

## All-Observer

## Farmington duo on area's top hoop team

BY C.J. RISAK  
STAFF WRITER  
cjrisk@oecomm.net

With 30 seconds left in a Class A regional basketball final and the score tied at 60, Plymouth coach Bob Brodie signaled for a timeout.

That's not something he often does. He never uses his full complement; indeed, he'll go through entire games without using one.

Just not his style.

But the situation in this game, against a formidable Southfield-Lathrup team, warranted it. Brodie gave his players the strategy: "Spread the floor and attack the basket with five seconds left."

Can't get any simpler than that, it provides an insight into Brodie's coaching ability, a reason why, in 15 seasons as head coach, the Rocks have compiled one of the state's most impressive records.

Sure, the instructions were simple. They were meant to be. The more detail a player has to deal with in a pressure situation, the greater the chance of a missed assignment.

"I thought they'd rotate (their defenders) to us," Brodie said. That's the way (Lathrup) plays; they rotate to the ball; they're aggressive. We had our big guys back; so the plan was, when we attacked the basket and they rotated to us, we'd dish it off."

It worked, although the second start wasn't necessary. With the floor spread, the Chargers were caught with their backs turned, allowing Salem's Adam Wilson to drive to the basket for a game-winning, quarterfinal-clinching layup.

The players listened; they did what they were told. They believed in Brodie's system, which is why they finished with a 20-5 record.

It's also why Brodie is the Observer's Coach of the Year.

After all, Brodie's teams have an average win/loss record of 17-6; they've won seven district, two regional and four Western Lakes Activities Association championships.

In a season of excellence among area teams, North Farmington, Redford Bishop Borgess, Redford St. Agatha and Plymouth Christian Academy also won district titles — Salem went farther than any other team.

## FIRST TEAM

Nick Moore, senior, Redford CC: Without an inside presence, Moore had to carry more of the offensive burden, and it showed all over the statistics sheet. Moore averaged team-highs in points (19), assists (7.8) and steals (2) and also made 51 of 142 three-point attempts. He made 84 percent of his free throws.

A three-year starter with a 3.5 grade point average, Moore will attend the University of Toledo on a basketball

## BASKETBALL

scholarship. He is another in a long line of all-stars at CC.

"He's one of the best players we ever had at CC," CC coach Rick Correll said. "He got doubled up most of the time, in one game, he even got tripped on in the inbound. He did a nice job handling pressure; he did that for three years. Each year he's gotten a little stronger. He's always had great court sense. This year he scored more, because he had to."

Enir Medunjanin, junior, N. Farmington: For someone who has played organized basketball only three years, Medunjanin has developed quickly into a skilled and polished player.

His family fled Bosnia in 1990 when war broke out in the Yugoslavian republics, and he moved to the United States in late 1996.

Medunjanin, who is fluent in three languages, played his first year of basketball at Southfield-Lathrup before transferring to North Farmington as a sophomore.

The junior center led the Raiders to their best record (18-5) in school history and a share of the Western Lakes Activities Association regular-season championship.

He averaged 16.7 points, 8.8 rebounds and 2.4 blocks per game, as well as 43 steals on the floor.

Medunjanin shot almost 57 percent from the floor (184-of-290) and sank better than 70 percent of his free throws (50-of-71). He also made six of 19 three-point attempts.

"What he's accomplished in three years is amazing," said North coach Tom Negoshian, who credits assistant coach Pete Mantyla for helping Medunjanin develop into a quality post player. "He's become a student of the game."

"He has very good hands for a kid his size, and he has very quick feet. We'd love to put him on the perimeter a little more, but he's such a great job inside. He shoots the ball extremely well facing the basket as well as posting up."

"He's a sincerely nice young man. Where he's come from and where he's at now in this country, I think he totally appreciates everything he has and his freedom."

Ty Haygood, senior, Westland Glenn: The 6-4 senior center was the Rockets' most consistent inside player averaging 16 points and 11 rebounds per game.

He is a two-year starter.

Haygood, who centers a 3.48 grade point average, has been accepted to the University of Michigan-Dearborn and has applied to Tennessee State.

