Local report

Manchester slows Camby, but can't stop HPHS

By KEVIN F. HAYES
Courant Staff Writer

They play in the shadow of a 6-foot-11 superstar and rarely get the recognition they deserve. But they never complain. And they always seem to have an influence on the outcome of the game.

Players such as Kendrick Moore and Courtney Dunston are not mere extras on the Hartford Public boys basketball team. They are what makes the team something special.

One great player can make a team good. A great supporting cast can make that team unbeatable. And through its first eight games, that's what Hartford Public has been.

Hartford Public, the No. 1 team in The Courant's coaches poll, faced its most difficult test of the season Friday night against No. 8 Manchester, and in the end the Owls posted high marks in a 50-33 victory in Hartford.

The difference?

Moore and Dunston, junior guards, stepped up and assumed the role of leaders on a night when senior center Marcus Camby struggled offensively.

"They were doubling down on Marcus pretty good and as soon as we saw that, we knew someone else has got to be open," Dunston said.

Moore scored 16 points and Dunston had 10. Camby finished with 18 points, but had a poor shooting night as Manchester's physical style forced him into taking mostly turnaround jumpers and fall-aways.

"It was kind of rough down there. Every time I turned around, I had three guys in my face," Camby said.

Camby, who has accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Massachusetts next season, had six points at halftime as Manchester (8-1) took a 20-18 lead. Camby's rebounding and defense were not affected, however (he finished with 12 rebounds and seven blocks), and that helped get Hartford Public moving in the third quarter. Moore and Dunston combined for 10 points as the Owls outscored Manchester 14-6 to take a 32-26 lead after three quarters.

Manchester coach Frank Kinel said before the game that his team would have to play a perfect game to win. The Indians didn't miss by much. Defense, as usual kept Manchester in contention. Defense and a career-best game from 6-6 senior Rafael Lopez-Doriga, who had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Lopez also did a solid job on Camby, along with 6--6 senior Chris Rizy.

Hartford Public came into the game averaging 86.4 points, but with 1 minute, 42 seconds remaining, the Owls' lead was only 38-33. That was when Doriga fouled out. With no one to contest on the offensive or defensive boards, Manchester was outscored 12-0 the rest of the way.

"The kids worked hard on defense and more importantly, they worked hard on offense. I feel real good about that," Kinel said. "We are disappointed because we came here to win."

Hartford Public coach Stan Piorkowski also was pleased with his team's effort. "I think what happened tonight was we got tested for the first time this season and during a crucial point in the game, we responded," Piorkowski said.

Poland jumper wins it

Wethersfield beats Simsbury in 2 OT

Staff reports

Ed Poland hit a jump shot from 12 feet with 2 seconds left in the second overtime as Wethersfield defeated Simsbury 52-50 in a CCC West boys basketball game Friday in Simsbury.

Charlie Bowes and Chet Kaspar scored 13 points each for Wethersfield (6-3). Poland had 10.

Chris Essick scored 15 points and Mark Darbyshire 13 for Simsbury (4-6).

In other CCC West games:

Hall-West Hartford 59, Weaver-Hartford 49: Ruslan Inyatkin scored 15 points and Rick Diniz 14 to lead Hall (7-4) past Weaver (2-6) in West Hartford.

Hall outscored Weaver 14-5 in the second quarter to take a seven-point lead at the half.

Curt Daniels' 16 led Weaver.

Glastonbury 67, Conard-West Hartford 61: Mike Quigley hit four consecutive jumpers and Glastonbury (4-4) outscored Conard 20-8 in the fourth quarter in West Hartford.

Quigley had 17 points; Lucas Penney had 16 for Glastonbury.

Nick Sergi had 18 points and Greg Sergi 14 for Conard (1-7).

