

# No surprise in 1st poll; Hartford Public No. 1.

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The first The Courant's boys basketball poll of the season provided few surprises. As expected, Hartford Public is No. 1 with seven of nine first-place votes and 262 points.



The Owls (3-0) have been impressive in victories over city rival Weaver (83-49) and perennial power Wilbur Cross-New Haven (103-79). HPHS has a dominating center in 6-foot-11 senior Marcus Camby and an excellent backcourt led by senior guard Kendrick Moore (31 points against Wilbur Cross).

St. Joseph-Trumbull, defending Class L champion, is No. 2 with 248 points and one first-place vote.

The Cadets have one of the better inside-outside combinations in 6-9 center/forward Keith Vail and senior guard Desmond Artis. St. Joseph was ranked 25th in USA Today's preseason national poll and 24th by Street & Smith's magazine. The other first-place vote went to Notre Dame-West Haven. Brian O'Dowd, a 6-4 swingman, is shaping up as one of the better players in the All Connecticut Conference.

## Wilbur Cross goes west

Wilbur Cross raised more than \$10,000 to pay for its trip to Las Vegas Christmas Day where it is playing in the Las Vegas Holiday Prep Classic through Wednesday. Coach Bob Saulsbury said Starter Sportwear Inc. of New Haven donated 400 T-shirts, which team members sold for \$10 each. The rest of the money came from button sales and donations.

"It's a very fine honor to play in the Las Vegas tournament," Saulsbury said. "The kids were all very excited about going out and playing some of the best teams in the coun-

try."

Cross (2-2) is 1-1 in the tournament and plays a losers bracket game today.

Saulsbury admitted he was nervous about facing the competition in Las Vegas after the Governors suffered their worst defeat in recent memory (to HPHS).

"I hope the sound thrashing we got [against Public] has made the kids realize that we have a long way to go," Saulsbury said. "I know we have a good team, we just have to make the commitment to being a great team."

Wilbur Cross has gotten great play from 6-2 senior swingman Will Shoulers, who scored 71 points — including a career-high 43 against McMahon-Norwalk — in Wilbur Cross' first two games.

And speaking of Saulsbury: The veteran (26 years) coach said at the start of the season this would probably be his last. But now he says the door is partly open for a return next year. "I've been in the game a long time and it looks like this will be it, but we'll see," Saulsbury said. "Although after [the Public game] I think I might as well have handed in my resignation."

## Rule changes

The most significant rule change implemented this season is "the Magic rule." The National Federation of State High School Associations mandates that any player with an open wound be removed from the game and cannot return until the bleeding has stopped. In addition, any clothing, such as uniforms, socks, or sweatbands that become bloodied must be removed or replaced before the player may return.

The rule is in reaction to former Los Angeles Lakers guard Magic Johnson, who announced last year he had tested HIV positive. Johnson's disclosure raised questions as to whether the virus, which causes AIDS, could be contracted while playing sports.

Also, visitors no longer have a

## Coaches poll

### Boys basketball

#### Week 1 / The Hartford Courant

Records through Sunday and first-place votes in parentheses. Points tabulated on a 30-28-26-24-22-20-18-16-14-12-11-10-9-8-7 basis:

School	Pts.
1. Hartford Public (3-0) (7)	262
2. St. Joseph-Trumbull (4-0) (1)	248
3. Notre Dame-West Haven (4-0) (1)	200
4. Fairfield (4-0)	186
5. New Britain (2-0)	162
6. Wilby-Waterbury (1-0)	133
7. Aquinas-New Britain (1-0)	114
7. Kennedy-Waterbury (3-0)	114
9. Windsor (3-0)	108
10. Xavier (2-1)	106

**Also receiving votes:** Danbury (3-0), 101; Hillhouse-New Haven (4-0), 99; Harding-Bridgeport (3-1), 64; Hamden (3-0), 60; Windham (2-0), 55; Masuk-Monroe (2-0), 50; Middletown (2-0), 45; Trinity Catholic-Stamford (3-0), 39; Manchester (3-0), 37; Hall-West Hartford (1-2), 26; Crosby-Waterbury (0-1), 22; St. Bernard-Montville (3-0), 18; Wilbur Cross-New Haven (2-2), 16; New London (2-0), 15; Marianapolis Prep-Thompson (4-0) and Northwest Catholic-West Hartford (1-1), 14; Bristol Eastern (2-0), 10; Westhill-Stamford (2-1), 9; Prince Tech-Hartford (1-2) and East Hartford (2-1), 8; Somers (2-1), 7.

**Coaches voting:** John Reiser, Rockville; Dwight Tolliver, Weaver-Hartford; Vito Montelli, St. Joseph-Trumbull; Reggie O'Brien, Wilby-Waterbury; Bill Cardarelli, St. Thomas Aquinas-New Britain; Jim Wolf, Hillhouse-New Haven; Manuel Gomes, Thomaston; Mark Snyder, Prince Tech-Hartford; Gary Kinell, Griswold.

choice of baskets for warmups. Teams must warm up at the basket farthest from their bench. This guarantees both teams will be shooting at the basket directly in front of their bench in the second half. This is not a big deal, since that's the way most coaches plan it anyway. . . . The technical foul for crossing the plane on an inbounds play becomes a team technical instead of a personal foul. All technical fouls charged to players will count as personal fouls.

## Fast breaks

It looks as if Bullard-Havens Tech (Bridgeport) might have competition in the CVTC. Prince Tech-Hartford got 25 points from Charles Hardy last week on the way to a 76-75 upset of the defending champion in Hartford. . . . The Shelton High gymnasium will be renamed the Vincent J. Murray Gymnasium in honor of the coach who took the basketball team to seven Housatonic League titles and a state championship in 1952.