

# Area's top cagers lauded

## ALL-AREA

### 1997-98 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

**FIRST TEAM**  
 Chris Young, G-11 senior, Catholic Central  
 Aaron Jessup, G-4 senior, Bishop Borgosa  
 Trevor Gaines, G-6 senior, Farmington  
 Nick Moore, G-1 junior, Catholic Central  
 Brian Williams, G-2 senior, Wayne Mem.

**SECOND TEAM**  
 Andy Power, S-5 senior, Plymouth Salem  
 Matt Derocher, G-4 senior, Farmington  
 Sam Hoskin, G-6 senior, Bishop Borgosa  
 Jeff McKlan, G-4 senior, Plymouth Salem  
 Eric Jones, G-1 sophomore, Wald, Glenn

**THIRD TEAM**  
 Joe Jones, G-1 senior, Catholic Central  
 Kevin Jordan, G-6 senior, Bishop Borgosa  
 Joe Coratti, S-10 junior, Plym. Canton  
 Ian Wincher, G-3 senior, Red. St. Agatha  
 Josh Goven, S-9 junior, Redford Thurston

**FOURTH TEAM**  
 Don Slavaster, G-4 senior, Catholic Cent.  
 Ray Louisa, S-10 senior, North Farmington  
 Kaseem Smart, G-6 senior, Farm. Harrison  
 Stephen Lawton, G-9 junior, Wald, Glenn  
 Wesley Shaw, G-9 junior, Red. St. Agatha

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
 Bob Brodie, Plymouth Salem

### HONORABLE MENTION

Redford CC: Rob Sparks, Dave Luky; Salem: Gavin Patel, Matt Mafi, Tony Jancavski, Tony Bernhardt; Borgosa: James Williams, Wayne; Farmington: Redrick Bonkins, Ford Holloway, Jemar Davis, Glenn; Yaku Motion, Ty Higgood, Reggie Spearman, Bill Fodor; Harrison: Jared Hopkins, Andrew Burt, Jerrod Johnson, Brian Lewis, Lemar Wilson; Farmington: Justin Mirra, Matt Orr, Matt Mikel; North Farmington: Eric Medugno, Dan Singer, Alan Pennala; Churchill: Corey Cook, Erik Uhinger, Lemar Smith, Justin Jakes, George Hillard; Franklin: Brian Facione, Eddie Wallace, Nick Mongeau; Canton: Eric Larson, Dan McLean; St. Agatha: Eric Jones, Donavan Allen; Redford Union: Rick Dyc, Eric Smith; Thurston: Bryan Swan, Gordon City; Mike Wrobel; Clarksville: Justin Villanueva; Albert: Deloisovic; Brewster: Bryan Schlar, Marty Kennedy; Lutheran Westland: Brad Woodhise, Hume Valley; Lutheran: Jeremy Cain, Tom Husby; Ply. Canton: Derric Isansee, Scott Catty, Chris Brandon, Jordan Rose; Apple Christian: Paul Antler, Steve Mecklenburg, Rick Guttersch.

For the first time since 1993, no Observerland boys basketball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the state tournament. But that doesn't mean the 1997-98 season lacked excitement.

Redford Catholic Central advanced to the Class A regional finals before losing to Detroit Cass Tech in a double-overtime thriller, 116-115.

Wayne Memorial, which reached the state semifinals the last two years, was eliminated in the district finals by Moga Concoro rival Belleville, 51-49. Belleville was the eventual Class A champion.

Plymouth Salem was the top team in the Western Lakes Activities Association, winning both the regular-season and tournament championships.

Farmington High was the only WLAA-Observerland team to win a district title, losing in its bid to repeat as Catholic League C-D champion.

Redford St. Agatha enjoyed a fine season, winning a Class D district title and losing in its bid to repeat as Catholic League C-D champion.

Redford Bishop Borgosa, the defending Class C state champion, forgot a rough start by winning the Catholic League A-B Division championship.