CVTC

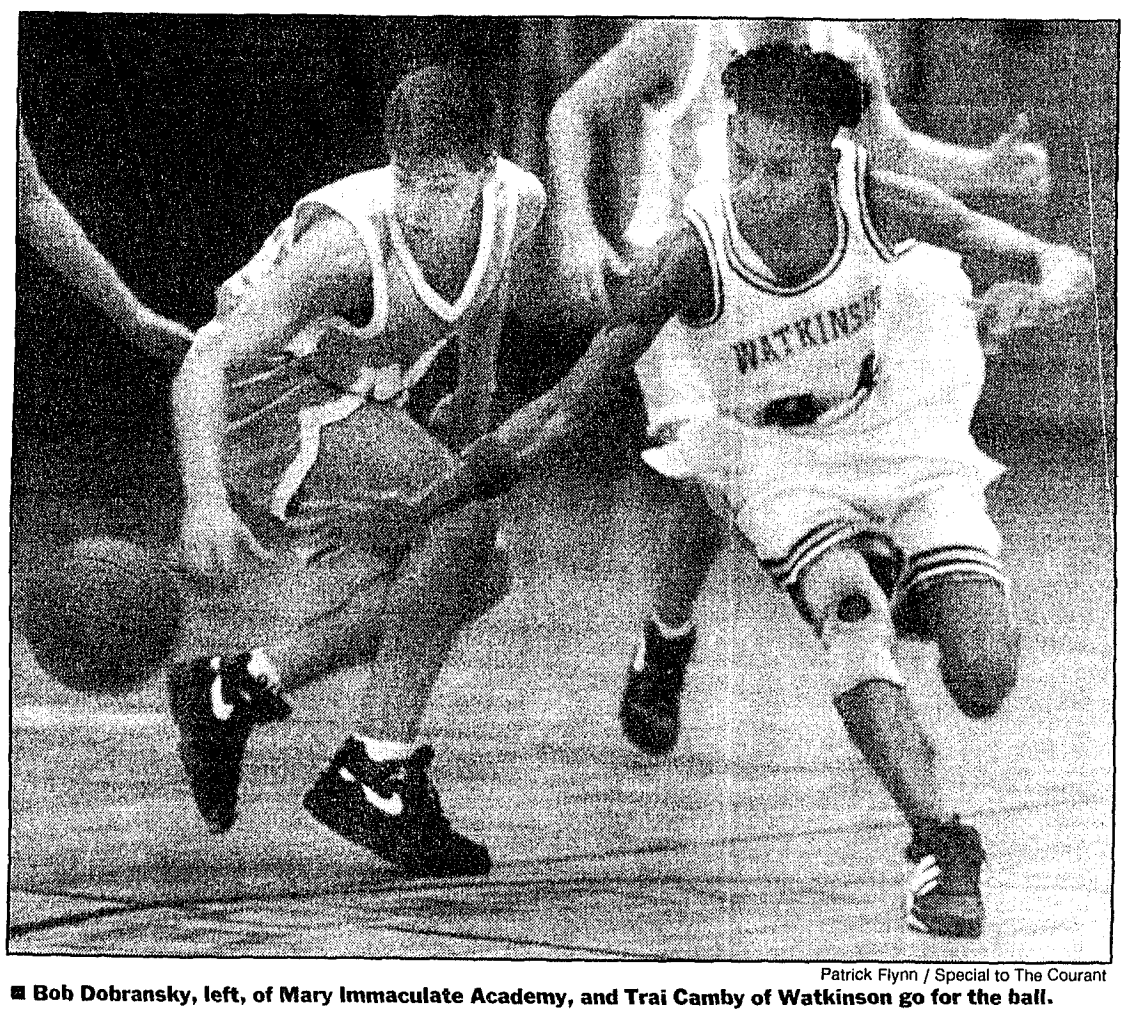
Prince Tech-Hartford 83, Kaynor Tech-Waterbury 80: Kyon Grice (26 points, 15 rebounds) was one of five players to make two free throws in the final 23 seconds as Prince Tech (8-1) held off host Kaynor Tech (6-3) for its seventh consecutive victory.

Charles Hardy had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists and Andre Owens 18 points and 10 rebounds for Prince Tech.

Miguel Bao scored 30 points and Steve Tsaprazis 20 for Kaynor Tech.

Whitney Tech-Hamden 59, Goodwin Tech-New Britain 49: Terrence Little had 32 points to lead Whitney Tech (5-4) over Goodwin Tech (0-9) in New Britain.

Vic Mejias led Goodwin Tech with 21 points.



Patrick Flynn / Special to The Courant

■ **Bob Dobransky, left, of Mary Immaculate Academy, and Trai Camby of Watkinson go for the ball.**

CCC South

Windsor 81, Bloomfield 65: Kai Milling scored 16 points and Terrance Christie and Russell Scott each had 14 to lead Windsor (9-1) past host Bloomfield (4-5).

