

**The Macomb Daily/
Sunkist
Athletes
of the Week**



HIGH SCHOOLS

Bathers shake off sluggish start, beat the Crusaders

Mount Clemens 4-0 heading into break

By Chuck Klonke
Special to The Macomb Daily

Mount Clemens coach Wilber Jones isn't shocked that his girls basketball team will head into the Christmas break undefeated. That's because Jones knows what went into the Bathers compiling a 4-0 record. "I'm not surprised. They've been working hard," Jones said after Mount Clemens rode a strong second half to a 46-26 victory against L'Anse Creuse North in a Macomb Area Conference crossover game. "A team is going to have to work as hard as us to beat us. I always think that the team that's

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best-conditioned and works the hardest comes out on top. I guess I could say it's a little surprising. I thought we might be 3-1, but 4-0? I'll take that, but they earned it with their hard work." All that hard work in practice, along with LCN's game plan to slow down the tempo, might have been the reason for the Bathers' sluggish first half. Mount Clemens scored twice in the last 17 seconds of the first quarter to lead 13-9, but the Bathers scored only one point in the second quarter. The Crusaders got two baskets from Elizabeth Rawski late in the first half to pull within one, 14-13, at the break.

"They were all wound up," Jones said. "They've been practicing real hard and they had to get focused. They started talking to each other and got back on track. My captains (Dashanna Turner and Valerie King) had to step up. Once I got done talking to them, the team understood what we were doing and they were ready in the second half." Emily Nieman started the second half with a pair of free throws to give LCN its only lead of the game, but Mount Clemens answered with a 12-2 run, featuring two 3-point baskets by Erica Young and some tenacious defensive pressure that caused several turnovers. "I don't know how much pressure we'll see all year, but I don't think it'll be any more than

that," said Crusaders coach Bob Johnston. "That team is very athletic and has great lateral foot speed." Mount Clemens continued to play solid defense throughout the second half, holding LCN to only five field goals in the half. "We're a defensive team," Jones said. "We score a lot of off turnovers. When they're playing good defense, the team rolls." Johnston was pleased with the way his young team — the Crusaders start two freshmen and a sophomore — stood up to the Bathers' pressure. "We're very, very young and the thing I liked best about our kids is that we didn't back down," Johnston said. "We

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Defense keys Romeo's second-half surge

Visiting Bulldogs overcome Chippewa Valley, 55-46

By Shelly Watkins
Special to The Macomb Daily

Romeo's girls basketball team prides itself on playing tough, hard-nosed defense. So the 29 points the Bulldogs gave up in the first half to Chippewa Valley was uncharacteristic and their coach Connie Hernden made them well aware of it at halftime.

Girls Basketball

The team responded to the half-time speech and locked things down defensively to hand the Big Reds their first loss of the season, 55-46, in a Macomb Area Conference crossover game, Wednesday night. "That's not good for Romeo basketball," Hernden said. "Our defense is what we work on all the time. It's what has made us successful in the past. To allow 29 points in a half was unlike us. "We needed to start pressuring their guards and that's going to make them start making bad decisions," Hernden added. "That's when things started to swing our way." The Bulldogs (4-1 overall) held Chippewa Valley to just two points in the third quarter as they scored 11 to take a 40-31 lead into the final quarter. "We got a lot of turnovers and a lot of easy looks out of them," Hernden said of her team's run in the third quarter. Romeo, which suffered its first loss Friday against Grosse Pointe North, went on a 7-0 run to start the third quarter. Ashley Flinn scored two buckets and Katie Becker hit a jumper and the foul shot later to put the Bulldogs up 36-29. "We lost our energy in the second half," said CV coach Jackie Mauer, who's in her first year. "We had it in the first half, but in the second half we couldn't find it." After a Big Reds timeout following Romeo's 7-0 third-quarter run, the Bulldogs scored again on a triple by Shany McIntyre. "It's about time they started falling," said McIntyre, who nailed four triples to finish with a career-high 19 points. "I've been waiting about a year. I've been working on them a lot, but of course there is a lot more to a game than that. I've been working on passing and dribbling and I was just glad I could help my team with this win." The Big Reds' only bucket in the quarter came by Tori Staver with 2:44 left to play. McIntyre (five rebounds, five assists) then sank a free throw to end the third quarter run. The other key factor for the Bulldogs was shutting down Nicolina Vitale. After going off for nine of her team's 18 points in the first quarter, Romeo held her to three points the rest of the way, thanks in large part to the defense played by Katie Becker.



