

# Romeo holds off Dakota

By Rebekka Costanzo  
Special to The Macomb Daily

The Romeo Bulldogs jumped out to a big first-quarter lead and then had to rally after Dakota stole the lead briefly in the fourth quarter as the Bulldogs re-

## Girls High School Basketball

covered for a 38-35 victory over the visiting Cougars in a MAC White Division girls basketball contest Friday night.

"I knew from Dakota that they were going to come back with a run," Romeo coach Connie Hernden said. "And that's how basketball goes."

The Bulldogs gave up most of their 17-5 first-quarter lead as Dakota pressured offensively in the second and outscored them 12-3. By halftime the Cougars had decreased their deficit to three, but were unable to pull ahead until late in the fourth.

"There were moments and spurts where, especially at the beginning, we came out real strong," Hernden said. "Then we kind of had a lull there and let them back into the game. And then again in the third quarter we came out strong and then let them back into the game."

Romeo edged the Cougars 10-8 in the third.

"Dakota's a great team and I knew they weren't going to give up and they were going to come back and make some runs," Hernden said. "We just withstood the pressure from them and came through."

Senior center Heather Kehrer, who went on to lead her team with 10 points and 17 rebounds, scored with just over two minutes remaining in the game to give the Cougars a 34-33 lead.

Romeo called a timeout at 1:51 and shortly after, Romeo got a break. Leah Konieczki was fouled and capitalized by

making two free throws to give her team the lead again.

"We have a hard time scoring against the zone because we're relatively small compared to a lot of teams," said Hernden, whose team improved to 3-2 in the MAC White and 7-4 overall.

"So, when they run a zone and put their bigs in the middle, we have a hard time with that," Hernden said. "We told them to keep the focus, keep the pressure on defense. That's where we really played well tonight was on the defensive end."

Ashley Flinn increased the Bulldogs' advantage when she scored, and senior Katie Becker scored their final point from the free-throw line.

"We couldn't have asked for a better effort from the girls on the defensive end, and it paid off, Hernden said. "They were frustrated a lot. The guards couldn't do what they wanted to do, but their bigs stepped up

and scored and rebounded for them. So I thought our defense was the key to the game."

Becker led her team with 11 points, sophomore Alex Szajna scored six points and Flinn had five points for the Bulldogs.

"Katie's really stepped up in the last three weeks. Ever since Christmas break, she's really stepped into a leadership role on the court and vocally," Hernden said. "She's been playing great ... really strong, really intense."

Dakota fell to 6-5 overall and 3-2 in the MAC White with the loss. Laqwana Dockery, who six of the Cougars 12 second-quarter points, followed Kehrer in scoring with nine points. Lauren Galanty recorded eight.

|        |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Dakota | 5  | 12 | 8  | 10 | - | 35 |
| Romeo  | 17 | 3  | 10 | 8  | - | 38 |

**DAKOTA:** Ashley Thomas 3, Olivia Savage 0, Miranda Bates 3, Kaitlyn Downey 2, Lauren Galanty 8, Laqwana Dockery 9, Heather Kehrer 10. Totals: 12 (1) 8-18 35.

**ROMEO:** Ashley Flinn 5, Shanyyn McIntyre 3, Marie Mets 2, Jessica Ratkiewicz 2, Leah Konieczki 4, Katie Becker 11, Sarah Flowers 2, Alex Szajna 6, Katherine Yops 3. Totals: 14 (0) 10-14 38.

# Brinker's hat trick sparks Stevenson to a 4-1 victory

By Shelly Watkins  
Special to the Macomb Daily

Stevenson boys hockey coach Al Korolewicz admits it took Mitch Brinker awhile to get going this season.

Friday night at Great Lakes Sports City, his senior forward really got it going for the Titans.

## Boys High School Hockey

comb Area Conference crossover game.

"His last three games have been his best games of the season, which is good for us coming down the wire," said Korolewicz. "We need more consistency from our second and third lines."

Brinker scored once in the first period and twice in the second to lead Stevenson.