The Spartans also won a district title before losing to eventual Class C champion Detroit DePores in the regional final.

Salem's Bob Brodie is the Coach of the Year after leading the Rocks to a 19-4 record.

### FIRST TEAM

Chris Young, senior, Redford CC: A University of Michigan signee, Young saved his best for last, scoring a career-high 39 points with 20 rebounds and 12 blocks in a loss to Detroit Cass Tech in the regional final.

A two-year starter, the 6-foot-10 center averaged 18.8 points, 12.7 rebounds and five blocks. He shot 60 percent from the field and 68 percent at the free-throw line.

The student Young made since his freshman year "were a 200 percent improvement," coach Rick Coratti said.

"He came in as a gangly, skinny freshman, about 6-5; he had to catch up

## BASKETBALL

to himself," Coratti said. "His strongest asset is the way he runs the floor, the way he moves for a big kid. He altered a lot of shots."

Aaron Jessup, senior, Bishop Borgosa: The three-year starter is a repeat selection on the first team. The two-time MVP averaged 22.5 points, seven rebounds, two assists and one steal. He also had a flare for the dramatic, making a jump shot before the buzzer to beat Harper Woods Notre Dame and send the Spartans into the Catholic League championship game.

Jessup scored more than 1,000 career points and has drawn interest from the University of Detroit and Eastern Michigan.

"A.J. is a tremendous athlete and scorer; he can shoot, go to the basket, rebound," Borgosa coach Roosevelt Barnes said. "He's a clutch scorer. Late in the game you want to have the ball in A.J.'s hands."

Trevor Gaines, senior, Farmington: Gaines was a three-year varsity starter for the Falcons (15-8) but blossomed into one of the area's most outstanding players as a senior.

The 6-foot-6, 210-pound center made dramatic improvement between the last two seasons and stepped up his game, averaging an impressive 21 points and 15 rebounds per game. He has accepted a Division I scholarship offer from the University of Vermont.

Gaines never issued a score in double figures this year, scoring 20 plus in 14 of 23 games. He had a season high of 35 points against South Lyon.

He exceeded 20 rebounds in six games and had a season best of 24 against Plymouth Salem in the WLAA playoffs.

"Trevor is one of the finest young men I have had the pleasure to work with in my 27 years of coaching," Farmington coach Denny Mikel said.

"He made the most improvement of any player in one season that I have ever seen. Trevor is a leader on and off the court, and he has worked hard to develop himself into a Division I player."

Since 1991, Gaines is Farmington's career leader in games played (49), field goals (295), points (738), scoring average (55.3), rebounds (560) and blocked shots (99).

Nick Moore, junior, Redford CC: Moore is an excellent playmaker, averaging eight assists per game, but he had people talking about his ability to score — from everywhere — in the state tournament.

Moore made his last 29 free throws, including two to tie Southfield in the final seconds of a district game. He

decided that outcome by buying a desperation half-court shot just before time expired.

Moore averaged 16.4 points, shooting 51 percent from the field, including 41 percent from the point range. He made 75 of 85 free-throw attempts.

"Almost every time we scored he was a part of it," Coratti said. "His floor leadership is great; he's just a great kid. It seems like he's been around forever, because we brought him up (to the varsity) as a freshman. He's always been a good shooter, but he's one of those kids who gets others involved and sometimes overlooks shots."

Brian Williams, senior, Wayne: He averaged 18.4 points, 3.7 rebounds, 2.4 steals and two assists for the Zebras, who played in the tough Meridian Division against the likes of River Rouge, Romulus and Belleville.

Williams ended his career with a 29-point effort in a 51-49, district final loss to Belleville. He had a career-high 31 against Romulus.

"I really believe Brian is one of the best I've ever coached," Wayne's Chuck Henry said. "He had an outstanding career and played a key role on our team last year (when Wayne finished 24-2 and reached the Class A semi)."

He was clearly our MVP, a great captain and a great leader. He played hurt two or three games with a bad knee, but he played through it and you wouldn't have known it."

