

GC East Faces Chiefs In Quarterfinals



By TOM DONOGHUE
Observer Sports Editor

And then there was one . . . Garden City East captured the regional cage championship over Detroit Northwestern, 55-51, to remain the lone Observersland school in the dash for the state title.

Brother Rice was the only other school that made it as far as the regional finale, but the Warriors fell to Pontiac Central, 31-45.

Now its on to the state quarterfinals with East pitted against Pontiac Central on Thursday (March 16), at Ferrdale High with tipoff time at 7:30 p.m.

THIS WILL BE the second time in five years that Billy Joe Young's Panthers have fought to the quarterfinals. East lost to Catholic Central in 1968, 77-59.

Pontiac Central stands 18-2 for the season with two losses against the No. 1 team in the state . . . Flint Northern. East boasts a 17-4 mark with two of the losses against Inkster in the Mid-Wayne conference.

"Central is an extremely fast team," said Coach Young. "The tallest member of its squad is only 6-3 but they can really jump."

"We are definitely the underdogs but we are far from being outmached."

East was off target in the shooting department against Northwestern, hitting on 19 of 37 for 33 per cent. But the Panthers more than made up for their poor shooting with an all-around effort on defense, on the boards, and in ball-handling.

THE PANTHERS outrebanded Northwestern,

34 to 26, with Dave Jackson hauling in nine and Jack Hayes collecting eight. Jeff DelHarte and John Grigal picked off seven apiece.

Northwestern's 6-7 Mike Wilson totaled 17 rebounds but the balanced Panther effort proved best at the final buzzer. Northwestern hit on 23.58 from the floor for 39 per cent.

East's 6-0 guard Jack Hayes was the real sparkplug in the Panther assault with 23 points. Hayes hit on six of 16 from the floor and made good 11 of 12 from the charity line.

The Panther scoring stand-out 6-4 Jackson sprained his wrist with two minutes elapsed on a fall to the court. The sprain was to his shooting hand but Dave managed to hit on six of 21 from the floor to raise his season total to 515 points.

Jackson won the opening tip against Wilson and the Panthers threw the ball up four times without a score. Northwestern finally hauled in a rebound and Ron Bonds put the Colts up, 2-0. Hayes hit a freethrow for East but Wilson tossed in three quick buckets and Northwestern went up, 8-1.

The Panthers finally found the range with Grigal scoring a freethrow and tipping in a rebound. A Hayes freethrow narrowed it to 12-9 after one quarter.

Northwestern was using its full court press, switching into a man-to-man defense after East crossed center court. East was having trouble breaking the press and all indications were pointing to the likes of Northwestern's victories over Redford Union and Walled Lake Central.

East broke the press in the early moments of the second quarter with Grigal and

Randy Mastako cutting the margin to one point. Jackson hit two from the line to narrow the gap to 16-15, and Wilson put Northwestern back up by two on a toss from the line. Jackson collected his third foul with only two minutes gone in the second quarter.

The Panthers broke the contest wide open with 10 straight points. Hayes hit for six, DelHarte popped in one from the corner, and Jackson added a field goal and with 37 seconds remaining in the half, East was in command, 25-17.

Northwestern closed the halftime margin to four points on buckets by Wilson and Jim Johnson, but East was on top, 25-21.

MIDWAY THROUGH the third quarter, East was picking up momentum and led 38-33. Mark Mayberry picked up a hot hand for Northwestern and scored the last eight points of the quarter and the Panther fans found it hard to believe that the margin was sliced to 42-39, and Northwestern moving.

In addition to Young's worries, Jackson had picked up his fourth foul with 1:38 remaining in the quarter.

Hayes put East back up by five with three quick points but with 1:34 on the clock . . . Mayberry tipped in a rebound and the score was tied at 49-49.

Jackson then popped in a two - pointer, putting East up, 51-49. He missed two from the line afterwards but DelHarte came up with the rebound and passed off to Hayes.

Hayes was fouled and with 12 seconds remaining and two points up . . . he made two from the line making it 53-49. Wilson drive down court and sliced it to 55-51.

Northwestern was forced into a foul situation and Hayes

went to the line. He popped in two more giving East a four point advantage and Northwestern couldn't get off another shot.

Now its the state quarterfinals with the winner of the Pontiac Central-GC East clash meeting the winner of the Allen Park - Lansing Sexton battle in Ann Arbor on Saturday (March 18), in the state semifinals.



GC EAST MENTOR — Billy Joe Young and his cagers will be in quarter-final action Thursday (March 16) against Pontiac Central. (Observer photo)

GARDEN CITY EAST

G	F	P	
Grigal	3	3	9
Hayden	0	0	0
Jackson	6	0	12
DelHarte	2	3	7
Hayes	6	11	23
Mastako	2	0	4
Totals	19	17	55

NORTHWESTERN

G	F	P	
Bonds	2	0	4
Johnson	1	0	2
Jones	1	0	2
Mayberry	12	2	26
Wilson	5	3	13
Heaves	1	0	2
Tyler	1	0	2
Totals	23	5	51

Score by quarters:

GC EAST	NORTHWESTERN
9	16
17	13
55	51

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