"I felt really good out there and really loose," said Brinker. "I saw the puck really well and I

was scoring.

"Just Zyvon and Drew DeMarti and I work really good together," added Brinker. "We need to stay focused and play three good periods of hockey every game."

Devon Wheeler ruined the shutout bid of Stevenson goalie Mason Henige with an unassisted goal in the third period.

"I was happy with the team's performance tonight," Korolewicz said. "We've been concentrating the last couple of weeks on playing a complete game. This was our first complete game of hockey we've played since Dakota."

Zyvon added the Titans' other goal and also had an assist.

Charles Schultz and Taylor Weiss each had two assists for Stevenson, while DeMarti had one.

"Utica is a rival of ours," Korolewicz said. "The coaching staffs are friends so it's a good rivalry. It was a good win for us. We played a good game."

It was the first meeting of the season between the teams.

# ROUNDUP: Erik Johnson, Denis Hebert lead Spartans past Ramblers 54-42

Continued from Page 2C

for the Cougars and Deandre Smith scored 13.

|        |    |    |    |    |   |   |    |
|--------|----|----|----|----|---|---|----|
| Ford   | 16 | 5  | 10 | 15 | 9 | - | 55 |
| Dakota | 14 | 12 | 13 | 6  | 7 | - | 53 |

**FORD (32, 65):** Alan Cicchetto 15, Aaron Cox 16, Ramon Johnson 18, Evan Crank 3, Eric Posavetz 5. Totals: 19 (6) 11-16 - 55.

**DAKOTA (23, 56):** Alec Tortamasi 6, Mark Morris 15, Evan Walker 9, Will Stone 9, Deontae Rex 1, Deandre Smith 13. Totals: 20 (4) 9-18 - 53.

## MAC WHITE DIVISION STEVENSON 56, PORT HURON NORTHERN 48:

The visiting Titans (2-4, 4-7) expanded a three-point halftime lead to eight points through three quarters.

Stevenson junior John Sulek had a team-best 20 rebounds, including 10 off the offensive glass in the first quarter. Sulek also scored 11 points, had three assists and drew two charges. Eugene Pratt scored a team-high 12 points and Joe Kachi scored 11.

Maculey Hill's 12 points paced Port Huron Northern (2-3, 3-7).

|                     |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Stevenson           | 11 | 19 | 13 | 13 | - | 56 |
| Port Huron Northern | 8  | 19 | 8  | 7  | - | 42 |

**STEVENSON (24, 47):** Joe Kachi 11, Savio Riskalah 3, Trevino Namou 6, Eugene Pratt 12, Josh Corbin 9, John Sulek 11, Mike Puzzioli 4. Totals: 22 (2) 10-19 - 56.

**PORT HURON NORTHERN (23, 37):** Maculey Hill 12, Mark Perez 3, Bill Ernest 2, Pedro Teal 2, Otis Freeman 2, Matt Davis 10, Austin Shell 8, Chad McPhedrain 2. Totals: 17 (4) 4-5 - 48.

## MAC BLUE EAST DETROIT 64, SOUTH LAKE 25:

The host Shamrocks (5-0, 7-1) jumped to a 30-10 first-half lead.

Ethan Blackwell finished with a team-best 15 points and four assists. Johnny Mills had 11 points and Melvin Ballestero took nine rebounds.

South Lake (2-3, 5-5) got a team-high seven points from Will Bowles.

|              |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| South Lake   | 7  | 3  | 11 | 4  | - | 25 |
| East Detroit | 16 | 14 | 20 | 14 | - | 64 |

**SOUTH LAKE (23, 55):** Josiah Wood 3, Sidney Jackson 2, C.J. Bates 4, Will Bowles 7, Marquez Thornton 5, Will Jennings 1, Adam DeJams 3. Totals: 9 (1) 6-11 - 25.

