

Sports

Boys' basketball teams fall short in holiday tournaments

By Lee Strong

Diocesan boys' high school basketball teams received no gifts in holiday tournaments this Christmas. McQuaid, Elmira Notre Dame, Cardinal Mooney, Bishop Kearney and Aquinas all fell to opening-round opponents.

Top-ranked McQuaid traveled to Syracuse where the three-point shooting of Liverpool stunned the Knights in the first round of the Bulldog Booster Tournament at Nottingham. The Warriors shot 12-for-24 from three-point range to down McQuaid 74-73, recording the first loss for the Knights, who are ranked fourth in New York State.

The barrage began in the first period when the 23rd-ranked Warriors hit three three-pointers in the first 3:30 to take a 13-4 lead. McQuaid fought back, however, to knot the score at 15 by the end of the first period.

Five more three-pointers in the second quarter enabled Liverpool to go to the locker room with a 39-38 half-time lead.

In the third quarter, the 7-0 Warriors built a 55-48 lead, and McQuaid coach Joe Marchese made a difficult decision — he replaced 6-11 center Scott Martzloff with a third guard to give the Knights a quicker, more aggressive squad.

"(Martzloff) was having an off game," Marchese explained. "He shot one for six from the field in the first half, and one-for five from the free throw line."

The change worked. McQuaid trailed only

59-53 at the end of the third quarter and knotted the score at 61 early in the fourth quarter. The Warriors hit their 12th three-pointer with 6:06 remaining in the game, however, to retake the lead — this time for good.

Greg Woodard, who led McQuaid with 28 points, hit a three-pointer with 3:30 left to move the Rochester team to within one at 71-70, but the Warriors scored on a layup and a foul shot to take a 74-70 lead. John Kelly's three-point goal with two seconds left ended the scoring.

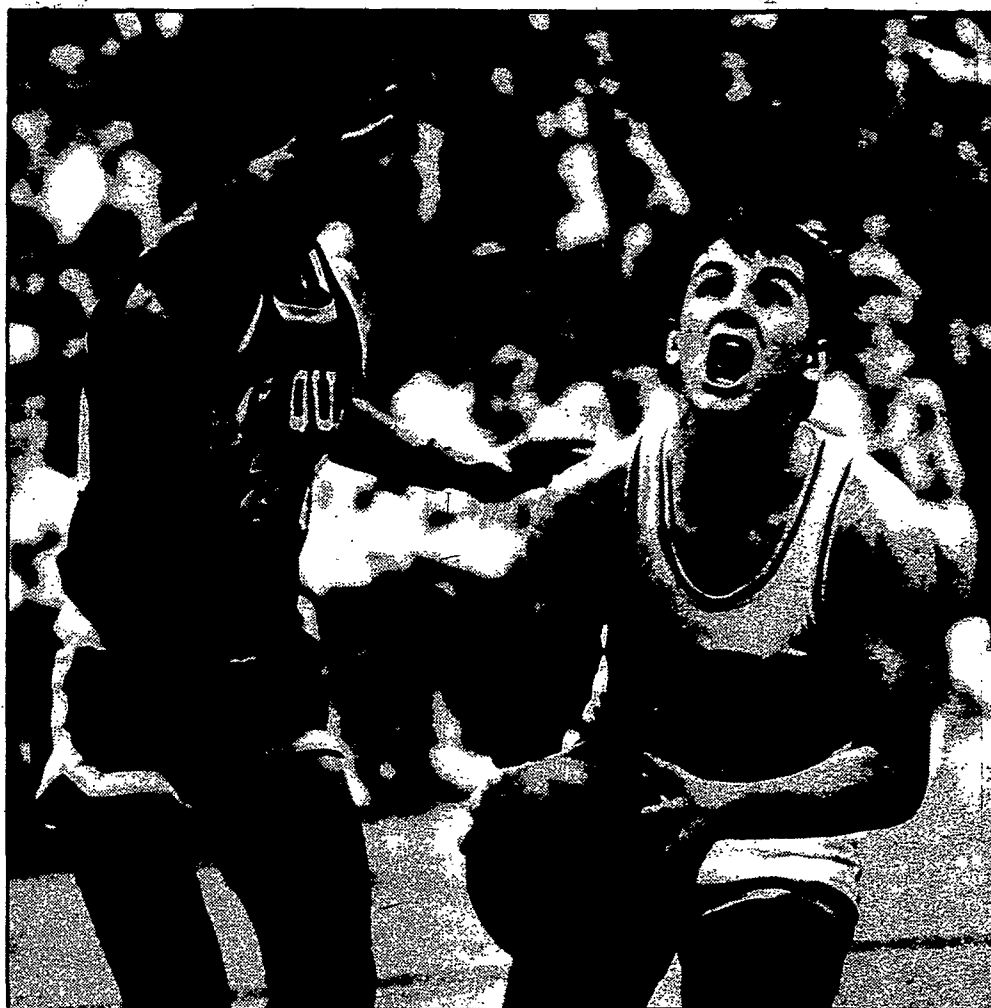
"We had three or four opportunities to win it in the last 1:40, but we didn't quite do it," Marchese said.