Mike Shamberger scored 18 and Jamaal Smith 14 to lead Bloomfield.

Bristol Central 69, Newington 43: Kelvin Anderson had 15 rebounds, 15 points and six blocks as Bristol Central (6-4) beat Newington (2-6) in Bristol.

Ryan Howse had 14 rebounds, 11 points and eight assists for Bristol Central. Joe Pinchera and Chris Roman scored 10 points each for Newington.

Maloney-Meriden 47, Bulkeley-Hartford 45: Albert Walton's basket with 12 seconds remaining helped visiting Maloney (3-6) defeat Bulkeley (3-6).

Dave Bertuglia scored 18 points and Kyle Dobratz 13 for Maloney. Tom Forte led Bulkeley with 15 points.

New Britain 79, Bristol Eastern 65: Tebucky Jones scored 22 points to lead New Britain (7-2) past previously unbeaten Bristol Eastern (8-1) in Bristol.

NWC

Northwest Catholic-West Hartford 85, East Catholic-Manchester 56: Rodney Wizzard scored 23 points to lead five players in double figures as Northwest Catholic (8-2) defeated East Catholic (2-8) in West Hartford. Roger Rosario and Katibu Hatcher each scored 14 points for Northwest.

Victor Maldonado scored 22 and Thomas Colon 13 for East Catholic.

COC

East Hampton 78, Rocky Hill 58: Mike Krepcio scored 15 points and Kris King 13 to lead East Hampton (7-2) past host Rocky Hill (2-8). Chris Krepcio scored 11 and Jason Clark 10 for East Hampton.

John Marshall had 19 points and 10 rebounds and Jose Morales scored 19 for Rocky Hill.

Berkshire

Housatonic-Falls Village 67, Wolcott Tech-Torrington 63: Steve Dodge scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half — including 12 in the third quarter — as Housatonic (4-6) rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to defeat Wolcott Tech (2-9) in Torrington.

Chris Martin added 15 for Housatonic. Shawn Ladonna had 21 for Wolcott Tech.

Gilbert-Winsted 75, Lewis Mills-Burlington 58: Mark Stannard (22), Tommy Rea (21) and Jeff Olsen combined for 60 points as Gilbert (11-0) defeated Lewis Mills (6-5) in Burlington.

Scott Kennedy (15) and John Driscoll (14) led Lewis Mills.

Wamogo-Litchfield 71, Thomaston 56: Bill Leviness had 18 points, and Chris Day 11 as Wamogo (7-4) beat Thomaston (5-6) in Litchfield.

Jamie Burns had 17 points and Tom Reilly 16 for Thomaston.

Others

Mary Immaculate-New Britain 48, Watkinson-Hartford 42: Darius Czarnota had 13 points and 15 rebounds to lead MIA (10-1) past Watkinson (4-3) in New Britain.

Trai Camby led Watkinson with 11 points.

Westfort scores 31; Windsor wins, 45-37

Staff reports

Jennifer Westfort had 31 points and 15 rebounds to help lead Windsor to a 45-37 victory over Bloomfield Friday in a CCC West girls game in Windsor.

Both teams are 6-4.

Nykesha Sales scored 21 for Bloomfield.

In other CCC West games:

Simsbury 45, Wethersfield 27: Heather Handler scored 15 points to lead Simsbury (5-4) at Wethersfield (4-6).

Lauren Kaplan had eight points for Simsbury, which led 23-16 at halftime and 35-21 after three quarters.

Crystal Hall and Samantha Rapp had seven points apiece for Wethersfield.

Glastonbury 69, Conard-West Hartford 16: Sara Shellington's 16 points led Glastonbury (7-2) over visiting Conard (1-7). Kristen Penney had 10 for Glastonbury.

CCC East

Manchester 54, Hartford Public 26: Julie Smart scored nine points and Beth Milton eight to lead Manchester (7-3) past Hartford Public (0-8).

Tamika Knight scored 10 for Hartford Public.

Enfield 37, South Windsor 36 (2 OT): Karen Hebert's foul shot in the final minute of the second overtime was the difference as Enfield (7-1) edged visiting South Windsor (5-5). South Windsor sent the game into overtime when Jamilia Billie (13 rebounds) scored at the buzzer, and sent the game into the second overtime on a Caty MacLean (10 points) basket.

