

# Warriors take aim at conference title

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Lutheran High Westland has never won a Metro Conference boys basketball championship, but that could be changing soon.

The Warriors appear to be more than contenders after running their overall record to 10-1 and 6-0 in the Metro with a 49-41 win Tuesday at Livonia Clarenceville.

They'd like to hang a boys basketball banner inside their gym. "We've won conference titles in a lot of other sports," fifth-year coach Dan Ramthun said. "We knew this year it would be wide open. We've certainly set our sights on it. We'll see where we stand next Tuesday (Feb. 6 at home) against Harper Woods. That's going to be a good matchup for us."

Using their height advantage, Lutheran Westland got out of the gate fast against a depleted Clarenceville squad, which lost three of its top six players Monday to academic ineligibility.

The Warriors led 16-8 after one quarter and 30-15 at half-time. "Nate Meekes, a 6-foot-7 senior center, had eight first-quarter points, while his 6-6 sophomore brother, Josh, added six first-half points."

"With this team we really want to pound it inside," Ramthun said. "And our selfishness is a nice treat. The first thing is that we're selfish. The second thing is we try to play good man-to-man defense and the third thing is that we have some smart kids — 11 of the 12 are on the honor roll. Those are the pluses of this year's team."

Clarenceville got as close as 10 early in the third period when Adam Carpenter, a 6-3 junior, made a steal and was fouled converting a layup. His free throw cut the deficit to 30-20 with 6:28 to go in the period, but the Trojans never got any closer.

Three consecutive baskets by junior Luke Kasten during the final 2:15 of the period pushed the Warriors' advantage back to 20 points, 42-22.

"Lutheran Westland is very fundamental," Clarenceville

## BASKETBALL

first-year coach Kevin Murphy said. "They make good passes, they're big and they're well coached. You could tell right away they're very disciplined."

Clarenceville, which dropped to 4-7 overall and 1-4 in the Metro, outscored Lutheran Westland 17-7 in the final quarter to make it respectable.

The Trojans committed 19 turnovers and shot 18 of 49 from the floor (36.7 percent).

"Eligibility hit us hard yesterday, it's getting frustrating," Murphy said.

Meanwhile, the Warriors were 22 of 52 from the floor (42.3) and had 18 turnovers.

Josh Meekes led the Warriors with 14; Nate contributed 12. Kasten and Brent Habitz added 10 and eight, respectively.

"Habitz and Kasten are our captains, they're juniors, and they're really good leaders and that makes a difference," Ramthun said. "Our seniors are also real positive and have done a good job."

"We don't have a big scorer. Every night it's somebody different because we can rotate six or eight guys."

Scott Wien, a 6-4 senior center closing in on the 1,000-point mark, led Clarenceville with 16, while junior forward Tim Shaw had 11. Carpenter finished with 10.

"We knew Shaw and Wien were their key guys, they're their two big scorers," Ramthun said. "We didn't do anything special against them, we just went straight man-to-man and had a big guy help out on Wien."

JOHN GLENN 54, CANTON 44: A flurry of free throws in the fourth quarter Tuesday night enabled the visiting Rockets to dump the Chiefs.

Westland John Glenn went 6-for-7 from the line, including all four Darrell Smith shot. Overall, the Rockets missed only three of 15 free throws.

Brent Bogie led John Glenn (3-3, 2-4) with 17 points and Anthony Harrell scored nine.

Jerry Gaines led the Chiefs (5-7, 4-2) with 16 points. Canton went 7-for-12 from the line, Glenn led, 29-21, at half-time and added two points to that total after three periods.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM LEWIS

Going to the hoop: Six-foot-6 sophomore Josh Meekes makes a layup as Clarenceville's Scott Wien looks on.

SALEM 66, FRANKLIN 52: No wonder the snow was melting outside the Franklin gym — Salem was scorching things up inside the building.

