

# SPORTS

# C

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STEVE KOWALSKI

## CC hockey is family affair for Ronaynes

Seven-year-old Alyse Ronayne has two brothers and a cousin who played hockey this year for Redford Catholic Central.

Which one was her favorite? "Jamie," she said, referring to her brother Jamie Ronayne, the Shamrocks' senior goalie. "He's the one on the ice a lot."

Alyse watches Barney cartoons more than she analyzes hockey, but trust her opinion. Jamie Ronayne was a fan favorite during the Class A state tournament, almost leading CC to its first state championship since 1974.

Ronayne, who had a 2.27 goals-against average coming into the Final Four, played his best during the state tournament, allowing only 10 goals in six games.

After being held scoreless for two periods earlier this month in Flint, Alpena scored a pair of goals in the last 11:22 to win the Class A crown over CC, 2-1.

Jeff Warholik tied the game 1-1 at 4:33 of the third period, tipping in a shot from the point, and Mike Hickey scored the game winner on a power play at 11:43, slapping the puck past Jamie Ronayne after a scramble in the goal crease.

"The whole year, Jamie was the backbone of our team," CC junior forward Frank Novock said. "He played unbelievable. Unfortunately, we couldn't get another one for him."

Jamie Ronayne got a chance to play full-time this year after last year's starting goalie, Mike Brasseur, opted to play this season with a traveling midjet team. Ronayne's uncle, Timothy Ronayne, played on CC's last state championship team in '74 and was the star of that final, scoring four goals against Birmingham Brother Rice.

For two periods Saturday, Jamie Ronayne was the star.

"It's a goal of anybody to win a state championship and it would have been real nice," said Jamie Ronayne, whose twin brother, Justin, was a forward and cousin Brian was a defenseman at CC. "I tried and gave it 100 percent. That's all I can do. They fought for the puck (on the game-winner) and got it."

### All in the family

Three Ronaynes on the same CC hockey team isn't that unusual, considering 13 Ronaynes from three generations have played for the Shamrocks over the last six decades.

The Ronaynes' grandfather, John J. Ronayne, and his brother, James J. Ronayne, played on the first CC hockey team in the 1930s. John Ronayne, who later was CC's team physician for 37 years, had six sons who played hockey at CC during the 1960s and '70s.

Pat Ronayne, the father of Jamie and Justin, played and graduated from CC in 1966. His brother, John III, played and graduated in 1964 and is the father of current CC player Brian Ronayne. Other Ronayne players included Mike, class of '66; Dan, '75; Brendan, '78; and Matthew, '80.

"In my family, two things were certain: We played hockey and we attended Catholic Central," said Pat Ronayne, who was the interim coach this past season at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

The older Ronaynes have coached their sons at various youth levels and were thrilled to watch them get regular shifts this season. Then to watch them almost win a state championship, well, that was even more special.

"It gave me a thrill when they introduced Jamie as the goalie, knowing dad did it (played goalie) some odd years ago," Pat said. "We enjoy this immensely. John and I have an awful lot of pride in our kids, and it's even more enjoyable to watch them (than play)."

The Ronaynes should remember the finer things of '93 instead of the loss in the final. Among them, the 4-3 overtime victory over Livonia Stevenson; a pair of wins over Rice, one in the regional final; and the 3-2 win over Port Huron in the quarterfinal.

"The last week was somewhat nerve-racking, but it was a lot of fun," said John Ronayne.

### Keeping in touch

CC plays an exhibition game every year, featuring an alumni team against the varsity. This year's alumni had seven Ronaynes playing for it against the varsity and its trio of Ronaynes.

"There was a lot of joking going on, and when we left the ice, I said, 'Thanks for organizing a scrimmage for our family,'" Pat Ronayne said.

The three Ronaynes on this year's team will join the alumni, and it might be a while before there is another on the CC varsity roster.

Based on past results, it'll be worth the wait.



It's been a special year for Our Lady of Sorrows athletics, arguably the best in school history. The Saints have won CYO championships in football and boys basketball. Could a baseball, track or lacrosse title be next?

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington Our Lady of Sorrows has done it again, giving new meaning to the phrase back-to-back championships.

Having won the CYO football title last fall, the Catholic grade school has captured the boys basketball championship, too.

Of the 12 basketball players also were members of the football team, and the Saints were undefeated in both sports (32-0).

"It's been a magical year," Sorrows basketball coach Terry Griffin said. "I told the kids they had a chance to make a lifetime memory and they did. They should be proud of themselves."