Hebert scored 12 points to lead Enfield, while Monica Tremblay had 13 for South Windsor.

Windham 51, Fermi-Enfield 37: Elin Lewis scored 19 points to lead Windham (7-3) past Fermi (4-4) in Enfield.

Angie Mitchell and Jen Holowaty each scored 10 for Windham. Ann-Kera Jones scored 10 for Fermi.

CCC South

Newington 59, Bristol Central 44: Jen Kelly scored 25 points and Beth Kelly 18 as Newington (9-0) defeated visiting Bristol Central (6-5).

Jill Nocera scored 10 for Bristol Central.

Girls

Maloney-Meriden 54, Bulkeley-Hartford 28: Jen DiMella scored a career-high 19 points and had eight steals to lead Maloney (4-5) past Bulkeley (5-4) in Meriden.

Nikki Campbell had 19 points and nine rebounds to lead Bulkeley.

Southington 81, Platt-Meriden 29: Bridget Buist scored 21 points to lead Southington (10-0) past visiting Platt (2-7).

Chris Chomic scored 15 points and Beth Huber 13 for Southington.

Heidi Grant led Platt with 12 points.

Bristol Eastern 69, New Britain 55: Jessica Byrnes had 14 of her 22 points in the second half as Bristol Eastern (5-5) outscored New Britain (6-5) 42-28 after halftime in New Britain.

Meg Gauthier scored 14 points for Bristol Eastern. Jamie Blass scored 24 and Jen Laurie 21 for New Britain.

CVTC

Prince Tech-Hartford 42, Kaynor Tech-Waterbury: Shenae Hamilton scored 13 points and Jawanna Major 10 to lead Prince Tech (8-2) past Kaynor Tech (3-4) in Hartford.

Danelle Waters led Kaynor Tech's with eight points.

Goodwin Tech-New Britain 58, Whitney Tech-Hamden 40: Jessica Lopez scored 25 points in leading Goodwin Tech (5-6) to its third consecutive victory by defeating Whitney Tech (2-7) in Hamden.

Sharmaine Holland of Whitney Tech led all scorers with 28.

Wilcox Tech-Meriden 45, O'Brien Tech-Ansonia 32: Martina Crouse-Smith scored 15 points and Jamie Wielgosh 10 to lead Wilcox Tech (7-3) past O'Brien Tech (7-4) in Ansonia.

Wilcox Tech, trailing 13-5 after the first quarter, went on a 18-4 run in the second quarter to take a six-point lead at halftime.

Michele Lucas and Tracy Brownell scored 11 to lead O'Brien Tech.

NWC

Northwest Catholic-West Hartford 52, East Catholic-Manchester 24: Sarah Gaspar scored 18 points to lead Northwest Catholic (11-0) past East Catholic (1-11).

Liz Griffin scored eight to lead East Catholic.

Berlin's Salina free to sign with Stanford

By KEVIN F. HAYES
Courant Staff Writer

Berlin High football player Adam Salina is free to sign a letter of intent with Stanford University, NCAA director of eligibility Janet Justis said Friday.

Stanford's recruitment of Salina was reviewed by the NCAA and the Pacific 10 Conference after Stanford reported a violation after a visit to Salina's home by coach Bill Walsh and assistant Bill Ring Jan. 13.

Salina, who will sign Feb. 3, learned of the decision after his basketball game Friday night. Salina's father, Paul, tracked him down at a pizza restaurant to give him the news.

"I'm very relieved," Salina said. "I felt bad for what the coaches went through. Here they are trying to do so much good by coming by my house and meeting everybody, and then all of this happened. I knew it would all work out in the end, but now it's just one less thing to worry about."

Walsh violated NCAA rules on recruitment and publicity when he discussed Salina's football future with reporters and when a picture of Salina and Walsh appeared in the newspaper. Walsh did not comment on Salina in a Courant story Jan. 14, but his comments did appear in The Herald of New Britain. Photographs appeared in both papers.

NCAA rules say that coaches may not evaluate a prospect in the media before the prospect signs a letter of intent. The NCAA ruled that Walsh's visit had little bearing on Salina's decision since Salina, a 6-foot-3, 241-pound Parade All-America linebacker, gave an oral commitment to Stanford in December. Salina also plays running back.

