



## Spartans win hockey title

The Farmington Hills Spartans are the new champions of the Cleveland Sports Extravaganza Nov. 8-10. The Spartans were 4-0, defeating the Flint Patriots in the opener and the final, each time by 8-0 scores. Between those games, the Spartans beat Brownstown, 8-0, and Lakeland, 5-1. The Spartans are (front row, left to right) Aaron McIntyre, Joel Mattana, James Long, Jake Atkinson, Ben Ferrari; (second row) Matt Zulch, Austin Murtland, Connor Carey, Ryan Carlson, Andrew Rauth, Kyle Abdallah; (third row) head coach Tom Zulch, Derek Gumlisk, Liam Vincent and assistant coaches Randy Abdallah and Bob Mattana.

## FLYERS

FROM PAGE C1  
They were talking among themselves, saying "We're a better team than this, we have to do better." They responded and came through, Vellucci said. "They realize they have to play hard for all three periods."  
The Flyers were scheduled to play the Livonia Churchill-Novi winner in the championship game Saturday night.  
Farmington had a fast start in the opener with West

Bloomfield, scoring all three goals in the first period.  
Chornoby scored at 9:26 with assists by Marc Rauth and Matt Kjellhede. Kjellhede had an unassisted goal on a shot from the point at 3:25, and Mike Hand one-timed a shot from left of the circle for the third goal with Kjellhede and Hay assisting.  
The second period was scoreless. Matt Waskerwitz scored an unassisted goal for the Lakers at 9:59 of the third. Aaron Allor was in goal the

entire game for the Flyers.  
"Everyone has played well early in the year," Vellucci said. "Most of our games are in January and February. We have a lot of practice time in November and December, and that's when we'll work on our systems and everything."  
"It's early in the year. We still have a lot of work to do in practice. We have to work on penalty killing, the power play and 5-on-5 forechecking."

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# Blazers take controversial victory over Blue Jays

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Time stood still for the final 2.9 seconds as far as the Southfield High girls basketball team was concerned Friday night.

But when it was time to hoist the Class A district basketball trophy, Livonia Ladywood was doing the celebrating following a confusing and controversial finish as the host Blazers came away with a 42-41 victory thanks to Amy Jacovetti's rebound basket as the horn sounded.

The injured-riddled Blazers, who captured their seventh district crown in eight years, live to play another day.

Top-ranked and unbeaten Detroit King, the Public School League champion, awaits the 16-5 Blazers in the regional semifinal 7:30 p.m. Monday at Ladywood.

Game officials T.J. Lieckfeld and Bill Baumgart would not comment afterwards after drawing the ire of Southfield interim coach Raphael Peterson, his players and Blue Jay fans.

With 6.7 seconds left in regulation, Southfield guard Jazmin Williamson hit her first free throw to give the Jays a 41-40 lead. The senior missed the second foul shot attempt and a mad scramble ensued resulting in a jump ball.

The possession arrow gave Ladywood the ball out-of-bounds, 10 feet short of the mid-court line, with only 2.9 left.

Stephanie Day's inbound pass was then deflected into the air by Southfield guard Kandace Evans. The ball hit the floor, but squirted back out-of-bounds off Evans' hands.

The clock did not move. Given the ball in the same spot, Day spotted Lauren Hesano cutting toward the basket in the frontcourt. The senior guard gathered the pass, took two dribbles and launched a desperation 35-foot shot as time expired.

## BASKETBALL

The ball never hit the rim, but caromed perfectly to Jacovetti, who was in the right place at the right time, putting the rebound home before the buzzer sounded.

Ironically, it was Jacovetti's only two points of the game. "We had no timeouts left, we wanted Lauren to catch it and shoot it, or drive it to the basket," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "Give Amy credit, she didn't hang around behind the three-point line, she got down on the weakside board. It was good for her to follow the shot."

After the frenzied finish, Peterson, the Southfield coach, walked to the scorer's table and wrote down three names — Lieckfeld, Baumgart and clock operator John Hesano.

"It's unbelievable, it's ridiculous to work that hard and have the game taken away," Peterson said.

The clock operator told me the official didn't put his hand up (to start the clock on the first inbound pass).

"And the last basket shouldn't have counted. She (Hesano) takes two dribbles, puts up a shot and another shot goes up — all in three seconds."

"Why don't they have three refs in the district (tournament) is amazing. Ladywood played well, but they didn't outplay us."

The Blazers jumped out to an 11-1 in the first quarter, but lost junior point-guard Amber Willoughby to a hyperextended knee with 2:14 left in the first quarter. (Another Ladywood standout, Ruth Sventickas, played despite a swollen knee.) Southfield, hitting only 1-of-11 first-period shots, trailed 11-3 but quickly took advantage of Willoughby's absence by going to a full-court press in the second quarter. Evans, the senior guard who led Southfield with 16 points, sparked a second-quarter comeback as the Jays

outscored Ladywood, 17-7. Evans' three-pointer at the halftime buzzer gave the Jays a 20-16 advantage.

Southfield then opened up a 27-19 third-quarter advantage, but Ladywood clawed back to within two, 30-28, despite Kineta Taylor's short bank shot inside the key as time expired.

The Blue Jays seemed to take command of the tightly-contested struggle with 1:05 left on a hoop by Jaria Atkins followed by a free throw by Evans with 44.4 remaining to put Southfield ahead 38-34.

But 6-foot-2 junior center Bethany Jury scored on a rebound, was fouled and converted the free throw to close the gap to 38-37 with 32.4 to go.

The teams then traded turnovers before Williamson, who made several clutch plays down the stretch, nailed a pair of free throws with 30.4 remaining to push the margin back up to 40-37.

Hesano, who had a team-high 11 points along with Jury, came down and connected on a clutch three-pointer with 14.3 to play, knotting the count at 40-40.

That setting the stage for the controversial final 2.9 seconds.

Gorski, who spoke with Lieckfeld and Baumgart afterwards, was given an explanation on why the clock wasn't restarted following Day's first inbound pass.

"The ball never crossed the plane, it had nothing to do with the clock operator," the Ladywood coach said. "It did not get inbounds and that's why (the official) didn't signal for the clock to start."

But for Peterson and his 14-7 Jays, no explanation made sense.

"We executed our game plan, we gave 110 percent," he said. "We fought, we fought it out."

"And to have somebody else involved like that? It's a shame. It wasn't right for them to hold the clock."

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