BOYS BASKETBALL

Plymouth Canton trips Wayne with late surge

STATY WHITEL

Last lull loses.
Plymouth Canton suffered through it, and Wayne Memorial took complete advantage to pull out a 63-59 season-opening boys baskethall victory Tuesday at Canton.
It wasn't supposed to be like this.
The Chiefa, 22-2 a year ago, had lost their two top scorers and three startures from that team. Wayne had been to the Class A state semifinals the past two years, and nearly the entire two years, and nearly the entire cast was back for a try at anoth-

cast was back for a try at another trip.

But after sparring through the first 2's quarters, with neither team opening up much of a lead, it was Canton that seemed to be taking command entering the

fourth period.

Up 47-42 through three quarters, the Chiefs increased their advantage to 61-44 with 6:34 left on Matt Ammona' layup. Wayno was pointless over the last 5:52 of the third quarter, with the Chiefs scoring 10-straight during that lull, until Karl Callaway's two free throws after the period had ended brought Wayne back to within five.

Then after Ammona' layup, the lull hit Canton. The Chiefs scored just eight more points converting 10-65 chances at the free throw line, in the final 1500. "We had a chance, but do article could be a chance, but do article could be a chance to the country of the street of the country of the street of the country of

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and made some bad decisions."

And the Zebras pounced on the opportunities. LaVelle Guess did most of the damage, riddling Canton's defense for nine final-quarter points, he finished with 20 and four steals.

Through three quarters, the Chiefs had handled Wayne's pressure fairly well, committing 18 turnevers but forcing 15 by the Zebras. Canton broke through to get all kinds of easy backets, for the game, the Chiefs connected on 25-038 shotta (65.8 percent), with Nick Hurley slieting through the Zebra press of the Sebra press of the Sebra

Donte Scott tied it for the Chiefs 11 seconds later, but Rodney Hurst drilled a three-pointer with 2:31 romaining to give Wayne the lead for good, 60-57.

"We really didn't do anything different philosophically," said Henry. The kids had the will to win, to come back.

"We got a couple of turnovers and a couple of easy baskets. That always helps take the pressure off the offense."

It also helped when Henry put Lorenzo Guess on Hurley. The Zebras' leader offensively, Lorenzo nailed his first shot of the game, a three-pointer, but was held in check pretty well the rest of the way. He finished with 14 points on 4-of-13 shooting.

But as big-timp plays are we we to to Lorenzo per Hurley off the board after his early basket in the fourth. Lorenzo also

had team-highs in rebounds (six) and assists (six), to go with three steals.

LaVelle, meanwhile, nailed 8-of-12 floor shots (including 2-of-4 threes) and made four stoals. Hurst finished with 11 points.

Canton got 14 points (7-of-7 from the field) and five boards from Johnson, and 10 points and seven assists from Ammons. The Chiefs had a 23-18 edge in, rebounding, but Wayne held an, 8-2 advantage on the offensive boards. In addition, the Zebras made 8-of-21 threes (381 percent) to Canton's 1-of-7 (14:4) percent).

cent) to Cannon 8 foir-(1443 per-cent).

"We knew, for the first game of the year, it would be a war," Henry said. "We know when we play them it will be one of the toughest games of the year." It was all of that — for both

CC tankers all relative

Danny Knipper knows what people are probably thinking.

people are probably tranking.
Knipper was recently named
the new boys awim coach at
Detroit Catholic Central, which
means about six months from
now the Shamrocks will be looking for another coach.

The Shamrocks have had six coaches the last six years, each staying only one season before leaving for either another coaching job, work or school reasons.

But that pattern stops with Knipper, who insists he's staying long term.

Knipper, who insists he's staying long term.

It was one of the agreements he had with stiblett director Bob Santello, whom it seems has had the stay of the stay

Knipper, 24, graduated from North Farmington, where he North Farmington, where he was an all-state swimmer. He was an assistant coach at North in 1992-93 and the head coach at his alma mater in 1993-94, the year the Raiders finished tied for sixth place at the Class A state

SWIMMING

He has a culinary arts degree from Oakland Community Col-lege.

knipper knows some of the CC swimmers, like juniors Nick Sos-nowski, Paul Garabelli and Ryan Meekins from the Clarenceville Swim Club, where he is an instructor.

Sonowski and seniors Kevin Reinke and J.P. Merchant are expected to lead the Shamrocks this season. Other top swimmers include Matt Baran and Paul Connelly.

Knipper thinks those swim-mers are capable of placing at the state meet and the Sham-rocks can finish among the top 12 in the team standings.

Sosnowski, Connelly and Baran form three-fourths of a 200-medley relay team that could shine at the state meet.

could shino at the state meet.

Knipper also has experience
training women, as he assisted
Stevenson coach Greg Phill in
coaching Sheila Taormina in her
preparation for the Olympics in
Atlanta, Ga. Taormina, a
Stevenson graduate, won a Gold
Medal in the women's 800-meter
relay.

His assistant coach at CC will be his sister, Katie Knipper, a 1992 graduate of Farmington Hills Mercy.

The Shamrocks have practices and home meets at Mercy, but that's not the only reason he has his sister along.

"It's convenient and she wants to get in coaching," Danny said. "She's a five-time high school All-American."



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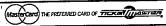
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