"Ty is a very intense player, very skilled with a great work ethic," Glenn coach Mike Schutte said. "He came to play every day."

"He's a good big player as I've ever coached."

Haygood also made the All-Western Lakes squad.

Andrew Burt, senior, Farm. Harrison: Burt is a well-rounded player who plays bigger than his 6-foot-2 size and excels in all phases of the game.

He was the leading scorer for Harrison with 15 points per game, but he built his reputation as an aggressive, tenacious rebounder, averaging 9.5.

Burt's leaping ability is evidenced by his second-place finish last week in the

Oakland County slam dunk contest.

Playing in the post, he shot 49 percent from the floor (124-of-252) and 69 percent at the free-throw line (70-of-101). Burt also had 18 blocks and 32 steals.

"He's come a long way since he was a freshman, and he still has a lot of basketball left in him," Harrison coach Mike Teachman said, adding Burt, who has a 3.3 grade point, will continue his career at the next level.

"I think he could step out and play a wing in college. He has a good outside shot, and he can take it to the hole."

"He was the focal point for opposing teams, which tried to stop him. His rebounding ability is pretty amazing for a guy 6-2."

"The next thing about him is he's not a prima donna. He'll dive on the floor for a loose ball and mix it up. He was a vocal and charismatic leader. His passion for the game was endless."

Rypkowski, senior, Plymouth: The 6-foot-5 guard/forward was "our most versatile player all year long," said Brodie. An all-Western Lakes Activities Association selection, Rypkowski led the Rocks in scoring, averaging 16 points a game, and in steals, making three a game. He was also second in rebounds (16.0) and third in assists (2.8), and he was a deadly three-point threat, hitting 42 percent of his shots from beyond the arc.

"Aron can play inside or out," said Brodie. "He's so smooth, he makes his job look easy. If they try to guard him with a guard, he'll go inside. If they try to guard him with a forward, he'll go outside."

Although several schools, including Siena Heights and Aquinas College, have expressed an interest in Rypkowski (he's also a standout in soccer), his plans at present are to attend Michigan State and walk-on in basketball.

## SECOND TEAM

Joe Cortellini, senior, Canton: One of the surprise teams of the year was Plymouth Canton, which remained in the hunt for the WLA title until the final week. And a big reason the Chiefs were so successful — they finished 12-10 overall, 8-3 in the conference — was Cortellini.

The 5-11 guard rattled opposing defenses with his long-range shooting. He averaged 17 points per game, converting 42 percent of his three-point tries and 87 percent of his free throws.

His abilities earned him all-WLA Western Division honors.

But Cortellini wasn't strictly an offensive threat. "He was one of our top defensive players," said Canton coach Dan Young. "He'd guard the top scorer on the other team. The kid meant everything to us."

Cortellini is considering attending, and playing at, Albion, Hope and Kalamazoo College.

Derric Isensee, junior, Plymouth Christian: Eagles' coach Doug Taylor put Isensee on the spot early in the season, calling him "our best player" and a "player to watch."

If Isensee felt any pressure, it never showed. PCA roared to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference championship, won a Class D district title, and reached the regional finals before losing

to finish the season at 21-4.

A large part of their success was due to Isensee's efforts. A 6-4 forward with tremendous leaping ability, Isensee led the Eagles in scoring (16.2 points per game) and rebounding (9.1), was second in steals (2.6) and third in assists (2.7). He hit 53.2 percent of his floor shots, including 40 percent of his three-pointers.

With only two seniors on this season's squad, Isensee will lead a formidable group of Eagles into next season.

Josh Bowen, senior, Redford Thurston: The 5-foot-10 guard started three years on the Thurston varsity. He set a school record this year for most three-point baskets in a season and for highest percentage made: 68 for 122 (56 percent).

Bowen led the team in scoring (17.9 points), assists (4.3) and steals (3.3) per game. He made 43 percent of all his shots (134-of-263) and 23 percent at the free throw line (77-of-102). He also went to the boards well for a guard, grabbing 3.1 rebounds per game.

A three-sport standout who also plays soccer and baseball, he led Thurston to one of its best ever boys basketball seasons, finishing with a 23-2 record and a Gold Division championship.