Macomb Daily photo by David Dalton
Chippewa Valley's Emily Cizmas splits Romeo defenders Megan Payne (24) and Alex Szajna for a shot. The Bulldogs prevailed 55-46 over the Big Reds.

"She did a real great job battling and anticipating and not letting Nicolina seal her off so easily," Hernden said. "And we had others help out down low on her. We got some doubles when she went to spin." "They did a lot to stop (Vitale) from getting the basketball inside," Mauer said. "I needed to get in her face and give her some pressure," said Becker, who finished with five rebounds and four steals. "It's my role on the team to be a good defender." Flinn also finished with 19 points to go with 12 rebounds. CV got nine points each from Tiffany Misch and Emily Cizmas.

"We had a lot of missed opportunities," Mauer said. "You can't do much if you can't put the ball in the basket. You can't win games." Romeo 15 14 11 15 - 55 Chippewa Valley 18 11 2 15 - 46 **ROMEO (4-1):** Sarah Kort 2, Ashley Flinn 19, Shany McIntyre 19, Leah Konieczki 2, Katie Becker 6, Sarah Flowers 1, Alex Szajna 6. Totals: 18 (4) 15-28 55. **CHIPPWEA VALLEY (2-1):** Brooke Boening 4, Mickey DeMoss 6, Tori Staver 4, Tiffany Misch 9, Nicolina Vitale 12, Katie Deng 2, Emily Cizmas 9. Totals: 19 (3) 5-12 46.

FITZGERALD 60, NEW HAVEN 18: Ajaj Meeks powered undefeated Fitzgerald with 18 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks. Kristian Hines recorded 11 points, 10 assists and four steals, and Shantinique Tolbert contributed a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Courtney Dyer added seven assists and six steals for the Spartans, who play at East Detroit on

Friday. New Haven 3 8 0 7 - 18 Fitzgerald 23 25 8 4 - 60 **NEW HAVEN (1-4):** Destiny Rosche 4, Alexis Taylor 5, Synovia Croft 5, Danielle Maele 2, Brooke Berger 2. Totals: 6 (0) 6-15 18. **FITZGERALD (5-0):** Kristian Hines 11, Ajaj Meeks 18, Chelsea Saver 1, Tamiya Simmons 5, Courtney Dyer 7, Felice Davis 2, Shantinique Tolbert 13, Raven Jones 3. Totals: 22 (3) 5-8 60.

FRASER 45, ST. CLAIR 25: Alexis Rutter scored 11 points, and Hannah Howell grabbed nine rebounds to lead Fraser. St. Clair 7 4 2 12 - 25 Fraser 6 20 12 7 - 45 **ST. CLAIR (0-4):** Hazel 1, Alex Benardi 7, Taylor Johnson 2, Brianna Schmid 3, Rutledge 4, Abbie Ingles 2, Rachel Kehoe 6. Totals: 6 (2) 7-11 25. **FRASER (2-3):** Kaitlyn Minchella 4, Mya Tavallieri 6, Sarah Jagot 2, Alexis Vansickle 5, Amber Wilkinson 5, Danielle Vallier 6, Rachel Wagner 4, Brianna Wagner 2, Alexis Rutter 11. Totals: 16 (4) 1-2 45.

