

C-J Sports

Upcoming games: Girls' basketball

Aquinas at Marshall Tournament, TBA, 2/19
 Nazareth at Cardinal Mooney, 7:30 p.m., 2/19
 Bishop Kearney at Webster Tournament, TBA, 2/19
 DeSales at Romulus, 6:30 p.m., 2/20
 Aquinas at Marshall Tournament, TBA, 2/20
 Bishop Kearney at Webster Tournament, TBA, 2/20
 Nazareth at Mercy, 7:30 p.m., 2/21

Cardinal Mooney at Franklin, 11 a.m., 2/21
 Bishop Kearney at Monroe, 5 p.m., 2/23
 Whitman at DeSales, 4:15 p.m., 2/23
 Mercy at Cardinal Mooney, 8 p.m., 2/24
 Bishop Kearney at Nazareth, 5:30 p.m., 2/24
 Naples at DeSales, 6:30 p.m., 2/25
 Nazareth at H.A.C., 5:30 p.m., 2/25



McQuaid Coach Joe Marchese and his assistants call timeout in the waning moments of his Knights' 58-48 loss to East.

Division 1 all tied up after McQuaid falters

By Richard A. Kiley

Unlike the story-book night back in mid-December when just about everything seemed to go right, the afternoon of Tuesday, February 10, just didn't send the ball bouncing McQuaid's way in this recent battle against East.

But then, the ball didn't roll or do much of anything else the Knights wanted either.

Plagued by 14 turnovers and out-rebounded on both ends of the court, McQuaid stumbled, 58-48, in the critical City-Catholic basketball showdown against the host Orientals.

Barring any unforeseen upsets in the last two games of the regular season, McQuaid and East will finish as co-champions of Division I of the City-Catholic League.

For East Coach Sal Rizzo's squad, the win avenged a one-point loss to the Knights which occurred back on December 12. In that game, Rizzo lost East star Quinn Smith to fouls early in the fourth quarter and had to go without the services of senior forward David Williams altogether.

Both Smith and Williams, who was academically ineligible to play in his team's lone loss of the season, made up for their shortcomings in Tuesday's game in the sold-out East gym.

In addition to his 16 points for the afternoon, Smith — along with Dave Rizzo — was instrumental in successfully running the Orientals' delay offense. The East coach elected to deploy the deliberate offense to put more pressure on the Knights offensively.

Williams was not as much a force offensively — although he did score nine points — as he was an intimidating force on defense. The East forward frequently caused Knight shooters to alter their shots while driving toward the basket, and also helped junior center Tony Scott to neutralize McQuaid's 6'10" center Scott Martzloff.

"David Williams blocked a few shots and put the ball in the hole when he was asked

to," said Knight Coach Joe Marchese, who dropped his first game on the varsity level. "It's not often that Scott Martzloff gets a shot blocked, and Williams was able to do that. He played an important role in the win."

Marchese said that East's use of the slow offense didn't make the difference in the game.

"I don't really feel that hurt us. It wasn't that they got a lot of cheap baskets," Marchese said. "It just made the game shorter for us. It did become effective in the last quarter when time was running out."

"We just turned the ball over twice more than they did, and they out-rebounded us 33-22; those two (factors) contributed to the loss."

The Orientals swelled a 29-23 lead at the half to 43-29 after three quarters in what proved to be the turning point of the game. The Knights shot a myopic three for 15 in the third stanza, and were never able to trim the deficit to less than seven the rest of the way.

"The third quarter was the worst we've shot all year," Knight point-guard Michael Holton said after the game. "We took some bad shots, and even when we got the shots we wanted, we didn't hit them. We were pressing to get the (East) lead down from 10 or 11 points."

