

CC defender: Joe Jonna, a senior guard from Farmington, plays defense on Cass Tech's Jaron Clark in the Class A regional final Friday at Dearborn Fordson HS. The Shamrocks lost a heartbreaker in double overtime, 116-115. Jonna, who played CVO basketball at Our Lady of Sorrows, put in 24 points in his final prep contest.



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACIFIED

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clock, CC immediately fouled Jaron Clark, who missed a pair of free throws.

Nick Moore then dribbled the ball up the floor against the Cass Tech press, maneuvered his way to the baseline and launched a 10-footer.

The shot rimmed out, but teammate Dave Lusky grabbed the rebound and hoisted up a shot as the buzzer sounded. His attempt never made it to the rim as Cass' Hilton Napoleon blocked the potential game-winner as time expired.

No foul was called on the play, and the Tech fans stormed the floor in jubilation.

The win puts Cass, the Detroit Public School League champion, in the quarterfinal round Tuesday at the University of Detroit's Callahan Hall with a 21-4 record.

"I told (the players) to be proud of what they accomplished and keep their heads up, but it still hurts," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Both teams shot and played extremely well. You won't see a better high school game than that one."

Cass Tech coach Robert Shannon had empathy for his opponent afterwards.

"It was a great display of outside shooting by both teams and a lot of tenacity on both sides," he said. "Both teams never quit. I feel for them over there, but I'm glad I'm over here. I'm just proud and pleased we won."

"But give them credit. They're an excellent team. Everyone got their money's worth."

Four of CC's five starters scored in double figures.

Senior guard Joe Jonna added 24 points, including six three-point baskets.

His three with :01 left in the first overtime capped a wild sequence and tied the score at 105. Jonna had missed two earlier three-point attempts during the possession, but rebounds by Young and Slankster gave him a third try.

Sophomore guard Rob Sparks also pumped in 24, including four triples. Moore, who handled the ball against Cass Tech's pressure, added 17. Senior forward Don Slankster came off the

bench to score 10 before fouling out in the second overtime period.

D. Bryant, a 6-3 senior guard headed to Duke on a football scholarship, showed why he can hang with the Blue Devils on the hardwood as well, finishing with a team-high 31.

Williamson added 22, while Napoleon contributed 20. Reserve Blaine Denning chipped in 14.

"I got a little tired at the end," Bryant said. "I was short on a couple of free throws; so I had to dig down and make them, because I wanted to play three more games and get to Breslin (for the state final)."

As a team, the Shamrocks shot 53 percent from the floor (45-of-81), including 11 three-pointers. "Catholic Central had three shooters who could flat-out shoot to go along with the big man in the middle," Bryant said. "And I can see why (Young) is going to the University of Michigan."

Shannon also came away impressed with Young's performance.

"What can I say? He played a

marvelous, superlative game. He did what a big fella is supposed to do," he said. "Big fellas have given us trouble all year long."

"Chris played extremely well," Coratti said. "He didn't want it to end."

Cass was 39-of-88 (44.3 percent) with 10 three-pointers.

"We figured it could be a game in the high 70s or 80s, because both use the same kind of press," Shannon said. "We have people who know how to break a press. And they know where the next pass is going to go."

The difference may have come at the free-throw line as the Shamrocks were 28-of-39 (72 percent). The Shamrocks were 16-of-21 (76 percent).

Another telling statistic was turnovers.

The Shamrocks committed a total of 20, including 14 from the start of the second half.

Cass turned it over just eight times the entire game.

Michigan's firearm white-tail deer and bear hunters can join archers "up a tree" this fall.

That's because the state Natural Resource Commission did what many expected it to do last week at its monthly meeting by approving an order to allow the use of elevated platforms this fall during the bear and firearm deer seasons.

This proposal had been supported by many of the state's largest conservation groups and was unanimously approved by the NRC.

However, after a month of considerable discussion and research on the matter, the NRC also voted last week to accept public comment for the next 30 days on the appropriate use of safety harnesses for hunting from an elevated platform and a proposed ban on climbing attachments such as spikes and screw-in steps.

"The Commission received many, many letters and took lots of calls from hunters on the issue, and the testimony at public hearings was very helpful," NRC chairman Keith Charters said.

"Our vote today was based on that public opinion. I also think it's important the public have the opportunity to fully understand the ramifications of a ban on spikes and screw-in steps and for hunters to provide comment on the proposal that's before the commission."

Anyone wishing to comment to the Commission on the use of safety harnesses or screw-in steps can do so by contacting Charters at 8195 Bel-Cherrie Drive, Traverse City, MI 49686. You can reach him by phone at (616) 947-7566.

The other commissioners in

OUTDOORS

Firearm hunters get OK to use platforms

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



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southern Michigan are Jerry Bartnik, 840 S. Telegraph, Monroe, 48161, (313) 243-7325; L. Thornton Edwards Jr., 10711 Northend, Ferndale, 48220, (248) 547-5760; Lloyd "Pete" Weeks, 11337 Jonas, Warren, 48089, (810) 767-4908; and Paul Eisele, 21001 Van Horn, Taylor, 48180, (313) 792-6031.

If you have an opinion on either of these matters, be sure to let the Commission know before it takes up the matter at the April 8-9 NRC meeting in St. Joseph.