Scholastic results, schedule

Friday's results

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC East
Hartford Public 50, Manchester 43
Rockville 61, East Hartford 45
South Windsor 67, Enfield 58
Windham 76, Fermi 49
CCC South
Bristol Central 69, Newington 43
Maloney 47, Bulkeley 45
New Britain 79, Bristol Eastern 65
Platt 76, Southington 59
CCC West
Glastonbury 67, Conard 61
Hall 59, Weaver 49
Wethersfield 52, Simsbury 50 (2 OT)
Windsor 81, Bloomfield 65
NWC
Aquinas 57, Middletown 43
Berlin 43, Plainville 36
Farmington 49, St. Paul 43
Northwest Catholic 85, East Catholic 56
ACC
Notre Dame-West Haven 59, Xavier 54
COC
Bacon Academy 65, Bolton 43
Cheney Tech 50, RHAM 46
Cromwell 65, Coventry 41
East Hampton 78, Rocky Hill 58
Vinal Tech 67, Portland 55
NCCC
Avon 49, Ellington 45
Canton 60, East Windsor 56
E.O. Smith 66, Suffield 58
Somers 71, Granby 52
Stafford 71, East Granby 49
Tolland 56, Windsor Locks 48
Berkshire
Gilbert 75, Lewis Mills 58
Housatonic 67, Wolcott Tech 63
Wamogo 71, Thomaston 56
Shoreline
Coginchaug 59, Haddam-Killingworth 47
Guilford 69, Old Saybrook 24
Hand 70, Valley Regional 50
Morgan 65, Westbrook 58
North Branford 59, Old Lyme 40
ECC
Stonington 52, East Lyme 51
Housatonic
Cheshire 84, North Haven 50
Seymour 78, Lyman Hall 61
Sheehan 71, Branford 64
NVL
Torrington 106, Wolcott 56
Holy Cross 79, Sacred Heart 69
Wilby 95, Ansonia 93 (OT)
CVTC
Platt Tech 64, Wright Tech 52
Prince Tech 83, Kaynor Tech 80
Whitney Tech 59, Goodwin Tech 49
Wilcox Tech 67, O'Brien Tech 56
QVC
Plainfield 60, Ellis Tech 44
Preps
MIA 48, Watkinson 42
Pomfret 63, St. Andrew's 58
Others
Hillhouse 80, West Haven 74

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC East
East Hartford 54, Rockville 37
Enfield 37, South Windsor 36 (2 OT)
Manchester 54, Hartford Public 26
Windham 51, Fermi 37
CCC South
Bristol Eastern 69, New Britain 55
Maloney 54, Bulkeley 28
Newington 59, Bristol Central 44
Southington 81, Platt 29
CCC West
Glastonbury 69, Conard 16
Simsbury 45, Wethersfield 27
Windsor 45, Bloomfield 37
NWC
Aquinas 55, Middletown 50
Berlin 61, Plainville 25
Northwest Catholic 52, East Catholic 24
St. Paul 53, Farmington 36
CGBL
Hillhouse 44, St. Joseph 37
NCCC
Canton 50, East Windsor 26
Ellington 60, Avon 27
E.O. Smith 28, Suffield 23
Windsor Locks 34, Tolland 23
Berkshire
Gilbert 38, Lewis Mills 25
Nonnewaug 57, Litchfield 32
Thomaston 55, Wamogo 41
ECC
Ledyard 56, New London 19
NFA 35, Killingly 27
Stonington 71, East Lyme 30
Waterford 57, Montville 34m
Shoreline
Guilford 56, Coginchaug 31
Housatonic
Cheshire 44, North Haven 28
Branford 62, Sheehan 29
NVL
Holy Cross 46, Sacred Heart-Waterbury 33
Naugatuck 65, Watertown 48
Torrington 66, Wolcott 22
CVTC
Goodwin Tech 58, Whitney Tech 40
Prince Tech 42, Kaynor Tech 20
Wilcox Tech 45, O'Brien Tech 32
Preps
Gunnery 45, Forman 20
St. Margaret-McTernan 75, Marvelwood 29
Williams 47, Falmouth 23

BOYS HOCKEY

Cheshire 4, Notre Dame-Fairfield 1
Guilford 2, North Haven 1
St. Bernard 3, Housatonic 2

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

Conard 128, Kingswood-Oxford 115.4, *Windsor 114.9*
Simsbury 136.9, Hall 121, Newington 101.3