**EAST DETROIT (50, 74):** Ethan Blackwell 15,

Johnny Mills 11, Garrett McKay 6, Charles Baskin 9, Joe McLaren 5, Steven Lewis 5, Melvin Ballestero 4, Marquis Toliver 7, Jeff Fick 2. Totals: 27 (4) 6-9 - 64.

## FITZGERALD 54, FRASER 42:

Erik Johnson scored 14 points, and Denis Hebert scored 12 points to help Fitzgerald bounce back from Wednesday's loss to Madison. Tony Oglesby also had 10 points for the Spartans.

|            |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Fitzgerald | 16 | 13 | 12 | 13 | - | 54 |
| Fraser     | 6  | 22 | 6  | 8  | - | 42 |

**FITZGERALD (63):** Denzel Raines 2, Devon Johnson 7, Tony Oglesby 10, Matthew Kopicki 2, Erik Johnson 14, Lary Masters 4, Denis Hebert 12, Remar Smith 2, Anthony Williams 1. Totals: 16 (2) 16-21 54.

**FRASER:** Drew Uly 13, Blake Stampler 4, Travis Gannon 9, Brenden Rizzo 10, Williams 5. Totals: 12 (2) 12-16 42.

## MAC GOLD DIVISION NEW HAVEN 72, LINCOLN 58:

Junior center Rob Farr scored 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to power New Haven. Tyler Smith added 13 points, seven assists and three rebounds. Corey Jamison had 12 points, and Desmond Clark had eight assists for the Rockets.

|           |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Lincoln   | 15 | 7  | 15 | 21 | - | 58 |
| New Haven | 11 | 18 | 17 | 26 | - | 72 |

**LINCOLN (32, 35):** Anthony Grabill 4, Diallo Tarrant 6, Shaquille Wilkerson 2, Donovan Young 5, Levelle McKnight 11, Michael Chase 7, Brandon Wyatt 6, Kendall Moore 3, Cory Steenburg 3, Brandon Hicks 11. Totals: 19 (5) 13-30 58.

**NEW HAVEN (23, 56):** Tyler Smith 13, D'Vante Mayes 3, Corey Jamison 12, Desmond Clark 7, D'Vanta Labby 1, Ricky Clayton 7, Damian Nicholson 2, Rob Farr 23, John Ales 2. Totals: 22 (2) 22-32 72.

## WARREN-MOTT 45, MARYSVILLE 37:

Jerome Cobb and Brad Stewart each scored 11 points to lead Warren-Mott. The Marauders host Fitzgerald next Friday.

|             |   |    |    |    |   |    |
|-------------|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| Warren-Mott | 9 | 14 | 14 | 10 | - | 45 |
| Marysville  | 9 | 4  | 16 | 8  | - | 37 |

**WARREN-MOTT (51, 73):** Victor Sharpe 6, Jerome Cobb 11, Brad Stewart 11, Tommy Bell 8, C.J. Olanian 5, Joe Asbury 4. Totals: 14 (3) 14-28 45.

**MARYSVILLE (0-5, 29):** Russell 2, Jacob Mineau 8, Brad Sliess 5, Mason Dado 12, Tyler Wenner 2, Kevin Archer 3, Mark Archer 3, Matthew Dado 2. Totals: 16 (1) 4-8 37.

## MOUNT CLEMENS 62, ST. CLAIR 41:

James MacDougle scored 14 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots, and Leonard Perry had 17 points to lead Mount Clemens. Darius Wilson had 12 points, and Dwight Sanders had six assists and five steals for the Bathers.

|               |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Mount Clemens | 12 | 12 | 15 | 22 | - | 62 |
| St. Clair     | 16 | 8  | 8  | 9  | - | 41 |

**MOUNT CLEMENS (50, 93):** Darius Wilson 12, Leonard Perry 17, Davion Jones 3, Dwight Sanders 8, Kyle Capps 8, James MacDougle 14. Totals: 24 (1) 13-21 62.

**ST. CLAIR:** Scott Young 6, Aaron Fitzmorris 2, Zachery Tanton 9, Jeremy Carrell 3, Rich Allington 6, Andrew Rossi 13, Connor Tierney 2. Totals: 12 (6) 11-17 41.