DAKOTA 68, EISENHOWER 47: After a 2-2 start to the season, Dakota coach Phil McCune wanted to see strong defense and an intense effort from his team in its final outing of 2009. He saw both. "We finally put it all together," McCune said after LaQwana Dockery, who scored 19 points, and Heather Kehrer, who had 18, posted season scoring highs in the Cougars' victory. "I'm proud of my team. We worked real hard on it in practice." Four senior starters, Ashley Thomas, Dockery, Kehrer and Kaitlyn Downey, sparked the team, said McCune, who also said Lauren Galanty, who had seven points, made a major contribution.

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Wrestling

NON-LEAGUE
Richmond 69, Crosswell-Lexington 0
103 pounds: Austin Cattera, R, pinned Cody Dobson 1:30. 112: Dustin Pitcol, R, won by void. 119: Double void. 125: Josh Rivard, R, won by void. 130: Grant Hafner, R, maj. dec. Garrison Schoettle 1:34. 135: Pat Baruth, R, pinned Ryan Schoettle 1:54. 140: Preston Treend, R, pinned Austin Woodruff 2:35. 145: Alex Morang, R, dec. Luke Fabian 6:2. 152: Brian Henke, R, tech. fall Brandon Shell 20:5. 160: Scott Guilette, R, maj. dec. Connor Dunn 10:0. 171: Roger Crump, R, won by void. 189: John Gaffney, R, won by void. 215: Robert Clancy, R, tech. fall Nick Rusch 18:0. 285: Paul Jones, R, pinned Adam Sechrist 4:35. (Match started at 112 pounds.)

Richmond 57, Melvindale 19
103 pounds: Austin Cattera, R, pinned Nick West :50. 112: Gamal Yahia, M, maj. dec. Dustin Pitcol 14:6. 119: Dylan Onder, M, won by void. 125: Grant Hafner, R, maj. dec. Andrew Barron 12:4. 130: Josh Rivard, R, pinned Xavier Ortiz 2:24. 135: Pat Baruth, R, pinned Abdul Salen 4:35. 140: Preston Treend, R, pinned Jake Callins 2:41. 145: Brian Henke, R, tech. fall Abdul Yahia 17:1. 152: Alex Morang, R, pinned Jake Rader :30. 160: Roger Crump, R, pinned Jose Quezaba 2:27. 171: Scott Guilette, R, won by void. 189: Josh Allen, M, dec. John Gaffney 8:7. 215: Greg Sebastian, R, pinned Edgar Gonzalez 1:52. 285: Matt Grable, M, pinned Josh Younk 2:32. (Match started at 119 pounds. Richmond is 11-0. Richmond is ranked No. 2 in the state.)

Results

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16
Boys Hockey
St. Clair 4, Anchor Bay 2
Girls Basketball
Center Line 47, Lincoln 46
Dakota 68, Eisenhower 47
Fitzgerald 60, New Haven 18
Fraser 45, St. Clair 25
Grosse Pointe North 48, Utica 27
L'Anse Creuse 57, Maysville 37
Marine City 43, Anchor Bay 32
Mount Clemens 46, L'Anse Creuse North 26
Romeo 55, Chippewa Valley 46
Roseville 61, Lakeview 53
South Lake 53, Clawson 37
Sterling Heights 73, Clintondale 33
Stevenson 64, Port Huron Northern 39
Warren-Mott 43, East Detroit 31
Wrestling
Richmond 69, Crosswell-Lexington 0
Richmond 57, Melvindale 19

Schedule

THURSDAY, DEC. 17
Boys Basketball
Utica at Anchor Bay
Lincoln at Center Line
South Lake at Chippewa Valley
Clintondale at Fraser
Cousino at East Detroit
Grosse Pointe South at Dakota
Stevenson at Ford
Fitzgerald at L'Anse Creuse
Port Huron Northern at L'Anse Creuse North
Warren Woods-Tower at Mount Clemens
Warren-Mott at Lakeview
Lamphere at New Haven
Sterling Heights at Lake Shore
Eisenhower at Roseville
Merritt Academy at Landmark
Boys Hockey
Romeo at Port Huron (MIA)
Girls Basketball
Merritt Academy at Landmark
Brown City at Armada
Crosswell-Lexington at Richmond
North Huron at Memphis
Swimming
Center Line at Roseville
Chippewa Valley at St. Clair
L'Anse Creuse North at Cousino
De La Salle at Dakota
Ford at Utica
Wrestling
Memphis at Imlay City

