

Girls AAU hoops tryout set

The Buffalo Defenders AAU girls basketball organization will be holding open tryouts for the 16U basketball team from 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24 at St. Mary's School of the Deaf, 2253 Main St., Buffalo. For more information, call Jeanine at 289-3088 or visit www.buffalodefenders.com.

East's Rutecki sets career highs, Flames down Billies

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

One of Williamsville East's big men had a stellar game inside against Williamsville South last week but it's not the name high school boys basketball fans would normally expect.

Six-foot-11 junior Mark Rutecki posted career highs with 20 points and 15 rebounds in East's 78-70 win last Friday at Williamsville South. Rutecki also blocked two shots and dished out two assists. East's usual top scorer, Brian Wallden, scored 14 points and 12 rebounds.

"The last time against South I didn't have a big game so I wanted to this game," said Rutecki.

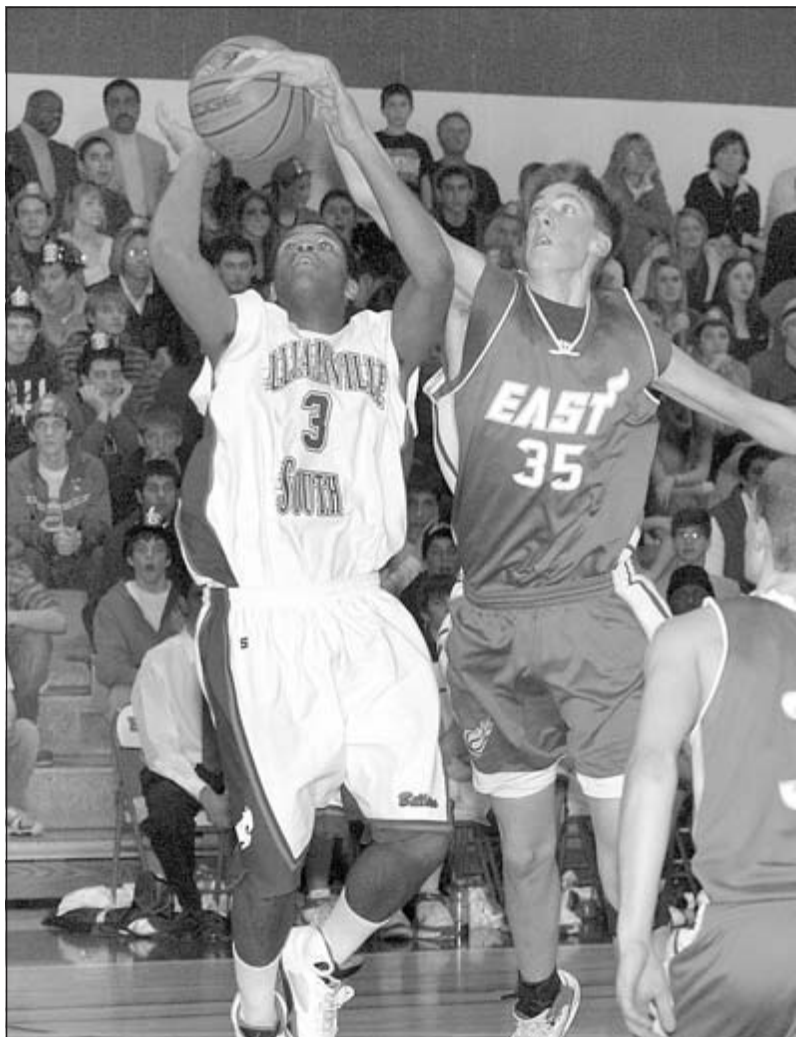
Rutecki certainly did in the second half, scoring 12 of his points in the third quarter on either offensive rebounds or short four-foot jump shots to cut an East 35-31 deficit at halftime to a 48-40 advantage by the end of the third quarter.

On defense, Rutecki helped hold South's Joe Licata to five three-pointers (all in the first half) and Phil Stasiak to six points by extending his long arms and altering their shots.

"They don't have two big guys so we brought Wallden out on the post and Rutecki got great position down low," said East coach Dennis Belote.

"Rutecki was the difference," added South coach Al Monaco. "We had no answer for him."

