



Williamsville East's Dave Mernan, right, beats Williamsville South's Armaan Wood for the ball underneath the basket during the Billies' 70-65 win last Friday at East.

Photo by Joe Eberle  
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## Maturing

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Aaron Tichenor added nine points, six assists and eight rebounds and Peter Heim scored eight for East. Castine had five points and six assists. Adam Burtch came off the bench with five points and five assists. Mark Guenther added two points. Dave Mernan added a point.

Brian Webb had a point, four rebounds and three assists for South. Joe Licata added three points.

South committed only five turnovers.

South used a 22-8 run in the fourth quarter to put away Clarence, 78-57, in a non-league game on Wednesday at South.

The Billies led, 26-18, after the first quarter, 42-38, at halftime, and 56-49, after the third quarter, before South's speed wore down the Red Devils.

Monaco said a key spark came with three minutes remaining in the third from junior Tom LiSacchi. LiSacchi scored seven points and grabbed four rebounds.

"He provided an intangible," said Monaco.

Murray led South with 18 points, five rebounds and four steals. Coppola added 17 points and 14 assists. The 14 assists gave him 226 for his career, moving him into fifth place all-time at the school. Including the East game, Coppola has 229 career assists. Stasiak chipped in 16 points, five rebounds and five steals. Licata poured in 11.

South hit eight of 20 threes (Licata, three; Coppola, two; Webb, Stasiak and Aaron Adams, one). The Billies were 18 of 35 from two-point range.

East lost to South much like it did at St. Joe's, 56-54, last Tuesday.

The Flames fell behind, 31-17, at halftime and, 41-31, after three quarters. East got within four with 1:30 remaining but Belote said his team made some turnovers.

With the game tied at 54-54, St. Joe's inbounded the ball and with six seconds to play, Phil Scaffidi (19 points) hit a jumper to put the Marauders ahead.

Belote instructed his team to find the open player on the wing for a shot but his team took too much time and Heim through up a 30-footer that hit the rim. Heim led East with 15 points.

Wallden scored only 10 points but shot 2 of 11 from the field. He did grab 16 rebounds and block two shots.

Guenther tossed in six points and six rebounds. Tichenor scored all eight of his points in the fourth quarter. Six came from the foul line. He also had seven rebounds.

Mike Silvestri came off the bench and scored six points and held Matt Spittler to eight points.

"I was really proud of the kids," said Belote. "They didn't want to lose. We really took it to them in the fourth quarter. Our defense was forcing them to turn the ball over. Castine was also giving their point guard, Phil Maiarana (nine points), all kinds of fits."

South hosted Lake Shore on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Hamburg at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

East hosted Iroquois on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. The Flames play at West Seneca East at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and host Lancaster at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

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# Tigers pick up pace, end three-game losing skid

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

The Amherst Central boys basketball team changed the tempo of its home game last Friday against Springville and it resulted in a 30-point win.

Leading Springville, 18-12, after the first quarter, the Tigers turned up its defensive intensity in the second quarter to take a 40-25 halftime advantage and never looked back, winning 77-47. The win snapped a three-game losing skid.

Amherst coach Mike Chatelle credits sophomore Nico McLean and juniors Bert Smith and Kevin Ford for changing the tempo of the game.

"Springville was doing a nice job early on controlling the tempo," he said. "We wanted to play faster and all three of them got us a larger lead by halftime by scoring on fastbreak layups in transition off of turnovers we created. It was a real turning point in the game."

McLean, Smith and Ford scored 14 of Amherst's 22 points in the second quarter.

Amherst was in control the rest of the way, going ahead, 59-38, after the third quarter.

The Tigers' offense, which had been slumping as of late, got four

players in double figures. McLean, Ford, and Smith each finished with 11. Senior Kurt Ebsary led Amherst with 14 points and five steals. Nine of his 14 came in the third quarter. Seniors Mike Yanity and Geoff Gallson added nine and eight points, respectively. Viron Hale had only five points but made eight steals and grabbed four rebounds.

In all, 11 of the 13 players who dressed scored. They made 22 steals.

"Obviously, it's what we're striving from the guys," said Chatelle. "Hopefully, they will gain confidence from it. We'll need those contributions this week."

Amherst (3-5, 2-3) played Maryvale on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Starpoint at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"Starpoint plays a disciplined half court zone defense so we're going to have to hit open shots," said Chatelle.

