

CLEARLY, NO. 1

Henninger rolls Westhill in battle of area's best

By Donnie Webb
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The Henninger High School boys basketball team found another gear on Saturday. And it produced an almost easy-looking 59-48 takedown of No. 1 state-ranked Westhill before a jam-packed Allyn Hall Gymnasium.

Smothering defense, second-chance points and the indomitable play of senior point guard Romero Collier paved the way for Henninger's impressive win.

Collier had 16 points, 7 assists and 3 steals to lead the Class AA Black Knights, who are ranked No. 1 in syracuse.com's weekly media poll of large schools. Shaitique Blatche scored 17, Destin Blunt 11 and Keisean Scott 10.

"When the lights are on, we all step up to the challenge," Collier said. "We scheduled this game because we want to play the best. We took this game to show everybody else we're the best team in town."

Westhill's Jordan Roland led all scorers with 31 points. Henninger's Terrance Walker held Westhill's other big gun, Tyler Reynolds (16.8 ppg), to only four points.

"No excuses, they took it to us," said coach Kevin King.

"We might have taken it to another level today," said Henninger coach Erik Saroney. "Bright lights help. Seniors, they thrive on this."

The Warriors are the state's top-ranked Class B team and are the defending state champions. They are No. 1 in syracuse.com's media poll of small schools.

Henninger was up to the challenge.



Westhill's Jordan Roland scored 31 points but many shots were contested by Henninger's defense, like this drive against Shaitique Blatche on Saturday. (Scott Schild / sschild@syracuse.com)

At one point, the Black Knights led by 20 points (48-28). The brilliance of Roland in the fourth cut that deficit in half (51-41) with 5 minutes to go. But Collier broke the momentum with a basket.

UNSUNG HERO

Terrance Walker of Henninger finished with 2 points. But his luminance came on defense by taking

Westhill's Reynolds out of the game. Walker smothered and frustrated Reynolds, making for a miserably poor performance for the 6-foot-5 All-CNY forward.

"Terrance (Walker) guards the other team's best player every night," Saroney said. "He has been a rock for us. We are not anywhere as good as we are without his defensive effort. What he did against Reynolds was huge."

NUMBERS

2 3-pointers made by Jordan Roland as the buzzer sounded to end a quarter.

3 Free throws attempted by Westhill in the game.

11 Points scored, combined, by Westhill's other four starters against Henninger.



Canastota coach Laidlaw a real straight-shooter

By Nolan Weidner
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Canastota High School coach Marcia Laidlaw keeps on keeping on.

The 65-year-old coaching legend had the undefeated Raiders girls volleyball team atop Class B heading into Friday's showdown against Class A power Oneida.

Canastota defeated Oneida and improved to 15-0.

Laidlaw, who has been coaching at Canastota since 1973 (she took three years off from 2004-07 after retiring from teaching), marched past 750 wins in January and has her team on the verge of one of its most successful seasons.

Her record at Canastota is 758-90, an 89 percent winning percentage, and the most victories by a volleyball coach in Section III.

Named New York's volleyball Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Coaches Association. She was named the All-Central New York Coach of the Year last March after leading the Raiders through an 18-0 season and to a third straight Section III title.

You retired from teaching (and high school coaching) in 2004. Why'd you return?

"I took three years off. The person they hired, for the most part, it didn't pan out for her with teaching."

Then-superintendent Fred Bragan, and some former players who had daughters in the program, asked her to return. "I was also coaching at Mohawk Valley Community College. I said it all depends on how my season goes at MVCC in the fall. ... It all worked out well, and this is my eighth year back."

Why still coach? Couldn't you be sitting on a beach in Florida somewhere, drinking a pina colada?

"I was born in Gouverneur. It's cold up there. (laughs) The older I get, I can't stand this cold weather. Yesterday (Wednesday) my practice was at 6 o'clock (p.m.) and I'm sitting in my recliner, and I'm like, 'OK, you've got to get out of the recliner and this warm house. ... It's just not the coaching, it's just getting out in this cold weather. So would I love to be sitting on that warm beach? So yeah."

So why still coach a bunch of teenage girls?

"I love coaching. That's my first love. I guess it's to take a person and watch them progress as they play. That's the joy of it ... that keeps me going back. I've truly been blessed at Canastota with some very, very good young ladies. I hope they realize the success I've had is a result of their hard work and effort."

