hopes she can raise it to around .300 this year. Zelsako's offensive forte is bunting.

"I've seen her, with two strikes on her, several times put down a bunt and beat it out," Brubaker

said.

The reserve outfielders are senior Jamie Miles and juniors Heather Overstreet, Stacy Rothenberg and Amy St. Charles. Miles played on the JV and improved her skills last year. Overstreet and Rothenberg, whom Brubaker recruited after noticing her speed in the powder-puff football game, are designated runners. St. Charles is a utility player who can also fill the role of designated hitter and runner.

"If (somebody doesn't do the job (in the outfield), we have three or four waiting in the wings," Brubaker said. "We'll sub them in and see who rises to the chal-

lenge."


Brubaker will be assisted by former North pitcher Debbie Weinstaub (Class of '89). The Raiders open the season against defending league champion Farmington Harrison.

"I see us in there fighting," Brubaker said. "If we get the breaks and play the type of ball we should play, we could be in the ball game or make a run for the division."

"With the inexperience we have at key positions, I see us finishing in the middle of the pack. We should be competitive. There aren't too many teams that are going to dominate us."


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