### SECOND TEAM

Andy Power, senior, Plymouth Salem: A returnee to the All-Observers team, Power's worth to the Rocks became evident when he injured his ankle in a 65-64 victory over Westland John Glenn in the WLAA playoff final.

Power was never quite at full speed in the state tournament, which consequently led to a loss in the district final to Northville.

His worth showed in more than scoring, although Power led Salem in that category, averaging 43 points in a game. He also led the Rocks in steals (2.8 per game) and was second in assists (3.5).

"He was a good, all-around player," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "He was as strong defensively as he was offensively."

Matt Derocher, senior, Harrison: Derocher was a four-year varsity player for the Hawks, who were 18-4 this year and 35-9 the last two.

Derocher (6-4, 235) was the leading scorer on a balanced Harrison team, averaging nearly 30 points a game, and was second in rebounds with 5.3.

Derocher shot 39 percent from the field, making 78 of 201 shots, including 26 of 87 three-point attempts. He sank 74 percent of his free throws (34-of-46).

He ends his career as the second leading scorer in school history with 908 points. He averaged 10.6 points and nearly six rebounds.

During his career, he made 44 percent of his field goals (230-of-751), 39 percent of his three-point tries (100-of-277) and 71 percent of his free throws (142-of-200).

Derocher, who will likely play at Albion College next season, is the all-time Harrison leader in threes made and attempted, and he is second in career defensive rebounds (355).

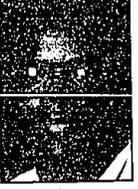
"He developed into quite a complete player," coach Mike Teichman said. "He came in as a shooter and left a basketball player who was very concerned



Chris Young Catholic Central



Aaron Jessup Bishop Borgosa



Trevor Gaines Farmington



Nick Moore Catholic Central



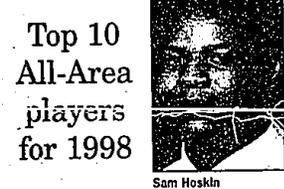
Brian Williams Wayne Memorial



Andy Power Plymouth Salem



Matt Derocher Farmington Harrison



Sam Hoskin Bishop Borgosa



Jeff McKlan Plymouth Salem



Eric Jones Westland John Glenn



Bob Brodie Plymouth Salem coach

## Top 10 All-Area players for 1998

with winning. He understood it was a team game.

"This was not a stat year for anybody on our team. This was a team year. He was playing with a team load of players. But he might have been the one player people on other teams were trying to stop."

The last shot of Derocher's prep career was a made three to force a 41-41 tie with Farmington in the district final. Farmington eventually won the game, 43-41.

"The most telling factor was the number of big shots he made to win or tie games," Teichman said. "He always hit the big shot and wanted to take it."

Sam Hoskin, senior, Bishop Borgosa: Hoskin, who signed with Eastern Kentucky University, averaged 19 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots per game. He was a three-year starter for the Borgosa varsity.

"He was a dominant player for us inside, a tough kid," Barnes said. "He can shoot the three, too. The only reason he didn't is we needed his inside presence."

Jeff McKlan, senior, Plymouth Salem: Perhaps the most expedient thing to do, when trying to describe McKlan's game, would be to simply repeat the stuff said about his teammate, Power.

Not that they were the same kind of player. How could they be, when McKlan stands a half-foot taller? But they share similar attributes, and that's what made Salem such a success this season.

Salem was second on the team in scoring (13 points per game) and rebounding (six), and he led the Rocks in assists (four).

Eric Jones, sophomore, John Glenn: A starter since his freshman year, Jones has already surpassed the 600-point mark at Glenn.

He averaged 15 points for the Rocks and scored 29 and 26 points in two WLAA playoff games.

"One of the things you can safely say about Eric is that he was a leader on the floor, which is uncommon as a sophomore," Glenn assistant coach Todd Deluca said. "We was our goto guy; he made things happen for other guys around him. He was unselfish."



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