"He's the best point guard I've coached, as good as we've had at Thurston," Thurston coach Bob Snell said. "He's a great kid, hard worker, played both ends of the court. We counted on his judgment on the floor to do a lot of things. His leadership on the floor is one of the reasons we had the record we did."

Marquez Young, sophomore, Borgess: Young has played on the Borgess varsity since his freshman year and this season his presence was easy to see.

Young, one of the rising stars in the Catholic League and in metro Detroit, averaged 20 points and seven rebounds per game. Borgess coach Roosevelt Barnes believes Young is a potential high Division I college player.

Marquez has a good attitude, works hard," Barnes said. "I think his potential is unlimited. He comes to play every day, is a 'gamer.' He has very good touch 15 feet and in. He has to get stronger, become a better defender and rebounder and run the floor better. He'll be working on his perimeter game, his passing, ballhandling, make him more of a complete player in the next couple years."

Tony Jancovsk, senior, Plymouth Salem: Look at the stat sheet following a Plymouth Salem game, and it would be difficult to understand why opposing coaches said what they said. "They told that, big falls in the middle" was their constant concern.

The 6-foot-8 center didn't compile the most impressive offensive statistics. Jancovsk averaged nine points and nine rebounds a game, leading the Rocks in the latter. But he also averaged two blocks a game and was the defensive anchor for Salem.

"He's not going to be your flashiest player," said Brodie. "He's not going to lead you statistically. But he can be a dominant force defensively. And he always gets double-teamed on offense, which creates opportunities for others."

"Fans don't always see that, but other coaches can."

## ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

## 1999 ALL-OBSERVER

## FIRST TEAM

Nick Moore, 6'1", Catholic Central  
Enir Medunjanin, 6'0", N. Farmington  
Aron Rypkowski, 6'1", Plymouth  
Ty Haygood, 6'4", Westland John Glenn  
Andrew Burt, 6'2", Farmington Harrison

## SECOND TEAM

Derric Isensee, 6'4", Plymouth Christian  
Joe Cortellini, 5'11", Plymouth Canton  
Marcuz Young, 6'5", Sopch, Bishop Borgess  
Josh Bowen, 5'10", Redford Thurston  
Tony Jancovsk, 6'5", Plymouth Salem

## THIRD TEAM

Rob Sparks, 6'3", Catholic Central  
Abert Delapoe, 6'1", N. Farmington  
Adam Wilson, 6'10", Plymouth Salem  
Wesley Shaw, 6'11", Red St. Agatha  
Lemar Wilson, 6'1", Farm. Harrison

## FOURTH TEAM

Eric Jones, 6'0", Westland John Glenn  
Jordan Bridges, 6'5", N. Farmington  
Jamar Derris, 5'10", Wayne Memorial  
Tom Tsoakias, 6'0", Red. Thurston  
Jason Walcott, 6'5", Ply. Canton

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Bob Brodie, Plymouth Salem

## HONORABLE MENTION

Uroslav Chabot, Devin White, John Bennett, Ryan Vickers, Randall Bobel, Uroslav Stewensen, Keshay McChrister, Mary Kennedy, Ryan Tobin, Livonta Franklin, Dustin Kurus, Derek Schema, John Glenn, Bill Foder, Ben Harris, Stephen Woods, Wayne Nathan Wade, Robert Price, Shane Nowak, Lutheran Westland, Charlie Hoff, Ryan Olinger, Tom Heblitz, Karen Valley, Lyburan, Rene Arnel, Clarence, Scott Wilson, Rick Burack, Rick Murphy, Salem, Mike Major, Nate Row, Jim Roddy, Plymouth Christian, Mike Huntman, Jordan Rocco, Evan Gaines, David Carty, Plymouth Agape, Steve Mecklenburg, Julian Wetling, Farmington, Matt Miller, Justin Miller, Chad Seaborn, Harrison, Nick Hall, Dave Petic, N. Farmington, Phil Watta, Matt Reimling, Brian Shuman, Redford CC, Dan Jesa, Matt Lorde, Dave Lusk, Thurston, Casey McKain, Redford Union, Jason Patterson, Matt Ridley, Nick Dyer, Gordon City, Geoff Dickert, Brian Harris, St. Agatha, Dan Bouter, Johnny Lombao, Greg Russell, Borgess, Justin Gieson, Donald Dofake.