### Williamsville North

It wasn't a work of art but the Spartans (11-1, 4-1) won last Saturday at Niagara-Wheatfield, 61-54.

"It was our first game in eight days and we played like it," said North coach Chuck Swierski. "We were sloppy. Our defense was the poorest it has been all year as far

as fundamentals."

North led, 15-13, after the first quarter, 26-25, at halftime and 40-35, after three quarters. Swierski said his team had a 12-point lead two minutes into the fourth.

Junior Alex Barth continued his great play, leading the team with a career-high 25 points. He made 9 of 10 free throws. He also led North with nine rebounds and three assists.

"He's starting to become our leading scorer and our go-to guy, especially on the offensive end," said Swierski. "He's well suited for the role. He can go inside and has a jump shot so he can be a scoring threat from the outside as well."

Alex Barth was the only North player in double figures. Seniors Josh Barrett and Alex Ulrich scored eight and seven points, respectively. Senior John Piagnone and Alex's twin brother, Steve, each chipped in five.

North, winners of its last six, hosted Jamestown on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Orchard Park at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. North is ranked ninth among Western New York large schools.

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## Johnson's return sparks Panthers

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

The Sweet Home boys basketball team got more faster and athletic in a hurry last week and it led to two Panther home victories.

Senior guard Marcus Johnson, who had been out for weeks with a deep thigh contusion in his right quadriceps, scored 11 points in Sweet Home's 55-42 non-league win last Wednesday over Orchard Park and added 10 in a 60-31 blowout last Friday over West Seneca East.

"He was medically cleared last Tuesday," said Sweet Home coach Paul Schintzius. "He gives us a nice athletic boost to the team. He gave us a lot of hustle plays. Against Orchard Park, he had a breakaway layup in the second quarter that helped us go up by 10 (22-12) at halftime."

Schintzius was also really happy with his team's defensive effort in both games.

"One of the things we emphasize and focus on is our defensive intensity," said Schintzius. "We were giving up too many points even in our wins. With the amount of points we were giving up, there was no way that we would be able to play with teams come sectionals."

"I thought against Orchard Park we controlled the game with defense," he continued. "Nothing came

easy. It was how we played defense the last couple of years."

Sweet Home led OP, 42-28, after the third quarter.

Ali Ramadan's 16 and Brian Pappagallo's 14 paced the Panthers' scoring.

The game was a rematch of the Section VI Class AA semifinal won last March by the Panthers, 56-34.

The Panthers beat West Seneca East after every quarter (14-7 after first quarter, 29-15 at halftime and 44-23 after third quarter) but Schintzius felt his team lacked the same energy as they did against the Quakers.

"I thought on a Friday night at home, we would be jacked up and ready to fly out of the gates and we weren't," said Schintzius.

Ramadan scored 18 to lead the Panthers. Pappagallo and Jamel Werts each tossed in nine.

Sweet Home played at Hamburg on Tuesday but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. Going into the game, the Panthers were 7-4 overall and 5-0 in ECIC II. Hamburg was 9-2, 4-1.

Sweet Home's other game is against St. Joe's at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday at Hutch-Tech as part of the MLK Classic.

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## South, Sweet Home among ECIC schools helping Brian Dux

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

The Williamsville South and Sweet Home boys basketball teams are two of several ECIC boys basketball teams who raised funds for Brian Dux.

Dux, a former player at Orchard Park and Canisius College, was seriously injured in a one-car accident in England on Nov. 10, 2007. Dux is recuperating from his injuries in Buffalo.

South coach Al Monaco and Lake Shore coach Dan Gerkun have spearheaded the drive with

the backing of ECIC basketball and the Basketball Coaches Association of New York.

The drive kicked off last week at several ECIC games under the slogan "The 3s will be Flyin' for Brian," implying that a pledge will be made for every three. The South varsity boys team alone raised an ECIC-high \$1400 for its game against Clarence last Wednesday. The Billies hit eight threes.

Sweet Home opted to wave the admission for its game last Wednesday with Orchard Park and had a box that said "in lieu of admission, give donations to the

Brian Dux fund." Sweet Home coach Paul Schintzius said \$491 was raised.

All told, by the time other ECIC schools had donated money, \$3,000 was given to the Dux family at a ceremony at Lake Shore on Saturday. Another \$2,500 was raised on top of that, Monaco said.

Monaco said other ECIC teams will be trying to do their part.

"This was just a kickoff," said Monaco. "We're thrilled with the response."

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