For the game, McQuaid shot 28 of 67, including five three-pointers. In addition to his 28 points, Woodard grabbed 10 rebounds and handed out five assists. Drew Henderson had 16 boards and eight points for the Knights, and guards John Kelly and Jay Gangemi added 12 and 14 points, respectively.

Coach Marchese singled out Woodard and Kelly for particular praise. "Woodard is Woodard," he said, "and John (Kelly) played an excellent game at point guard. We only had five or six turnovers, and in the second half he kept Andy Partee (who hit four three-pointers in the first half) in check, allowing us to catch up."

The Warriors — 89-80 losers to 7th-ranked Nottingham in the championship game — were led by Partee, who scored 23 points and hit five

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Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal
Mooney's Peter Mojsej drives for the basket past McQuaid's Reggie Wade.

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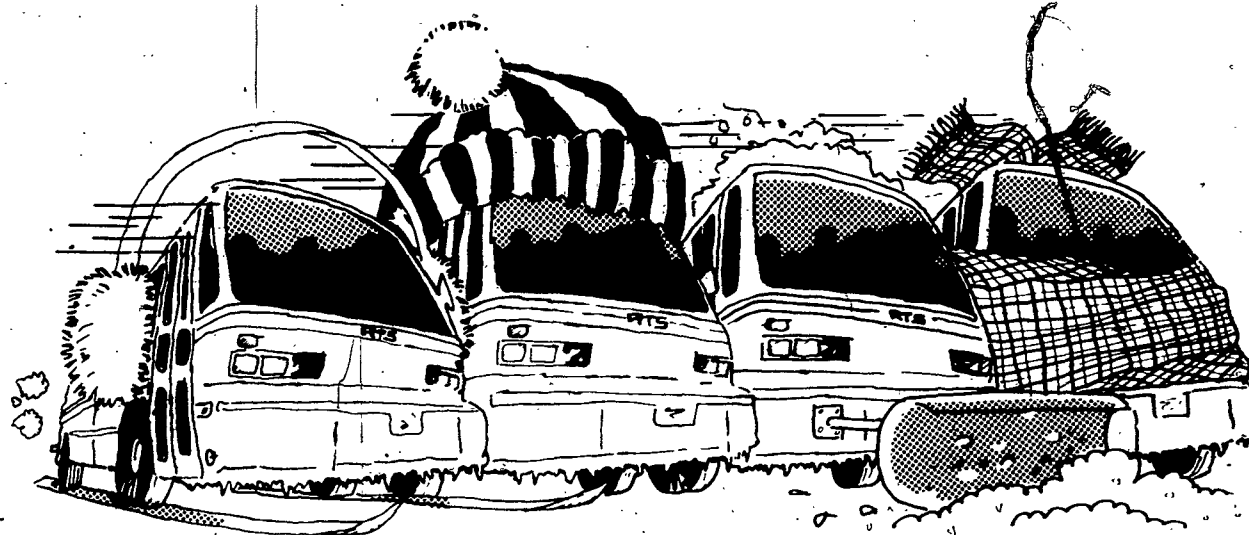
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