Do you miss teaching?

"To be honest with you — no. ... I taught and coached at the right time, and I retired at the right time. 'Let's put it this way, I have a Wal-Mart trac phone. I'm still on dial-up on my computer. I'm in the dark ages as far as all of that.'"

If you could grab the collective high school population by the collar and say, 'Listen here, what would you tell kids?'

"I tell all of my teams at some point in the season, it's the simple things. If you can say please, thank you, I love you, may I help you? — all of those simple, little phrases — you're going to go far in life. You're going to be respected. You're going to be liked. You're going to be successful."

Read the full interview with Marcia Laidlaw at syracuse.com/highschool.



The logo for Griffin's Guardians, the foundation that raises awareness and financial aid for pediatric cancer in memory of Griffin Engle.

Griffin lived life to fullest

helmets. It's a Detroit Red Wings logo because that was Griffin's favorite team. The logo is fitted with a letter 'G' for Griffin.

Friday night, the Lakers took it a step further when they hosted Cortland-Homer at Allyn Ice Arena in Skaneateles. They have been raising money for Griffin's Guardians, the foundation started by Erin and her husband, Adam Engle, to fight pediatric cancer and help families who are dealing with the diseases.

The Lakers set a goal of raising \$4,000. They wore special Gold for Griffin hockey jerseys because gold is associated with pediatric cancer. Their jerseys had Griffin's name on the back along with special logos. Cortland-Homer players wore special red jerseys honoring Griffin as well.

Erin and Adam were part of a ceremonial puck drop. Part of the gate receipts, proceeds from a 50-50 raffle and the money raised by the Lakers will go to the foundation.

Major, longtime coach of the Lakers, has sweetened the pot for his players. If they reached their financial goal, he's promised to dust off his "Lakers in the Lake" celebration, which involves jumping in Skaneateles Lake. It was an idea Major said he started after losing a close friend and former Skaneateles hockey teammate, Todd Pittman, who perished in the terrorist attacks in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

Out of that personal loss grew Todd's Fund, which Major said has given almost \$1 million to help children in Central New York.

Major said Todd's Fund made a \$1,000 donation to Griffin's Guardians and the team donated about \$5,000 to Griffin's Guardians.

He said he's prepared to jump into Skaneateles Lake — when the ice permits.

Major's wife, Kristin, and Erin, are longtime friends. They grew up together in Marcellus. They were in each other's weddings.

The loss of Griffin has been felt throughout the community.

"There are no words to describe it," said the Lakers coach. "It's tough. You feel for Erin and Adam. When you lose a 7-year-old ... he was such a happy-go lucky kid, too. He loved life, and that's the tough part of the whole thing."

Said Engle, "We're humbled. My husband and I are both humbled. For us to start Griffin's Guardians and have someone like Mitch and the hockey team embrace it, it's humbling. It's beautiful."

"It was a wonderful beginning for Griffin's Guardians and to raising awareness for pediatric cancer. People were so generous with their donations. We had a little boy ask if he could donate money, and then pulled the change from his pocket!"



Griffin Engle played for the Mid-State Hockey organization. (Provided)

BOYS BASKETBALL

NON-LEAGUE
SYRACUSE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE 63, PIERSON BRIDGEHAMPTON 55

Science: Anton Kelly 4-0-8, Jesse Murray 7-2-16, Isaiah Richardson 5-0-10, Roshane Paterson 2-0-4, Marcus Landers 2-0-5, Ruben Cruz 0-0-0, Symir Torrence 1-2-5, Ronnie Holmes 0-0-0, Jayson Brower 5-3-15. **Totals:** 26-7-63. **3-pointers:** Jayson Brower 2, Marcus Landers 1, Symir Torrence 1. **Team record:** 6-2 (11-2)

TYBURN ACADEMY 63, OTSELIC VAL 53

OV: Jordan Baerga 5-0-13, Angel Marshall 3-0-8, Austin Reynolds 2-2-6, Matt Neal 9-5-23, Jason Olin 1-1-3. **Totals:** 20-8-53. **3-pointers:** Jordan Baerga 3, Angel Marshall 2. **Team record:** 7-3 (9-7)