BOYS SWIMMING

Bulkeley 95, Southington 83
East Catholic 89, Rocky Hill 82
Fairfield Prep 109, St. Joseph 69
Fermi 95, Hartford Public 89
Hall 97, Glastonbury 89
Maloney 82, Bristol Eastern 76
Manchester 95, Windham 91
Simsbury 99, Weaver 76
Wethersfield 103, Windsor 67

Today's schedule

7:30 p.m. unless noted

BOYS BASKETBALL

Berkshire
Terryville at Lewis Mills; Northwestern Regional at Shepaug; Housatonic at Gilbert.
Preps
Choate at Loomis Chaffee, 8 p.m.; Kent at Berkshire, 9 p.m.; Trinity-*Pawling at Taft, 4 p.m.*; Suffield Academy at Wilbraham-Monson, 7:30 p.m.; Williams at Portsmouth Abbey, 2 p.m.; Salisbury at Avon Old Farms, 4 p.m.
Others
St. Joseph at Chaminade (N.Y.), *2:30 p.m.*

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CGBL
West Haven at Mercy, 2:30 p.m.
NCCC
Somers at Windsor Locks, 6 p.m.
Berkshire
Lewis Mills at Terryville, *6:30 p.m.*; Shepaug at Northwestern Regional, 3 p.m.; Housatonic at Gilbert, 2:30 p.m.
Shoreline
Old Saybrook at Morgan, 7 p.m.; Valley Regional at Haddam-Killingworth; North Branford at *Old Lyme*, 7 p.m.
QVC
Griswold at Hale-Ray.
Housatonic
Seymour at Lyman Hall.
Preps
Taft at Loomis Chaffee, 2:30 p.m.; Darrow at Mary Immaculate Academy, 2 p.m.; Kent at Berkshire, 2:30 p.m.; Suffield Academy at Northfield-Mount Hermon 2 p.m.; Williston at Kingswood-Oxford, 2 p.m.
Others
Conard at Rocky Hill, 4 p.m.; Putnam at Portland, 4 p.m.; Beth Page (NY) at Northwest Catholic; Parish Hill at RHAM.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC West
Hall vs. Simsbury at South Windsor Arena, 3:50 p.m.; Windsor vs. Wethersfield at Tri-Town Sports Center, Cromwell, 6:10 p.m.
CCC East
Rockville vs. Manchester at Bolton le Palace, 7:30 p.m.; Enfield vs. *Newington at Kingswood-Oxford*, 7:45 p.m.
Preps
Salisbury at Kingswood-Oxford, 3 p.m.; Suffield Academy at Kingswood-Oxford JV, 12:45 p.m.; South Kent at Pomfret, 2 p.m.; Trinity-*Pawling at Hotchkiss, 2:30 p.m.*; Westminster at *Loomis Chaffee*, 7:30 p.m.; Berkshire at Avon Old *Farms*, 2:30 p.m.; Kent at Hill School, 2:30 p.m.
Others
New Milford vs. Tri-Town at Enfield Twin Rinks, 1:30 p.m.; East Catholic vs. South Windsor at South Windsor Arena, 8:30 p.m.; Housatonic vs. North Branford at East Haven Rink, 4 p.m.; Guilford at East Haven, 1 p.m. at East Haven Rink; West Haven at Notre Dame-West Haven, 2 p.m.; Farmington vs. Watertown at Taft, 7:30 p.m.; *Archbishop Williams at Hamden*, 1:30 p.m.; Fermi vs. Suffield at Enfield Twin Rinks, 3:30 p.m.

GIRLS HOCKEY

Deerfield at Kent, 4 p.m.; Loomis at Pomfret, 3:45 p.m.

WRESTLING

Simsbury at Newington, 2 p.m.; Wethersfield, Maloney, Stratford at Windham, noon; Loomis Chaffee at Brunswick, 2 p.m.; Kingswood at Salisbury, 2:30 p.m.; Norwich Tech, NFA JV at Grasso Tech, noon; Guilford, Cheshire at Bristol Eastern, 5 p.m.; Lewis Mills at Farmington, 10 a.m.; New London, Avon, Portland at Derby, noon; Glastonbury, Cheshire at Rockville, noon; Stamford, *McMahon, Hand at Amity*, 3 p.m.; Bristol Central, Platt Tech, Killingly at Fermi, noon; Rocky Hill, Valley Regional at Terryville, noon; Trinity Pawling at Kent, 2:30 p.m.; Hopkins at Taft, 2:30 p.m.; Somers, Gilbert at Canton, noon; Maloney, *Avon Old Farms, Northfield-Mount Hermon at Choate*, 1 p.m.; Forman at St. Margart McTernan, 2:30 p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