"It's a rare feat for one school to

win football and basketball championships in the same year, and we're very proud of it."

The Sorrows basketball players are eighth-graders Greg Call, Robby Domol, John Daguanno, Dave Carlson, Mike Murray, Kyle Zajdel and Joe Esselien; seventh-graders Joe Clinton, Matt Weisa, Eric West, Colleen Killeen and Pat Duggan. Bernie Call served as assistant coach.

The Saints (23-0) won their own Thanksgiving tournament, the Catholic Central Christmas tournament and their division of the CYO.

Sorrows won the post-season tournament 60-38 over St. Clair Shores St. Joan of Arc March 14 in the Gross Pointe St. Paul gymnasium.

The Saints won their only previous

CYO title in 1976 when former Birmingham Brother Rice and University of Notre Dame star Tim Andree played for Sorrows.

"We were never challenged all year in terms of scoring," Griffin said. "Against most teams, we could have made the score whatever we wanted, but I always played all my kids."

"I am very proud of the kids. We set goals to win the two tournaments, the league and the CYO championship, and we were able to accomplish those goals."

Call, a 5-foot-11 guard who also was the quarterback on the football team, led the Saints with 20 points and 10 rebounds per game. He scored 18 points in the final.

The 6-2 Domol played center and had a big game in the final with 12 points, five blocks and 12 rebounds. Domol, who averaged 10 points and seven rebounds, improved a lot and gained confidence this year, Griffin said.

Carlson and Daguanno started at forwards and averaged 12 and six points, respectively. Clinton played

point guard and is a great ball handler and defensive player, Griffin said.

Carlson sprained an ankle the day before the final and couldn't play. He was replaced in the starting lineup by Zajdel, who shut down the other team's best scorer and also scored eight points.

"We had a very quick team and used a high-pressure defense," Griffin said. "When we got the other team rattled, we got a lot of turnovers and points in transition."

"We were a very strong rebounding team. With Robby, Greg, Dave and John, we had four strong rebounders. They're husky, well-built kids who can box out, get a putback or get the ball out to the guards."

In the district tournament, the Saints defeated Orchard Lake Our Lady of Refuge 65-11 and Livonia St. Edith 50-25; in the regional, Livonia St. Michael 52-27 and Northville Our Lady of Victory 46-34. Sorrows won the West Side championship with a 47-20 win over Allen Park Cabrini.

## Cass Tech ousts Catholic Central

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

The weatherman might not be ready for the start of baseball, but Redford Catholic Central's Brian Paluk finally is.

Paluk's high school basketball career came to an end Friday night as Detroit Cass Tech defeated CC, 73-49, in a Class A regional final played at Southfield High School.

Paluk, expected to be one of CC's top pitchers on the baseball diamond, was held to 13 points on six-of-17 shooting and only six rebounds before fouling out with 3:13 remaining. But member Paluk for the way he led the inexperienced Shamrocks to a 15-10 overall record despite losing All-Observer first-team players Bob Kummer and Chard Varga to graduation.

Jeff Gutt, Marc Gondak and Eric Justice also played their last game.

"Brian played maybe three to five minutes his freshman year, breaks his hand his junior year and misses almost the entire season, then this year comes out of nowhere to be the heart and soul of the team," Halowick said. "He was 'Mr. Everything' for us. He was a great player in the CC tradition and is a great person, one of the most likable kids in school."

Cass Tech forced 22 CC turnovers and held the Shamrocks to 16-of-50 shooting (32 percent).

CC made only three-of-16 shots in the first quarter but was feeling pretty good about trailing only 26-22 at halftime. Cass pulled away in the third quarter, outscoring CC 18-4 for a 44-26.

CC made only 2-13 shots and had seven turnovers in the third quarter. Howard White and Derrick Dial each

scored six points in the third quarter for the Technicians, who ended the quarter with a 12-0 run.

"We made a good run but got carved up today," Halowick said.

"We should get more three-pointers a quarter, and let's be about it. They trapped us all over and we held the ball, didn't hit the open man, and when we did go to the open man, we wouldn't go to the basket. Cass knows all the tricks of the trade and is very savvy."

Andy Slankater scored nine points on 3-9 shooting for CC, and Gutt played strong off the bench with six points and six rebounds.