All of East's starters were the ones who scored all of the team's points. In addition to Wallden and Rutecki, Peter Heim and Rick Silvestri each scored 15 points and Kevin Castine had 14. Heim



Williamsville East's Mark Rutecki, right, posted career highs in points (20) and rebounds (15). He also blocked a couple of shots, including one on Williamsville South's Armaan Wood. East beat South, 78-70, last Friday at South.

*Photo by Joe Eberle
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also grabbed eight rebounds, five of which came on the defensive end. Silvestri also dished out six assists and grabbed three rebounds.

South opened the game on fire. Licata hit back-to-back threes and Mark Coppola added a trey to

69-56, in the fourth. Coppola cut it to 77-70 with a coast-to-coast layup with 21.3 seconds but Silvestri hit 1 of 2 free throws with 11 seconds. The Flames made 10 of 11 free throws in the fourth quarter and 15 of 20 overall. They also limited its turnovers to 15. They had been averaging 22 per game.

South only turned the ball over eight times and shot decent, including 14 of 32 two-point shots and 12 of 35 from three-point range, but Monaco was not happy with his team's shot selection.

"We passed up on the open threes too many times and instead drove into Wallden and Rutecki," said Monaco.

South also went 6 of 18 from the free throw line, including 5 of 11 in the fourth quarter.

"In a lot of ways, that's the game right there," said Monaco.

Licata led South with 18 points. His five threes gives him 62 for the season, which past Seth Edwards (1997-98) for third all-time in a season and 2007 grad Adrian Wood for 10th all-time.

The 12 threes South made gave the Billies 153 for the season, breaking the school's single-season record of 149 set in 1997-98. The 35 attempts from threes was four shy of tying the mark set in 2001-02 against West Seneca West.

Coppola led South with 17 points, 10 assists and four rebounds. He hit three threes. Coppola's 10 assists gives him 150 for

the season, passing himself for second all-time at the school for most assists in a season. He has 293 career assists, fourth all-time at the school.

Armaan Wood had 12 points and four rebounds. Zach Murray (eight points, six rebounds), Stasiak (six points, four rebounds), Brian Webb (six points, five rebounds) and Aaron Adams (made a three) also scored for South.

The loss to East was huge for the Billies. A win would have put them in a tie with Hamburg for first place in ECIC II because Hamburg lost to league opponent Lake Shore, 59-57, in double overtime, on Friday.

South is 7-4 in league play, 11-7 overall. Hamburg is 8-3 in ECIC II, 14-5 overall.

East is 6-5 in the league, 10-8 overall. The Flames opened its week with a 60-48 loss against Hamburg last Tuesday at East.

Belote said his team didn't play horrible; they shot poor. The Flames went 16 for 70 between twos and threes. They were also 12 of 20 from the foul line.

"We had a lot of shots, a lot of open looks at the basket, and couldn't hit anything," said Belote.

Despite its poor shooting woes, East was ahead, 15-10, after the first quarter and, 25-23, at halftime. Hamburg took over at the end of the third quarter with a 43-36 lead.

Belote said his team trailed the

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— **Mark Rutecki**

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North girls win WNY Relays

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

Williamsville North girls indoor track coach Julian Blake was confident his team could win last Saturday's Western New York Relays at Fredonia State College and they delivered.

The Lady Spartans won the girls portion of the meet for the first time in school history with 69 points.

The North boys tied for fourth with Sweet Home with 28 points to give both teams a combined score of 97, good enough for second overall. Lancaster won overall with 119 points.

"I thought the girls were capable of taking first but I didn't think we would score as well as we did," said Blake. "We were 20 points ahead of the next closest school. The girls really performed well."

The North girls took third last year. Blake said his team was able to perform well because of its depth.

"We saved girls for certain races which made us fresher than other teams," said Blake.

North won four events. Emily Curry (31-8.25) and Meredith Kirby (32-11.25) combined for a first place leap of 46-7.5 in the triple jump.

The 4x200 relay of Sarah Mikulski, Jessica Little, Shelby Gray and Amy Loud won in an FAT time of 1:53.72. Mikulski (8.96) and Loud (personal best 9.2) joined forces to win the 55 hurdle relay in 18.08. Little, Raven Baxter, Loud and Kirby won the double 4x160 relay in 3:05.

The 4x800 relay of Kim Schueler, Rachel Dorogi, Caitlin Triantafillou, and Kim Berus took second in 10:28.1.