Andover, Hotchkiss at Suffield Academy, 3:30 p.m.; Northwestern Regional at Farmington, 5 p.m.; Williston-Northampton at Kent, 3 p.m.; Avon Old Farms at Choate, 3 p.m.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Andover, Hotchkiss at Suffield Academy, 3:30 p.m.

BOYS AND GIRLS INDOOR TRACK

Yale Invitational, 9 a.m.

BOYS SQUASH

Pomfret at Salisbury, 2:30 p.m.; Hotchkiss at Taft, 2:30 p.m.; Avon Old Farms at Williston, 2:30 p.m.

GIRLS SQUASH

Kent at Canterbury, 1:15 p.m.; Taft at Hotchkiss, 2:30 p.m.

RIFLERY

Loomis Chaffee at Wilbraham, 2 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

Loomis at Westminster, 2:30 p.m.

Gaspar reins in her drive

Continued from Page F1

Zenobi, St. Thomas Aquinas-New Britain girls basketball coach. "She has a great command of the game."

Earlier in the season she scored 35 points, one shy of the school record, in a 53-44 victory over Bristol Eastern.

"She is doing a lot better job of letting the game come to her," Northwest Catholic coach Craig Tanner said. "She is not forcing things."

Competitive trend

Even in grade school, Gaspar was competitive. Not just against girls; she enjoyed racing the boys.

"If I could beat a boy, that would be great," she said. "I would love to do that because it would make them look bad. They were beaten by a girl."

In middle school she started playing basketball. Her speed and natural athletic ability made her one of the better girls on the team.

"Sixth through eighth grade was really fun," she said. "There was no pressure. You could do what you want."

Tanner first saw Gaspar play basketball in middle school.

"When I first saw Sarah I was talking to my wife," Tanner said. "And I told her Sarah is going to be a great player. She said, 'How can you tell?' You just could. She had outstanding skills and quickness."

That summer, Gaspar was talented enough to play AAU basketball, which she would do for three more years.

She earned a starting spot on the Northwest Catholic varsity as a freshman. But slowly, Gaspar's desire to be the best became an obsession.

"I lived to see the paper the next morning," Gaspar said. "I would ask Mr. Tanner how many points Maura [Rodgers] averaged when she played, and I would try to calculate how many points a year it would take me to surpass her record."

In the classroom she was the same. Gaspar — who is in the top fifth percentile of her class and has a 3.58 grade-point average — was bent on getting nothing but A's. Her freshman year she would have a calculator handy to keep track of what scores were needed to maintain a 3.9 or 4.0.

"If I was tired at night when I was studying," Gaspar said, "I'd tell myself, 'So what.' And drink some iced tea or something to keep awake."

She earned high honors as a freshman and was among the top three in her class.

In the following summer of AAU basketball, she continued to set lofty goals for herself. Her drive to succeed and the stress of playing competitive basketball slowly started to erode her love for the game.

By her sophomore year, she said she was sick of it. Still, she played well enough to average 16.7 points and helped lead Northwest Catholic to the Class S championship game, where the Indians lost to Aquinas 55-49 in overtime.

Then came her junior year. The most important year, she was told, because it was time to look at colleges. Time to consider playing college basketball.

There was no definitive moment, but Gaspar began to realize she still loved the game. It was her attitude that had to change.

"By junior year I started to refocus," Gaspar said. "I just sat back and looked at myself. I decided to approach the game differently."

She averaged 17 points a game as a junior.

This year she is more relaxed. Ask her how many points a game she is averaging and she can't tell you. Ask her about surpassing the school scoring record and she'll give you a modest response.

She has one more chance to get into another championship game but says she no longer looks that far ahead. She says she has not decided on a major in college. That will come. She says she still is striving to do the best in the classroom.

But she says she won't fall into the same trap again. She won't be obsessive in the classroom.

Or on the basketball court.

"It's going to be hard work," Gaspar said. "Every game in college is going to be a battle to survive. But I'm not going to work against myself. I just want to improve every year."

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