Cass Tech coach Robert Shannon said the Technicians didn't use special strategy to guard Paluk. The 21-4 Technicians have played good defense all year, holding opponents to a 34-percent shooting and an average of 56 points per game. Cass has been playing without its best inside player, John Morrison, since he broke his arm in the first district game.

"Defensive tenacity and our togetherness is the key, they believe they can win," Shannon said. "We didn't play him (Paluk) any differently than we played Benton Harbor's Corey Childs or Pershing's big fella (Willie Mitchell). We play them all the same."

CC sophomore guard Damien Baskerville didn't start but played about three quarters. Baskerville missed Wednesday's game against Dearborn after being ruled academically ineligible by CC. But he was reinstated for Friday's game.

Halowick said, because he finished an incomplete assignment in one of his courses.

Baskerville is the most impressive of 12 players off the varsity who will remain.



ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gutt play: Redford Catholic Central senior forward Jeff Gutt (with ball) grabs one of his six rebounds in Friday's Class A regional final loss to Detroit Cass Tech at Southfield High School.

## Marian runner-up in Class A volleyball

BY MARTY BUDNER  
STAFF WRITER

Birmingham Marian's high-speed chase toward its first state volleyball championship hit a treacherous road when it was eliminated by Portage Northern. Of course, it wasn't as if the Mustangs were unaware of the many danger signs lurking along the expressway to the Class A title.

Portage Northern, the defending Class A state champ, was ranked No. 1 all year and entered the championship tilt against Marian with an incredible 72-1 overall record. Its only loss was to Combie High, which captured the state Class B crown a few minutes prior to Marian's Class A match-up with Northern Saturday afternoon at Kalamazoo Central High School.

The Mustangs met the Huskies on one other occasion this year, falling to them in straight games. They knew Northern was the team to beat and were determined to aro better this time around.

They did give the Huskies a better match. But the results were the same.

Northern rode off with its sixth state title — all since 1982 — with a 15-0, 15-9 smothering of the Mustangs. Marian finished its season with a 42-9-2 overall record, plus district and regional titles.

The Mustangs were Northern's best shot.

"This was our goal — to get to the state championship," said Deigel. "A lot of people didn't expect us to get this far."

"We peaked at the right time and when you get to the state finals you're going to give it your best

shot," she said. "I thought with all of our experience we could beat them, and that would have been nice. At least we played better against them this year than we did the last time."

Marian coach Tracy Jones said the Mustangs were confident coming into the championship match, even though the Huskies were overwhelming favorites playing practically in their home gym.

"We had a lot more hunger to win today and, I could beat them," said Jones, whose team defeated Gross Pointe South in Friday's quarterfinals and Fraser in Saturday morning's semifinals to reach the title game.

"They were excited to get into the finals. It's disappointing that the season's over because we really had a good year," she said.

Marian fell behind early in the first game and never recovered. The Mustangs trailed 7-1 and never got closer than four points the rest of the way.

The second game was a different story. Sophomore Julie Storen served two straight points and the lead see-sawed for nearly the entire game. Neither team could get on a roll.

The Mustangs went up 6-5 on a Stephanie Storen serve, but that marked their last lead of the season. The teams then tied at 7 before Portage Northern hit three straight points behind the serving of Jenny Maurer for a 10-7 lead. On each of those serves, Marian players made decisions not to play balls that barely landed in bounds.

Jones said fatigue might have been a factor in those decisions, which proved to be a crucial part of

the match.

"We might have been tired. They weren't expecting the ball to come to them and they were standing up at times," said Jones. "They were just watching instead of playing the ball, and they know that."

Marian rallied to come within two points at 9-11; but Northern scored the next four points to win. The final point — a slam kill by Maurer — was served and set up by peppy little Heather Magelssen.

The Mustangs had no defense against the swarming, relentless Huskies' attack. Northern outkilled Marian, 34-27, and also posted four more service aces (6-4).

"I think we played great. I think we played at a level that the kids worked for so hard all year," she said. "It's very tough to defend against them. They have such explosive arm speed and they put the ball wherever they want to put it, basically."

"But I thought we did a good job," she said. "We were scrappy and we didn't let the ball hit without a body next to it. We didn't serve well, but the level of play in other areas exceeded what we did serving-wise."

Stephanie Storen, who paced the Mustangs all weekend, had a team-high 12 kills. Her sister, Julie, had seven kills and a team-high 10 digs, while Deigel finished with nine kills and seven assists. Amanda Baranski added nine assists.

Kerry Ginter and Jennifer Magelssen combined for 17 of Northern's 34 kills.