New commander named

Troy resident Mike Maziasz will be inducted as the new District 9 Commander of the Power Squadron on Saturday at a ceremony during the Power Squadron meeting at the Troy Marriott. District 9 encompasses the entire state of Michigan along with South Bend, Ind.

Maziasz is currently a member of the Birmingham Power Squadron and was the commander of that squadron in the early 1990s.

The Power Squadron is the largest boating association dedicated to boating safety and education. It has 2,900 members in District 9 and 62,000 members worldwide.

The goal of Power Squadron is to educate the general public in basic boating in an attempt to make the waters of Michigan safer.

Power Squadron offers a variety of classes throughout the year on such topics as safe boating, GPS use, celestial navigation, sail weather and many more.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314. Send e-mail to bparker@oe.homecom.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 501-2573.)

'Blazers bomb Warriors, 78-55

BY DAN STICKBAUDT
STAFF WRITER

The characteristics that have made Birmingham Brother Rice a good basketball team this season — great determination, grit, a well-executed offense and good pressure defense — all came up missing Friday. The result was the end of the road for the Warriors in the Class A tournament.

With Dante Darling and Antonio Gates scoring a combined 47 points, Detroit Central rolled over Brother Rice, 78-55, to win a regional title at Plymouth Salem.

The ninth-ranked Trailblazers move on to the quarterfinals to play No. 3 Clarkston, a 60-42 winner over Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley, at Ferndale 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"We had a good season," Rice coach Bill Norton said. "But we just didn't have our best game tonight, and it's all over for us."

It was apparent the Warriors (16-8) were off the mark from the beginning. After Rice tied the score at 4-4 early in first quarter on a baseline jumper by senior guard Ron Austin, Central went on a 16-7 run to close out the

BASKETBALL

quarter. Darling scored six points in the paint in that span, while Rice was stone cold from the field.

For nearly seven minutes starting late in the opening stanza, the Warriors went 0-for-12 from the field before the drought finally ended with 3:25 left before halftime on a layup by senior forward Chris Petty.

"Our offensive execution just wasn't there," said Norton, who was assessed a technical foul for arguing a call midway through the second quarter. "We just weren't determined out there; we didn't have much fight in us. And it's tough to climb back into game like this when your down against a good team."

Norton did offer some high praise for the Trailblazers.

"They play tough man-to-man, and they took us out of our game," he said. "It's not completely our fault that we played the type of game that we did; they deserve a lot of credit. They played with a lot of determina-

tion and fight."

The Warriors trailed 35-16 at halftime, but made a valiant effort to come back as they closed the gap to 61-49 with 3:36 left in the game. But Central answered with a 15-5 run — highlighted by a pair of fifty-one-handed dunks by Darling — before the Trailblazers emptied their bench with 35 seconds left in the contest.

Darling, a 6-foot-5 senior forward, had a game-high 32 points to go along with eight rebounds, five steals, four assists and three blocks. Gates, a 6-4 senior center who signed with Michigan State to play football, added 16 points and 12 rebounds. Senior forward Arie Smith contributed seven points and six rebounds.

"It kind of disappointing that we didn't have our best stuff tonight," Norton said. "If we did, who knows what might have happened."

Jon Poyer led Rice with 14 points, including three three-pointers, to go along with seven rebounds and a pair of blocks. Austin added 11 points, Petty 10 and senior guard Gary Littlejohn seven.

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the power play, of course) in the opening period, Yuri Babenko getting the first just 3:05 into the game and Druken scoring the second (with a two-man advantage) with 3:41 left.

Sting goalie Patrick DesRochers, who played the first period and 14:35 of the second, displayed one glaring problem: a tendency to not smother rebounds.

"He's a big guy, and he tends to leave rebounds lying around the net," said DesBoers. "For us to score on him early was the key."

"We had to go to the net hard. He stops all the first shots — almost all of our goals against him in this series have come on second shots."

Shots were something else the Whalers got a bunch of — an 18-

5 advantage after one period, 31-15 after two and 48-21 for the game.

Jesse Boulerice made it 3-0 5:15 into the second period, knocking in a pretty centering pass from Eric Goody, who bent a Sting defenseman to the puck behind the net.

Two more power-play goals followed, both in the final 4:35 of the second. Babenko got his second of the game, beating DesRochers with a hard shot from the right wing.

That was all Starnina's No. 1 goalie. Hewitt replaced him, and he was greeted by a power-play score 4:23 into his stint, this one scored by Taylor.

Taylor finished with a goal and three assists. Paul Mura and Nik Tselios added two assists apiece.

So: the obvious question. Can the Whalers continue this type of performance?

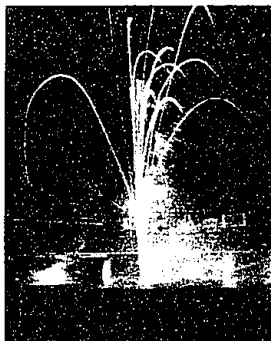
That depends, according to DesBoers. "We're a skilled kind of team, we rely on the refs calling that (extra-curricular) stuff," he said.

The Whalers can be physical, but they'd be better off (against Starnina, at least) with a game that's called more closely.

NOTES: Should a game six be necessary, it would be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Seattle. A game seven is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Compuware.

The opponent for next round of the playoffs (should the Whalers advance) depends upon who survives the first round. The survivors from round one will be reseeded.

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