Tyburn: Matthew Faiola 8-8-24, Mich Hogan 6-0-12, Joshua Whitaker 3-2-8, Joe Mioni 7-5-19. **Totals:** 24-15-63. **Team record:** 7-4 (11-4)

Tyburn Academy 12 14 18 19 — 63

Otselic Valley 15 11 19 8 — 53

HENNINGER 59, WESTHILL 48

Henninger: Romero Collier 7-1-16, Oray Gayle 0-3-3, Shaitique Blatche 8-0-17, Destin Blunt 5-1-11, Terrence Walker 1-0-2, Keisean Scott 5-0-10, Nijuan Smith 0-0-0. **Totals:** 26-5-59. **3-pointers:** Romero Collier 1, Shaitique Blatche 1. **Team record:** 5-0 (14-1)

Westhill: Ryan Roland 0-0-0, Michael Burton 2-0-6, Jordan Roland 14-0-31, Dan O'Connell 2-1-5, Tyler Reynolds 2-0-4, Jeff Lello 1-0-2, Chase Gedney 0-0-0, Brian Daily 0-0-0. **Totals:** 21-1-48. **3-pointers:** Jordan Roland 3, Michael Burton 2. **Team record:** 9-0 (15-2)

Henninger 15 17 16 11 — 59

Westhill 9 15 9 15 — 48

Other scores

Whitesboro 59, Indian River 48

South Jefferson 71, Thousand Islands 60

South Lewis 49, Lowville 39

Carthage 76, Sackets Harbor 49

BOYS ICE HOCKEY

New Hartford 4, Cazenovia 1

Clinton 5, Ontario Bay 2

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CNYCL

BALDWINVILLE 62, CENTRAL SQUARE 51

CSquare: Lizzy Straub 4-1-10, Caitlin Benzer 1-0-2, Lauren Bell 6-2-14, Breanna Ransom 4-2-13, Schyler Laux 4-0-8, McKenna Gribbon 2-0-4. **Totals:** 21-5-51. **3-pointers:** Breanna Ransom 3, Lizzy Straub 1. **Central Square:** 2-3 (10-5)

B'ville: Julia Costello 0-1-1, Carolyn Brussel 0-0-0, Emily Pascale 6-6-18, Kaylee Lammers 1-0-2, Rachel Foertch 0-0-0, Riley Carlucci 2-1-5, Rachael Miller 9-1-19, Hope DeFazio 5-1-15. **Totals:** 23-10-60. **3-pointers:** Hope DeFazio 4, Bees: 5-0 (14-1)

Baldwinsville 21 9 19 13 — 62

Central Square 3 15 19 14 — 51

OHSL

BISHOP GRIMES 57, WESTHILL 40

Westhill: Isabel Sgroi 0-0-0, Katelyn Karleski 7-0-15, Shannon Bunce 1-0-2, Morgan Elmer 1-0-2, Lily Hurteau 0-0-0, Mary Kate Washburn 1-0-2, Delaney Martin 8-0-16, Mackenzie Martin 1-1-3. **Totals:** 19-1-40. **3-pointers:** Katelyn Karleski 1. **Westhill:** 6-3 (11-6)

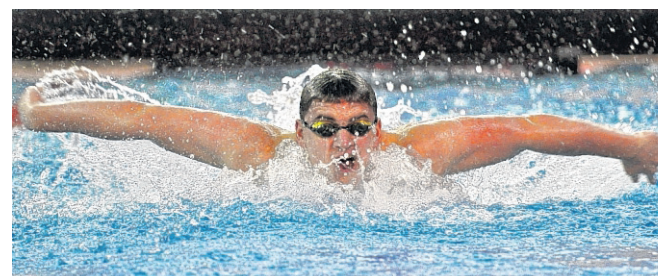
B.Grimes: Jordan Vought 5-0-13, Maria Noro 0-0-0, Teresa Shattuck 1-0-2, Molly McInerney 0-0-0, Azariah Wade 10-0-20, Marissa Hartley 1-0-2, Maria Gronau 4-0-8, Isabella Naylor 0-0-0, Kyra Grimshaw 1-1-3, Julia Freeman 1-0-2, Alissa Warner 0-0-0, Brianna Quier 0-0-0, Katy McInerney 2-1-7. **Totals:** 25-2-57. **3-pointers:** Jordan Vought 3, Katy McInerney 2. **Cobras:** 7-0 (16-0)

