

2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic

Binghamton, New York

December 27, 2005

Regional Division I

Game 1

Union Endicott High School (Endicott, NY).....	38
Seton Catholic Central High School (Binghamton, NY).....	54

The 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic tipped off with Regional action pitting the Saints of Seton Catholic against the Tigers of Union Endicott. Seton returns three starters from last year's STAC Championship team, Jim Torto, Matt Cline, and Jerome Gosney. Union Endicott is guided by first year head coach Kevin McManus, who posted an impressive 84-39 record with the Tigers' JV squad.

Union Endicott got off to a sloppy start in the first quarter, managing just four points, all courtesy of senior Adam Skonieczki. The Tigers struggled against Seton's intense defense; however, the Saints were only able to pull ahead to a 12-4 lead by quarter's end. Endicott rallied briefly in the second quarter but Seton responded with a 7-1 run to finish the half. Seton's D.J. Lane capped the scoring with a three pointer at the buzzer, bringing the score to 27-15 going into the break. The Tigers were plagued by poor shooting in the first half, shooting a dismal 23.8% from the field, while both teams struggled to control the ball, turning the ball over a combined 22 times.

The Tigers were unable to gain any ground in the third quarter, equaling the 12 points the Saints put up heading into the fourth down 39-27. The final quarter was much of the same as the Saints maintained their lead thanks in large part to Matt Cline's seven points, running away with a 54-38 win. Cline led all scorers with 17 points, while Skonieczki led the Tigers with 13.

The Saints move on to the Regional Division I Championship Thursday at 7:30, while the Tigers will play the consolation game tomorrow morning at 9:30.

National Division

Game 2

Landstown High School (Virginia Beach, VA).....	66
Xaverian High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	62

National Division play began with the Eagles of Landstown squaring off against the Clippers of Xaverian. The Eagles are led by a trio of seniors, Rushad Phillips, Theo Baker, and Percy Harvin, while Providence bound Brian McKenzie fronts the Clippers.

Xaverian came out on fire in the first quarter, scoring 14 unanswered points in the first five minutes sparked by a pair of Brian McKenzie three pointers. The Clippers would finish the quarter up 18-4 with all but one starter scoring. The Eagles made an adjustment in the second, slowing the Clipper's offense with a trapping half court defense and jumpstarting their offense to pull the score to 27-20 going into the half. Harvin and Horace Fields led the Eagle's charge, each scoring eight first half points, while McKenzie led all first half scorers with 11, converting three of six shots from behind the arc.

In the third quarter it was Landstown's turn to go on a run. The Eagle's scored 13 straight points in the first three and a half minutes of the quarter, taking their first lead of the game, 30-27, in the process. The Clippers kept it close, again led by the outside shooting of Brian McKenzie, to pull within one, 42-41, with 2:47 left in the third. However, the Eagles ended the quarter with six straight to take a 48-41 lead going into the fourth. The Clippers eventually came back in the final quarter, led by Brandon Romain and McKenzie. Romain pulled Xaverian within three with just less than three minutes to play in the game, but Landstown would not back down. After retaking a six point lead on a pair of Percy Harvin free throws, Brian McKenzie and Jamie Mercier-Blanchad both knocked down jump shots to pull within two with a minute left, but that would be as close as the Clippers would come. Landstown overcame their first quarter woes to come back and win 66-62. Brian McKenzie finished with a game high 26 points, shooting an impressive six for ten from three point land in the losing effort. Horace Fields and Percy Harvin finished with 23 and 21 respectively for the Eagles.

Landstown moves on to the National Division Semi-Finals tomorrow against Villa Angela St. Joseph High School. Xaverian will play in the consolation bracket tomorrow at 1:00 pm against Friendly High School from Maryland.

National Division

Game 3

Franklin County High School (Franklin, KY).....	72
Taft High School (Cincinnati, OH).....	75

The second game of National Division play saw the Kentucky based Flyers from Franklin County High School tipping off against the Senators from Taft High School out of Cincinnati, Ohio. Franklin County is led by four returning senior starters, fronted by the big inside presence of 6'7" Paul Chambers who blocked 55 shots during the 2004-2005 season. Also leading the Flyers is 6'5" Chase Straw averaging 13 points per game to go along with eight rebounds. The Senators are led by four returning starters highlighted by first team All-State star Heath White who averages 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists per game. White also took home the title in the 2005 STOP-DWI Dunk Contest.