The North 4x400 relay and high jump each took home third place. Kirby, Michele Bauman, Berus and Schueler ran the 4x400 relay in 4:19.4. Curry and Gray combined for a 9-0, including a Section VI Championship jump of 4-10 by Curry.

Dorogi (1200 meters), Whitney Barrett (400), Schueler (800) and Berus (1600) ran the distance medley relay in 13:46.4 to take third.

The sprint medley relay of Bauman (400), Little (200), Baxter (200) and Caitlin Curry (800) ran a 4:47.3 to take fourth.

Sarah (7-6) and Sana Khan (6-6) took fifth in the pole vault in 14-0.

Alyssa Fabrizi and Gray went 10:26.4 and 10:04.1, respectively, for 20:30.5 in the racewalk to take sixth.

The North boys were led by Sean Felton and Collin Preston, who triple jumped 81-1.75 for a first place finish. Felton jumped a personal best 42-4.5 as did Preston in 38-9.25. Preston's mark also qualified him for sectionals.

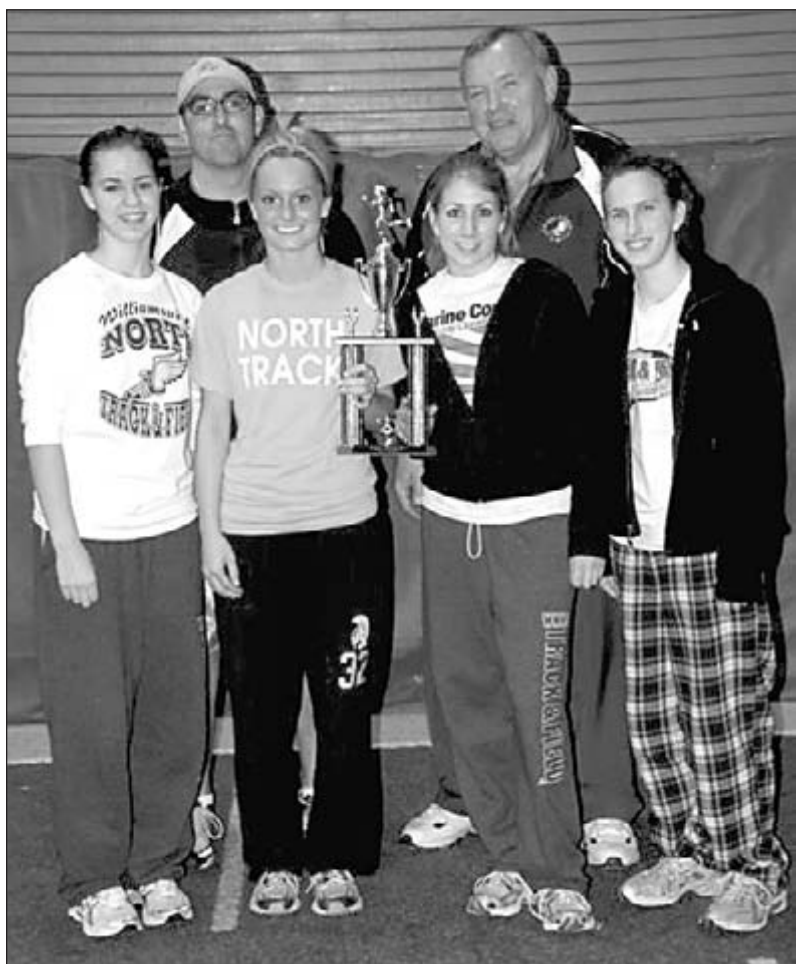
The double 4x160 relay of Preston, Steve Oehler, Evan Hughes and Sinclair Johnson took second in 2:46.2.

The same four came in third in the 4x200 with an FAT and personal best time of 1:41.06.

Felton (18-9.25) and Hughes (16-11.25) went 35-8.5 in the long jump to take fifth. Tom Calandra (10-6) and Jacob Strom (9-0) went 19-6 in the pole vault to place fifth.

The North boys and girls will compete at the Team Championships at 9 a.m. on Saturday at Fredonia State College.

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Sarah Mikulski, pictured first row, far left, Meredith Kirby, Michele Bauman, and Lauren Triantafillou captain the Williamsville North girls indoor track team. The Lady Spartans won the Western New Relays last Saturday at Fredonia State College for the first time in school history. Combined with the boys team, North finished second. Pictured in the second row are coaches Julian Blake, left, and Greg Stang.