## MAC SILVER DIVISION LAKE SHORE 53, MARINE CITY 26:

Johnny Johnson scored a game-high 18 points, and Lake Shore broke a six-game losing streak. The Shorians built a 25-9 halftime lead.

|             |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Marine City | 6  | 3  | 12 | 5  | - | 26 |
| Lake Shore  | 11 | 14 | 17 | 11 | - | 53 |

**MARINE CITY (0-7, 0-10):** Danny Hunt 2, Taylor Smith 3, Cody Archibald 9, Holeman 1, Michael Lake 4, Colby Aures 3, Robert Rossi 1. Totals: 8 (0) 10-19 26.

**LAKE SHORE (2-6, 4-6):** Terron Bridgeman 8, Deontae Bridgeman 4, Ray Jamison 4, Ray Stetter 2, Johnny Johnson 18, Robert Nimmo 6, Dewayne Cook 9, Myles West 2. Totals: 20 (1) 12-28 53.

## CENTER LINE 67, LAKEVIEW 65:

Derrick Popov scored 18 points, and Center Line rallied in the fourth quarter. Donovan Sesi had 12 points, Brandon Salyers had 10 rebounds, and Devin Bently had five assists for the Panthers.

|             |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Lakeview    | 15 | 17 | 13 | 20 | - | 65 |
| Center Line | 10 | 20 | 11 | 26 | - | 67 |

**LAKEVIEW (24, 39):** Bryce Holcombe 2, Matt Caljeja 18, Adam Wells 7, Joe Moffitt 2, Kyle Jackson 3, Duane Waldorf 3, Zeke Vicchio 2, Nate Guinane 5, Ryan Boren 15, Zach Carr 4, Dan Sweetwood 4. Totals: 22 (3) 18-35 65.

**CENTER LINE (51, 82):** Brendan Scharrif 8, Donovan Sesi 12, Brandon Bently 7, Derrick Popov 18, Brett MacArthur 9, Devin Salyers 7, Jack Hanna 4, Eric McCoy 7, Zach Nelson 2. Totals: 23 (5) 16-24 67.

## METRO CONFERENCE LUTHERAN NORTH 50, CLARENCEVILLE 45:

The host Mustangs (1-1, 2-9) rallied from a nine-point first half deficit with a 26-12 second half. Zach Bielecki led Lutheran

North with 13 points. Michael Vispara had 12 points and six rebounds. Kyle Wangelin took a team-high seven boards and Eric Stange had five points, five rebounds and five steals.

Dominic Patton led Clarenceville (1-1, 1-9) with 17 points.

|                |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Clarenceville  | 11 | 22 | 5  | 7  | - | 45 |
| Lutheran North | 11 | 13 | 13 | 13 | - | 50 |

**CLARENCEVILLE (1-2, 1-9):** Levonte Brooks 2, Benjamin Watts 6, Michael Schiffman 5, Lenny Smith 2, Damien Quarles 9, Dominic Patton 17, Adrian Myers 4. Totals: 19 (6) 16-45.

**LUTHERAN NORTH (1-1, 2-9):** Michael Vispara 12, Anthony Calibeo 7, Peter Corrado 4, Kyle Wangelin 6, Zach Bielecki 13, Eric Stange 5, John McGrath 3. Totals: 19 (3) 9-16 - 50.

# KOPICKI: 'U-D seemed to be a natural fit'

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and his assistant, Mike Fratello.

"You think (Vitale) talks a lot now," Kopicki said. "You should have heard him talk when he was recruiting you."

Kopicki said he was often too shy to answer the phone when coaches called, so his mother Mary would talk to the coaches. His father, Jay, also held much sway.

"He liked Dick Vitale and Smokey Gaines," Kopicki said. "There was no gray area. It was all yes and no."

Ultimately, Kopicki chose Detroit, which had risen to prominence under Vitale and players such as John Long, Terry Tyler and Terry Duerod.