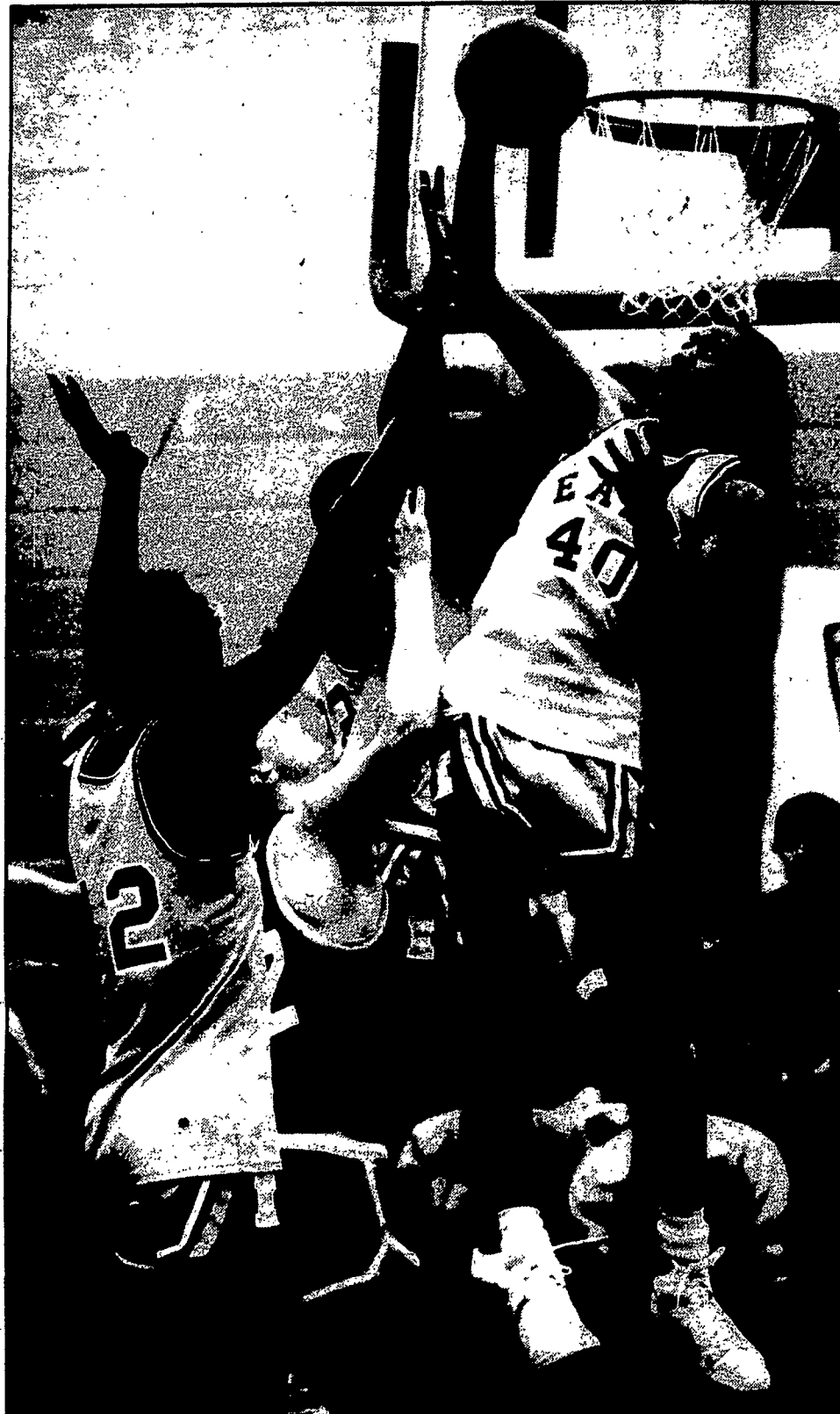
"Our defense held them to the same number of points as last time (when McQuaid won, 59-58), but we just didn't get it done on offense," said Holton, a senior.

McQuaid's 14 turnovers doubled those of East.

"It's better that we lose now than lose in the sectionals," Holton said. "We just have to improve; we have another goal to shoot for."

The point guard downplayed the effect of playing in front of the rowdy East crowd, adding that the crowd had given East a smaller advantage than had been expected.

"We had envisioned the entire gym being



Michael Necdet Aydogan

East's junior center Tony Scott goes above the rim for a rebound during the Orientals' 58-48 win over McQuaid. Scott pulled down six rebounds to go along with his 16 points.

taken up by the East crowd, and a small corner of McQuaid (fans)" said Holton, who got used to playing in front of as many as 7,000 people before transferring to McQuaid from a Virginia high school. Approximately 1,100 fans of both teams showed up for last week's City-Catholic showdown.

Despite their play at times, the Knights still climbed to within striking distance in the fourth quarter. Glenn Taggart, who led McQuaid in scoring with 18 points, pulled his teammates to within seven at 47-40, with five and a half minutes remaining. But that was as close as they would get.

McQuaid had an opportunity to cut the lead to five when Rizzo missed the front end of a one-and-one, but Williams gathered in the loose ball and was subsequently fouled on the play, to up the lead to 10, at 50-40.

"We had them on the run a little bit," Marchese said of his team's attempt to close the margin. "They had a 14-point lead; we got it down to seven, and then they (East) got it back up to 10 with Williams' three-point play."

Martzloff explained the defeat by saying it just wasn't the Knights' day.

"They played well, and we didn't," the McQuaid center said. "They were playing at home and had the revenge factor going for them."

Because of the outcome, Martzloff admitted that the Orientals might be No. 1 in Rochester — but only temporarily, he hopes.

"They're No. 1 right now, but hopefully that will change when we meet again," Martzloff said.

His coach, however, wasn't ready to concede being number two in the Flower City.

"I heard Sal (Rizzo) say he's No. 1 because they beat us, but all that tells me is that both teams can win at home," Marchese said. "I think that has to be decided on a neutral court. We might come up short, we might win. Who knows what will happen?"

According to Marchese, the McQuaid loss probably gave Fairport the No. 1 seed in the upcoming Section 5 basketball tournament. A coin flip could decide whether McQuaid or East is number two or three, but that's academic, because the second and third seeds could meet in the semifinals at the War Memorial, a neutral site.

Classic comeback spurs St. John's over Good Counsel

In the 13th annual St. John's Classic, a tournament featuring junior-high boys' basketball teams from the Rochester area, St. John's of Spencerport rallied in the second half for a 47-43 win over Good Counsel in the championship game last Saturday night.

The classic marked the first tournament competition between the three regional junior highs.

Seton nipped Blessed Sacrament 52-50 in the consolation game.

Coach Steve Schockow's Spencerport team had to overcome a 30-18 halftime deficit to notch the win. A defensive switch on Good Counsel center Gary Johnson, who fouled out of the game with 20 points, proved to be the key to the victory. Johnson had poured in 16 points in the first half alone.

For the champion St. John's team, center Greg Bischooping tallied 18 points, and guard Brian Meyer scored 14. Forward Chris Kuhn added nine points for St. John's.

Guard Kevin Hill added 15 points for the runners-up.

Schockow said he hopes the four teams can compete again, adding this year's tourney was well attended.

"It's an annual event with the junior highs, and provides a good vehicle for getting them together," said Schockow, who coaches St. John's but is principal at Seton.

St. John's defeated Seton to advance to the final game, while Good Counsel beat Blessed Sacrament.