Salem made 27 of its 38 shots Tuesday. And when the Rocks missed, they got the rebound and did something with it. Salem held a 20-17 lead after one period of the WLAA game and stretched

it to 43-30 by halftime. Salem helped itself by making 12-of-14 free throws, too.

Sophomore Dave Hoskins led the Rocks (4-8, 4-2) with 21 points and Nick Tochman added 14.

Joe Ruggiero scored 29 points to lead the Patriots (4-8, 2-4). Franklin went 14-for-19 from the free throw line.

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"I don't know if surprise is the word," North coach Tom Negoshian said. "We're just really pleased with how hard we're playing."

"If you play hard, sometimes good things happen. We tell the kids 'Keep the effort coming, and it will keep working for us.'"

The Raiders have a big ballgame Friday when they visit second-place Farmington in a key WLAA contest.

"They're a very good," Negoshian said. "We're going to have to play very well and hope they have an off-night to beat Farmington."

The Raiders had it going their way Tuesday at Churchill, leading 24-18 at halftime and outscoring the Chargers in the third quarter, 18-8.

Miko Leach scored a game-high 17 points to lead North, which played without Brian Joki (ankle injury) and had limited time from Jason Neal (hip).

Blair Weiss contributed 15 points and six rebounds, and Marcus McComb added seven points and five steals. The Raiders were 12-of-18 at the line.

Will Pendergrass scored 13 points and Brandon Daiklinski 10 for the Chargers, who made four of nine free throws.

"The kids really did a nice job off the bench," Negoshian said. "They really gave us a great effort."

## Hawks lose ground

Farmington Harrison's team intensity slipped a little Tuesday night, and visiting Livonia Stevenson capitalized for a 48-38 victory.

The Hawks, who went to overtime last week with the Walled Lake teams — two of the best in the WLAA, scored the first six points of the second half to take a 23-20 lead.

But the Spartans scored the last nine of the third quarter to go into the fourth holding a 36-28 advantage.

Harrison had a 28-27 lead with less than two minutes to play in the third, however, Stevenson dominated the final 90 seconds.

Junior guard Chris Severnson and senior center, Bob

Zapalski combined for eight of the nine points for the Spartans, who are 3-3 in the WLAA and 5-7 overall.

Severnson finished with a game-high 14 points and Zapalski 12. Stevenson made 13 of 14 free throws but was just 3-of-3 in the second half.

"We didn't play with the same intensity as we did the two Walled Lake schools," Harrison coach Dave Turnquist said.

"That's what is disappointing, because I thought we had begun to understand what makes us tick. That's just working hard and we didn't."

"We don't seem to show that kind of focus when we're at home."

LeDarius Brown scored nine points and Marvin Hicks eight to lead the Hawks, who made seven of 13 free throws. Hicks also had nine rebounds.

Harrison, 0-8 in the WLAA and 2-10 overall, was minus junior guard Terrill Mayberry, who missed the game due to badly bruised ribs.

At some point during the season, all five Harrison starters have been injured and out of the lineup.

## Six shooters spark CC

Redford Catholic Central only had six players score against the University of Detroit-Jesuit on Tuesday.

Clarenceville's double figures as the Shamrocks stopped the Cubs, 78-60.

"We had good balance from our inside, outside game," CC assistant coach John Mulroy said. "To get our two post players (Ryan Clark and Ryan Murphy) in double figures for us is huge."

"We didn't hit any three-pointers in the first quarter, but we hit three in the second and it got us going. We kept stretching and stretching the lead."

Ryan Celeaky led the Shamrocks (5-1 Catholic League Central Division, 10-3 overall) with 23 points.

Clark and Mark Willsoughby had 12 each, Anthony Coratti 11 and Tom Jakacki and Murphy 10 each.

Joel Woods paced U-D (2-4, 7-6) with 14 points and Chris Page added 11.

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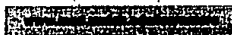
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