"U-D was a national program and it was close to us," Kopicki said. "U-D just seemed to be a natural fit."

Kopicki thrived in college under Gaines and Willie McCarter, his coach for the final three seasons, averaging 13.3 points per game for his career.

He was a two-time All-Midwestern Collegiate Conference selection, and he led the Titans in scoring in both his junior and senior seasons. In 1982, he averaged a double-double with 18.6 points and 10.5 rebounds per

game, though the team finished with a 10-17 record.

Several moments stand out for Kopicki, including a 32-point performance against Michigan at Joe Louis Arena. He also helped Detroit to a 55-51 victory over Michigan at Crisler Arena in his senior season.

Kopicki was eighth on the school's all-time scoring list and eighth in career rebounds when he finished his collegiate career in 1982, and he now ranks 16th in scoring and 10th in rebounding.

After graduating, Kopicki went on to play in the NBA for three seasons, two with Washington and one with Denver.

He remains in touch with many of his friends from college, and Kopicki said he still goes to Calihan Hall to watch games on a "semi-regular basis."

"Joe came in and built on what some other great Titans did to really help prolong the success of the basketball program in the late '70s and early '80s," current Detroit coach Ray McCallum said in a statement. "He had options as a player, but he's a Detroit and he made a commitment to be a part of the program and keep the team rolling."

"I have great respect for him as a player, and also as a person who has given back a great deal

to basketball," McCallum said. "He's coaching, he's helping kids, and he's been very supportive of us and our program now. He loves this university just as he did when he was playing here."

Kopicki will join men's basketball players Jermaine Jackson and Rashad Phillips as inductees to the Detroit Titans Sports Hall of Fame today. Also among the honorees are women's basketball player Cassandra Pack; baseball players Pat Adams and Mike Pesci; cross country and track athletes Ken Dubois and Kim Jess; golfer Adam Walicki; and tennis player Maria Pandeale.

For Kopicki, the ceremony will serve as a family reunion as many of his relatives, including his mother, will attend. The only people missing will be his son, Jay, who plays basketball at Adrian, and his father, who has passed away.

When he steps on the court for his induction today, Kopicki is unsure what emotions he will feel.

"I don't know. I'm going to be happy and proud," Kopicki said. "The one person I wish would be there was my dad."

Send comments to john.hetzler@macombdaily.com.

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Until 1st Break

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\$6,000 Starting Chips - \$10 Add-on, \$2,000, \$20 Add-on, \$5,000 Chips

THURSDAY \$30 Buy In  
\$5,000 Starting Chips - \$10 Add-on, \$3,000 Chips

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\$1,000 Starting Chips - Unlimited Add-ons and Rebuys  
Until 1st Break

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\$4,000 Starting Chips - \$10 Add-on, \$2,000 Chips

SUNDAY \$30 Buy In  
\$5,000 Starting Chips - \$10 Add-on, \$3,000 Chips

## Girls basketball

### CHARTER CONFERENCE EAST

**MICHIGAN COLLEGIATE 47, CHANDLER PARK 33:** Precious Allen scored 22 points and grabbed 28 rebounds to lead Michigan Collegiate (3-1, 6-3). Tenai Chaney had nine assists.

### MIAC RED DIVISION BAPTIST PARK 51, MACOMB CHRISTIAN 10:

Karolyn Stephenson had 10 points for first-place Baptist Park. Sarah Johnson had five points for Macomb Christian.

|                  |    |    |   |   |   |    |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|----|
| Macomb Christian | 1  | 4  | 3 | 2 | - | 10 |
| Baptist Park     | 22 | 12 | 8 | 9 | - | 51 |

**MACOMB CHRISTIAN (0-7, 0-11):** Genifer Tesar 1, Brianna Fielder 4, Sarah Johnson 5. Totals: 4 (0) 2-4 10.

**BAPTIST PARK (7-0 MIAC Red):** Merris Staples 2, Alexis LaRosa 2, Karolyn Stephenson 10, Jamie Janec

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