**Tune-in Bob Allison's**  
*Ask Your Neighbor*

(WVNZ 690 AM • MON-FRI 9 AM-11 AM)

**Menu Minder • Recipes-Household Hints**  
200 per Year U.S. 12 issues • Send Check Payable to "Ask Your Neighbor" along with your name and address to:  
**Menu Minder**  
P.O. Box 20, Detroit, MI 48231  
www.askyourneighbor.com

**PRO MED MANAGEMENT d.b.a. EVERGREEN COUNSELING CENTERS**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Evergreen Counseling Centers April 26 - April 29, 1999.

Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which is provided. Anyone believing that he/she has relevant information about such matters may request a public information interview with Joint Commission's field representative at the time of the survey. Such requests should be made in writing, indicating the nature of the information, and submitted to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. Send requests to:

**DIVISION OF ACCREDITATION OPERATIONS  
ORGANIZATION LIAISON  
JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS  
ONE RENAISSANCE BLVD  
OAKBROOK TERRACE, IL 60181**

The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform Evergreen of the request. Evergreen will, in turn, notify the interview of the date, time, and place of the meeting. All information presented will be considered in the accreditation decision made by the Joint Commission.

Published: April 4, 1999

**SUGARLOAF 25th ANNUAL NOVI art fair**

APR. 16, 17, 18, 1999

325 ARTISANS WITH OVER 38 CATEGORIES OF FINE ART & CRAFT. POTTERY, CERAMICS, JEWELRY, LEATHER, HANDMADE & BOUTIQUE, SILK & HAND WOVEN CLOTHING, CUSTOM HARDWOOD FURNITURE, CLAY & PORCELAIN POTTERY, BLOWN GLASS VASES & LEADED GLASS PAPER, METAL & WOOD SCULPTURES, FINE ART ORIGINALS & PRINTS, WILDLIFE & SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY, FORGED IRON ACCENTORIES, and much more!

Visit our Specialty Foods section including salsa, vinegars, pickles, pasta, breads/loaves, dips, nut butters, pickled salmon, breads, old fashioned candy and more!

FOR EXHIBITOR LISTINGS & MORE DETAILED DIRECTIONS VISIT [www.sugarloafoffarts.com](http://www.sugarloafoffarts.com)

**FARMER JACK** **HomeTown** **Cherry & Down**

**SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN WORKS, INC.** [www.sugarloafoffarts.com](http://www.sugarloafoffarts.com)

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY 10-6**  
Craft Demonstrations  
Entertainment  
Specialty Food  
All Indoor  
No pete please  
Sensitively recommended  
Daily Admission \$5  
Under 12 FREE  
PARKING FREE  
COMPLIMENTS OF SUGARLOAF

**DIRECTIONS:** Located on I-96 northeast of Detroit at Exit 162. Go south on Novi Road. Turn onto Expo Center Drive.  
During fair only (248) 340-7003

**DISCOUNT ADMISSION COUPONS**  
AVAILABLE AT FARMER JACK  
FROM OUR WEBSITE, OR CALL  
800-210-9900

**BUY ONE TICKET, GET ONE FREE!**

COURTESY OF **Palace Casino Windsor**

**TOMORROW, APRIL 5 @ 8:00 PM VS. INDIANA PACERS**

Please Adult Get to first 4,000 fans.  
Courtesy of **CASINO WINDSOR**

**BATTLE FOR THE CENTRAL DIVISION TITLE!**

**THIS WED., APRIL 7 @ 7:30 PM VS. ATLANTA HAWKS**

Please League Get to first 4,000 fans.  
Courtesy of **Palace Casino Windsor**

**CALL NOW (248) 377-0100**

Please call coupons at the Palace Box Office and receive one FREE ticket for every ticket you purchase at that price. Subject to availability. Coupon not redeemable for cash. Good for \$28, \$22 and \$19 tickets. Good for the following games: Monday, April 5 and Wednesday, April 7.

Visit our website at [www.palaceno.com](http://www.palaceno.com)