

North, South girls hoops have early exits

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Twelfth-seeded Williamsville North gave fifth-seeded Clarence all they could handle in the Section VI Class AA prequarterfinals on Feb. 20 but in the end, the Lady Red Devils proved too tough, winning 54-49.

The Lady Spartans cut Clarence's lead to 48-46 with 1:10 remaining but was called for traveling. Clarence, who was 10 of 13 from the free throw line in the fourth and 20 of 31 overall, hit their free throws down the stretch to close out the victory.

Coincidentally, North never went to the foul line once during the game.

"I had never seen that before in my life," said North coach Mike DelValle. "We fouled them but some fouls were missed on the other end but it didn't cost us the game. Late, it was kind of frustrating but they outplayed us. It was just odd how it happened."

North led, 11-9, after the first quarter but Clarence, thanks to seven free throws, led, 26-16 at halftime, and was ahead, 40-26, after the third quarter.

North hit nine three-pointers, five coming from game-high scor-

er eighth grader Corrin Genovese (19 points) and another three from senior Jill Piaggione (15 points).

Eighth grader Allie Ahern added eight points.

North finishes the season 6-15 but with only two players graduating (Piaggione and Kaitlyn McNally) and the return of Chantae Miller and Leslie Ahern from injury, the future looks bright.

"We made big strides," said DelValle. "Sometimes we looked inexperienced and other times we played beyond our years. They have nothing to be ashamed of. We came on strong, improved and never quit, which is the mark of a good team."

Williamsville South

The Lady Billies, seeded ninth, fell behind 15-2 against eight-seed Iroquois in the Section VI Class A-1 prequarterfinals and never recovered, losing 65-37 on Feb. 20.

South had beaten Iroquois, 54-50, on Feb. 15.

"They shot great and we shot horrible in the first quarter," said South coach Duke McGuire. "Their fourth option on offense (Rachel Sluberski) was hitting threes (two). There was no way anyone was going to stop them."

South played OK the rest of the game, trailing 27-12 at halftime and 46-29 after the third quarter.

South freshman Sarah Marcus, who scored 24 points in the team's second regular season meeting, was held to seven thanks to Iroquois' box-and-one defense.

South's other main offensive threat, senior Katie Ostroot, was held to six first half points and 11 rebounds.

Junior Cassiana Hyppolite led South with 10 points, including two threes and three steals.

Iroquois' Lindsay Henry paced



Williamsville South's Sarah Marcus battles underneath during the team's 65-37 Section VI Class A-1 prequarterfinal loss at Iroquois on Feb. 20. Also pictured is South's Katie Ostroot. South finished the season 10-11.

Photo by John Normile
Purchase photos at www.BeeNews.com



Williamsville North's Megan Klansky can't believe her team's season is over after losing 54-49 to Clarence in the Section VI Class AA prequarterfinals on Feb. 20.

Photo by Joe Eberle
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all scorers with 23 points. Holly Beats added 12 points.

South finished 10-11 overall and 6-6 in ECIC Division II after starting 2-6.

Ostroot finished her high

school career with 1,031 points. "I'm really going to miss her," said McGuire. "She's just a great kid and a pleasure to coach."

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Sharks win triple OT thriller over Nardin

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Sacred Heart and Nardin have had many battles on the court over the years but last Friday's regular season finale added another twist to their rivalry.

The Sharks defeated the Gators, 57-47, in triple overtime before a crowd of 1,000 at Villa Maria College.

"I didn't think it was ever going to end," said Sacred Heart coach

Sr. Maria Pares, who has never coached a triple overtime basketball game.

The win gave each team a share of the Monsignor Martin Association division title with identical 12-1 records. Nardin won the first league matchup over Sacred Heart, 44-38, on Jan. 31, at Canisius High School.

The Sharks had to come back twice in the extra session to pick up the victory. Senior Liz Subject scored on a putback with 24 sec-

onds remaining to tie the game at 43-43 in the first overtime and classmate Katie Keller (14 points) hit two free throws with 10 seconds left in the second overtime to tie the game at 47-47.

It was all Sharks in the third overtime. Liz Tramposch, who subbed in for Subject, had a layup off the opening tip and Krystal Watson scored the last eight points of the game. Watson finished with a game-high 17 points.

Nardin led, 18-14, at halftime but suffered a huge loss when their best player, Kendra Brim, left the game in the middle of the second quarter with a sprained ankle. Brim only scored three points.

After the game, Nardin won a coin flip to determine the No. 1 seed for the MMA playoffs. The Gators will play Mt. Mercy at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at Canisius College following Sacred Heart's

game with Nichols at 6 p.m. The consolation finals and finals are at 3:30 and 5:15 p.m., respectively, on Sunday, also at Canisius.

Sacred Heart finished the regular season 22-1. Their only other game last week was a 68-51 home win over Mt. Mercy. Keller (15) and Subject (12) scored in double figures for the Sharks.

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Casey earns player of the week honor

Swarthmore College senior guard Chris Casey, a 2003 Williamsville East High School graduate, was recently named Sam Cozen Player of the Week by the Philadelphia Area Small College Coaches Association.

Casey, an economics and psychology double major, has started all 17 games this season at point guard for the Garnet. He helped engineer a 10-point second-half comeback at Franklin & Marshall on Jan. 13, shooting a perfect 3 of 3 from the floor, including 2 of 2 from three-point land, while collecting a game-high five assists and five steals.

Casey concluded his college career third in school history for career assists (257) and tied for fourth all-time in steals (107). He banked in a running one-hander with 8.8 seconds left in his final regular season game against Haverford but his team lost 84-78 in overtime.

The Cozen Award is named in honor of legendary Drexel and Overbrook High head men's basketball coach Sam Cozen. While at Drexel, Cozen boasted a 213-94 record, while winning 11 Middle Atlantic Conference Championships and making four NCAA appearances. Cozen's college coaching career overlapped for two years with his tenure at Overbrook (1947-54), where he captured five Philadelphia Public League championships while directing legendary players such as Wilt Chamberlain and Hal Lear.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Boys Basketball: Section VI Class A-1 semifinals — South vs. Ken. East, 6 p.m., Amherst vs. McKinley, 7:45 p.m. (Buffalo State College)

Girls Basketball: Section VI Class A-1 finals — East vs. Ken. East, 6 p.m. (Erie Community College's Flickinger Center)

Thursday, March 1

Boys Basketball: Section VI Class AA semifinals — Sweet Home vs. Orchard Park, 6 p.m. (Buffalo State College)

Girls Basketball: Monsignor Martin Association semifinals — Sacred Heart vs. Nichols, 6 p.m. (Canisius College)

Friday, March 2

Boys Swimming: East, North, South at New York State

Championships, noon (Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger Center), diving starts at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 3

Boys Basketball: Section VI Class A-1 finals — South/Ken. East vs. Amherst/McKinley, 6:30 p.m. (Buffalo State College); Section VI Class AA finals — Sweet Home/Orchard Park vs. Jamestown/Niagara Falls, 8:15 p.m. (Buffalo State College)

Hockey: New York State Division II regionals — Sweet Home vs. (Section IX TBA), 6:30 p.m.; Division I regionals — North vs. Section VII's Seton Catholic, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 4

Girls Basketball: Monsignor Martin Association finals — Sacred Heart/Nichols vs. Nardin/ Mt. Mercy, 5:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m. - consolation (Canisius College)