FRIDAY, DEC. 18
Boys Basketball
Lake Orion at Romeo
Auburn Hills Christian at Merritt Academy
Brown City at Armada
Saginaw Buena Vista at De La Salle
Algonac at Lutheran North
Memphis at North Huron
Richmond at Michigan Collegiate
Parkway Christian at Lutheran Westland
Boys Hockey
St. Clair at Utica (SIM)
L'Anse Creuse at Lamphere (VIA)
Eisenhower at L'Anse Creuse North (MCIA)
Warren-Sterling United at Stevenson (GLSC)
Oxford at Fraser (GLSC)
Girls Basketball
Chippewa Valley at Cousino
Fitzgerald at East Detroit
Inkster at Ford
New Haven at L'Anse Creuse North
Stevenson at Warren-Mott
Fraser at Marian
Eisenhower at Detroit Allen Academy
Auburn Hills Christian at Merritt Academy
Lutheran North at Algonac
Riverview Gabriel Richard at Regina
Swimming
Center Line at Sterling Heights Relays
Wrestling
Macomb County Meet
Coaches call in your results at (586) 469-4771.



Janise Cunningham

School: Mount Clemens
Sport: Basketball
Highlights: Cunningham led Mount Clemens with 16 points and six steals in a 58-29 victory over Lake Shore on Thursday, and she scored 20 points in a victory over Port Huron.



Anthony DiMarco

School: Cousino
Sport: Hockey
Highlights: A captain and four-year varsity player, DiMarco scored a goal and assisted on six others as Warren-Sterling United won the Kalamazoo Invitational Thanksgiving Tournament.



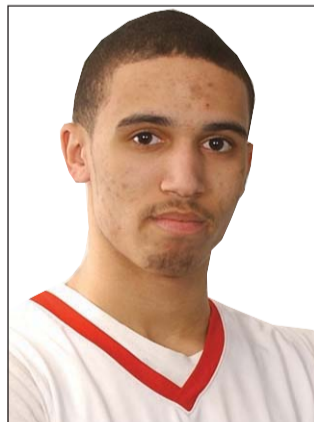
Charlaya Irvin

School: Lincoln
Sport: Basketball
Highlights: A two-year starter, Irvin scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in a victory over Lamphere. Irvin also added five blocks and drew a charge in the game.



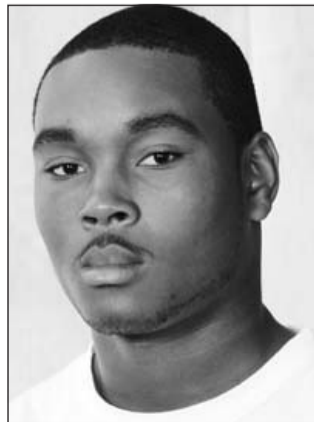
Alexis Taylor

School: New Haven
Sport: Basketball
Highlights: Clark scored 22 points in New Haven's victory over Lincoln on Thursday, and she scored 18 points in the Rockets' loss to Sterling Heights on Monday.



Brandon Gouch

School: Roseville
Sport: Basketball
Highlights: Gouch hit a last-second layup and finished with 24 points, seven rebounds and five assists in Roseville's 68-66 triumph over Madison on Tuesday.



Latterius Walton

School: Clintondale
Sport: Basketball
Highlights: Walton scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help Clintondale defeat Lincoln 51-49 in a MAC crossover game Tuesday. Walton also starred on the Clintondale football team.

Coaches and athletic directors may nominate athletes from any sport. E-mail biographical information and a head shot in .jpg format to sports@macombdaily.com.