Bishop Grimes 11 21 15 10 — 57

Westhill 9 12 9 10 — 40

ONONDAGA 31, LAFAYETTE 25

Onondaga: Robbie Wucher 1-1-3, Alex Hourigan 0-0-0, Scarlett Nordman 0-0-0,



Casey Sawyer of J-D/CBA swims to 2-2 record time of 53.34 seconds in the 100 butterfly. (Provided photo)

Sawyer is part of three records as J-D/CBA wins OHSL meet

By Pat Spadafora
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J-D/CBA swimmer Casey Sawyer was part of three meet records as the Red Rams easily won the OHSL boys swim meet on Friday.

On Saturday, Mexico Diver Noah Galluzzo turned in a Section III record total for 11 dives (676 points).

Sawyer set individual meet records in the 100 butterfly with at time of 53.54 seconds, breaking the previous mark of 55.91 set by Cole Spiedel from J-D/CBA. He also swam legs on the 200 medley relay and 200 freestyle relay teams that also set meet marks.

The team of Connor Evans, Luca Bebla, Cory Knapp and Sawyer swam a 1:46.28 in the medley relay, breaking the previous time of 1:48.85 set by J-D/CBA.

The team of Spencer Schultz, Jeff Gabriel, Knapp

and Sawyer also swam 1:32.58 in the 200 freestyle. The previous mark was 1:35.58 by J-D/CBA.

Other meet records

■ McCauley Kolonko, Weedsport, 200 free (1:49.67)

■ Noah Farmer, New Hartford, 200 IM (2:06.93)

■ Cory Knapp, J-D/CBA, 50 free (22.33) and 100 free (ties meet record of 49.59)

■ Dylan Harrington, Oswego, 50 free (22.62) and 100 breaststroke (1:02.55)

■ Jake Zedack, Mexico, 100 backstroke (57.65)

GIRLS HOCKEY

Sydney Aubertine scored the game-winning goal with 17 seconds left to give Alexandria Bay a 3-2 victory over Skaneateles in the Section III championship.

Abbie Kuhns and Grace Schnoor scored for Skaneateles (12-5-1).

Alex Bay is 9-3-3.

JORDAN-ELBRIDGE 48, FOWLER 30

J-E: Emily Somes 3-3-9, Alexis Braun 3-0-6, Katie Goodrich 2-0-5, Leah Wright 5-3-13, Bailey Van Gardon 5-0-15. **Totals:** 18-6-48. **3-pointers:** Bailey Van Gardon 5, Katie Goodrich 1. **Team record:** 1-5 (4-12)

Fowler: Sakora Snead 1-0-2, Zairy Cepeda 0-0-0, Shaniece Walker 6-6-18, Nadia Diaz 1-1-4, Amber Ortiz 0-0-0, Mariam Bilily 0-0-0, Jazmyne Jennings 0-1-1, Kiaja Enoch 1-0-2. **Totals:** 10-9-30. **3-pointers:** Nadia Diaz 1. **Team record:** 0-6 (0-14)

J-E 9 13 13 13 — 48

Fowler 3 7 7 7 — 30

ORISKANY 49, TULLY 30

Tully: Jessica Donald 1-0-2, Lisa Esposito 1-0-2, Ashley Crawford 3-0-6, Danielle O'Neill 7-1-15, Elizabeth Russell 2-1-5. **Totals:** 14-2-30. **Team record:** 9-2 (10-6)

Oriskany: Madison Zizzi 9-1-21, Hannah Hoehn 1-0-3, Morgan Wolanin 0-1-1, Keely Wroblewski 1-0-2, Alexus Koons 1-0-2, Jordan Sahi 8-1-17, Sarah Bieby 1-0-2, Hannah Barton 0-1-1. **Totals:** 21-4-49. **3-pointers:** Madison Zizzi 2, Hannah Hoehn 1. **Team record:** 6-0 (14-1)

Oriskany 15 13 9 12 — 49

Tully 6 3 14 7 — 30

ESM

15 14 9 16 — 54

Chittenango 10 6 13 20 — 49