

Moore gives HP HS an outside shot

Only misses once against Wilbur Cross

By **DESMOND CONNER**
Courant Staff Writer

Kendrick Moore thought for just a moment, "Hey, why not?"

Just outside the three-point line and in front of his team's bench with less than five minutes to play, **Moore**, Hartford Public's 6-foot-2 junior forward, received a pass on a fastbreak.

He could have driven for the easy layup, but he had the open jump shot, too.

So he took it. And missed.

It didn't affect the outcome because the Owls defeated Wilbur Cross-New Haven, 103-79.

But **Moore** did shake his head and smile a bit after he missed the shot.

"I really didn't want to take it," **Moore** said. "But I was feeling good and it seemed like everything else I shot was going in."

Everything else did.

Moore hit 14 of 15 shots from the field, including 2 of 3 from three-point range for 31 points to lead Hartford Public to its third victory in as many games.

Moore was 9-for-9 with 20 points at halftime.

"I felt like I was in a groove, I had a good stroke out there today," said **Moore**, who averaged 17 points a game last season.

Moore, a driving, slashing-type player, was also hitting 10- and 15-footers, something he wasn't doing last season and as the sixth man on the varsity as a freshman.

Last season, he probably wouldn't have taken that jumper on the break, even with the game well in hand.

"I don't think I felt confident with my shot," said **Moore**, 16. "My game

was just driving to the basket or driving and dishing it off. For the past two years Coach [Stan Piorkowski] said I had to start shooting better from the outside."

Moore, a B-plus student, spent hours shooting at the YMCA in Hartford this past summer and had some time to work on his jumper after fall league games at Prince Tech.

"You know the saying, practice makes better. Practice has made **Kendrick Moore** better," Piorkowski said.

Piorkowski and **Moore** realized that a jump shot would make his game complete, because he can jump, rebound (he had six defensive rebounds Wednesday) and he can dribble the ball about as well as "anybody I've seen at the high school level" Piorkowski said.

Moore's two layups, dunk and three-pointer helped HP HS to a 16-12 first-quarter lead. He carried the scoring load while Cross (1-1) tried several ways to stop 6-11 senior center Marcus Camby.

Camby scored 14 first-half points and finished with 26 (11 of 16 from the field).

Will Shoulars scored 28 to lead the Governors and Jerry Alexander added 20.

Moore's 12-footer put the Owls ahead 45-27 with 3 minutes, 26 seconds to play in the half.

"It's great for us that [**Moore**] shooting from the outside more," said Owls junior guard Tyrone White (11 points), who was shooting with **Moore** in the off-season. "Because he can do everything else. With his height, he can fake driving to the lane and pull up on most people and hit a jumper."