



Joe Nwankwo, Detroit Country Day; Armando Martin, West Bloomfield; Adrian Schaffer, Rochester Adams; Vova Severovas, Birmingham Groves; Jordan Watson, Birmingham Groves; John Andrews, Orch. Lake St. Mary's

## All-Area basketball

West Bloomfield's Moore named Coach of the Year

BY DAN O'MEARA • STAFF WRITER

In four seasons at West Bloomfield, coach Larry Moore's boys' basketball teams have always been successful, but the Lakers reached a new level of achievement in 2006.

West Bloomfield went the farthest of any team in school history in the state tournament — the Class A semifinals — and finished with a 22-5 record.

Based on that degree of success, Moore was voted the O & E

Coach of the Year by his peers. "This season may be the most gratifying because there wasn't much expected."

all-around at the beginning of the season, Moore said. "We were picked to finish near the bottom of the bracket and the kids would not have the whole year."

They came together, accepted their roles and did everything for the good of the team. "In the successful, we needed to put our ego to the side and every body was willing to do that," he added. "It didn't matter who helped in scoring and rebounding. The most important thing was winning the game. We all had the same common goal."

Besides having talented players, good defense was the primary reason the Lakers had the year they did, according to Moore. "I think it was our defense that caused the most problems for the opponents," he said. "We played defense a lot and were able to hold the other teams' top two players out of the paint. Defense is what got us where we were."

But the Lakers' season Moore's team won 14, 19 and 17 games, giving him a record of 22-5.

The Lakers have won three state titles and played in the O & E Final Four championship game that time.

## Raiders' pair among squad's honorees

The all-senior O & E first team consists of Birmingham Groves' inside-outside duo of Glordon Watson and Vova Severovas, Detroit Country Day's Joe Nwankwo, Rochester Adams' Adrian Schaffer, West Bloomfield's Armando Martin and Orchard Lake St. Mary's John Andrews.

Of the 24 players on the four teams, West Bloomfield led the way with three selections. Adams, Country Day, St. Mary's, North Farmington, Southfield-Lathrup and Groves had two each.

### FIRST TEAM

**Vova Severovas, senior, Groves:** The 6-foot-6 post player was one of the top big men in the metro area, leading the Falcons to a 20-4 record and a runner-up finish in a Class A regional. Severovas was Groves' leading rebounder for three years, during which time

the Falcons won 50 of 59 games, and its leading scorer two years.

He had his most productive season this year, averaging 24 points and 14 rebounds. Throughout his three years on the varsity, he averaged 19 points, 12 rebounds and three blocks per game.

"Vova had a tremendous high school career, and he will continue to progress as a college player," coach Bill Norton said. "He was a legitimate candidate for Mr. Basketball."

**Glordon Watson, senior, Groves:** Watson was the perfect backcourt complement to Severovas' play near the basket.

The 5-foot-10 guard not only directed the offense, averaging six assists per game, but contributed a great deal to it. He was the Falcons' second-leading scorer with an average of 21 points.

Watson finished his prep career in fitting fashion. In four tournament games, he scored 26 points against Oak Park, 24 against Seaholm, 32 against defending state champion Pontiac Northern and 21 against West Bloomfield.

"Glordon is a one-man press breaker, and a prolific scorer," Norton said. "He was a valuable asset to our team."

**Adrian Schaffer, senior, Adams:** Schaffer, who received a Division 1 scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, is the leading scorer in school history.

The 6-foot-3 forward averaged 21.4 points this year, as well as 12.5 rebounds and 4.6 assists. Schaffer finished his career with 1,188 points. He also holds the Adams record for most points in a single game (41).

"Adrian Schaffer is the best player every to play at Rochester Adams," Highlanders coach John Hall said.

**Joe Nwankwo, senior, Country Day:** Nwankwo was a major reason the Yellow Jackets were 21-3 and regional finalist in the Class B tournament.

The 6-foot-7 Nwankwo, a three-year starter headed to Purdue, averaged 16.5 points, 12.3 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 3.8 blocks. He also led the team in taking charges.

"He really developed an overall game this year," DCD assistant coach Joe Playewski said. "I think he was the best inside player in Class B."

"He's a strong, physical player, but the real positive thing is he's a good passer and very unselfish in his ability to move the ball around, because he was constantly double- and triple-teamed."

**Armando Martin, senior, West Bloomfield:** Martin was one of the key players who helped make the Lakers successful, leading his team to the state semis and a 22-5 record.

The 6-foot guard led the Lakers in 3-point shooting and overall scoring. Martin scored 26 points, including six straight triples, in the district championship game and 35 in the regional final.

"Armando has one of the best shooting ranges I've seen in my many years of coaching," coach Larry Moore said. "He is a tough, got-in-your-face type of defender."

Armando is a team leader who sacrificed his game to get others involved. If I had to start a team from scratch, he would be my first pick."

**John Andrews, senior, St. Mary's:** The 6-foot-4 forward was a three-year starter for the Eagles, leading them to a 15-6 record and runner-up finish in the Catholic League tournament.

Andrews averaged 16.5 points and seven rebounds this season. He will attend the University of Michigan on an academic scholarship and will try to make the basketball team as a walk-on.

"He's a strong inside and outside player," coach George Porritt said. "He plays very well in the post, and has a

very nice 3-point shot. He's a very intelligent basketball player."

### SECOND TEAM

**Marcus McComb, senior, North Farmington:** McComb started at point guard for four years, playing in all but two of 66 games during that time.

In his prep career, McComb helped the Raiders win three division titles, including this year's OAA Division III crown, and one league championship (Western Lakes).

The 6-foot senior did a little of everything and was the overall leader of the North team, averaging 13 points, four rebounds, three assists and four steals. He had a single-game high of 29 points.

"In a very quiet and unassuming manner, Marcus had an outstanding high school career as a four-year starter," North coach Tom Negoshian said.

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