First quarter action featured a fast paced tempo with each team running the floor to the tune of a 23-18 Taft lead at quarters end. The intense play blossomed at 3:48 with an explosive ally oop dunk by White, taking the pass from Eddie Gray. White tallied eight points in the quarter, four of which came off dunks. The Senators and White would not slow down in the second. White added another ally oop this time the assist coming from the hands of Monsonna Torbert. Franklin County came within four of the Senators at the half-way mark of the second quarter on a jump shot from Cy Hines, however, Taft would go on a 7-0 run to extend their lead back to 11. Franklin County's Eric May ended the half with a three pointer with 6.2 seconds left to draw the Flyers within six going into the break. White led all first half scorers with 14 on seven of eight shooting, and Straw was best the Franklin County attack with 12 points connecting on six of seven shots.

The Flyers quickly closed the deficit in the second half going on an 8-2 spurt, and finally tying it up at 46 with 4:36 left to play in the quarter. Both teams would trade baskets and the lead all throughout the rest of the third quarter. Heath White again went to the air at the end of the quarter, giving Taft a 59-56 lead heading into the final eight minutes. Taft held a one point lead for the last minute of play and White knocked down two late free throws to secure the 75-72 victory for the Spartans. Taft had four players scoring in double digits despite the team's failure to connect on a three pointer. Heath White had a game high 27 points finishing on 11 of 14 shooting, while Chase Straw had 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Franklin County Flyers.

Taft will move on to the National Division Semifinals Wednesday at 9:15 pm, and Franklin County will enter the consolation bracket playing at 2:45 Wednesday afternoon.

Regional Division I

Game 4

Norwich High School (Norwich, NY).....	49
Vestal High School (Vestal, NY).....	52

The second session of day one at the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic led off with a Regional Division I match-up between the Purple Tornadoes from Norwich and the Vestal Golden Bears. Norwich is coached by Mark Abbott, a Norwich grad who took the helm in 1986 and has led the Purple Tornadoes to 248 victories and two NYSPHSAA Class B Titles. Fronting his arsenal is Mike Abbott, averaging nine points a game, and Alex Paula who contributes ten points a game. Four returning starters head the charge for the Golden Bears including Chris Baltz, a 2004 All-Conference performer who averages 17 points and eight rebounds per game.

Both teams came out shooting in the early minutes of the game. Vestal's Nick Woitach hit two three pointers on consecutive trips down the floor, and Norwich's Ryan Benenati connected from beyond the arc with just under four minutes left in the first to tie the score at 8. Chris Baltz ended the first quarter scoring with a deep three to give Vestal the early 11-8 lead. Both teams started the second quarter slowly, but the scoring picked up midway through the quarter. Dan Jurik of Vestal knocked down two from beyond the arc including one on which he was fouled and was successful in finishing off the four point play. Benenati responded with two three pointers of his own to bring the Purple Tornadoes within five of the Golden Bears at the 2:45 mark. The Golden Bears took their largest lead, 28-16, after Baltz netted his second three of the game. Norwich crept back but Vestal still held a 29-20 lead at the break. Benenati led all scorers in the half with 11, as the two teams combined for nine three pointers.

Norwich came out and dominated the start of the second half, going on a 10-0 run to take their first lead 30-29, since the opening bucket. Vestal responded with a run of their own, thanks to a five straight points from Nick Woitach, retaking the lead 36-30. They would trade baskets to end the quarter, Vestal up 41-35. Resilient Norwich refused to go away, as once again they were ignited by the three, this time coming off the hand of junior Robert Martin. Norwich re-took the lead 46-45 with 2:59 remaining when Paula nailed a jumper from just inside the three point line. On the ensuing possession Baltz made good on two free throws and Vestal was back out in front with a minute and a half left to play. With the game tied and 55 seconds on the clock, Baltz drove to the rim and what seemed to be an opportunity for a three point play, was erased by a charging foul. Chris McManus, after being quiet all night, came up with a huge three point play and Vestal's next possession and the Golden Bears climbed out in front and secured a 52-49 win.

Nick Woitach led all scorers with 17 points, and Ryan Benenati finished up with 16 points including six from downtown. Vestal advances to the Regional Division I Final against Seton Catholic Central on Thursday at 7:30 pm. Norwich falls into the consolation bracket and will face-off with Union-Endicott Thursday at 9:30 am.

National Division

Game 5

Friendly High School (Fort Washington, MD).....	52
Villa Angela St. Joseph High School (Cleveland, OH).....	74

The Patriots of Friendly High matched up against the Villa Angela Vikings in the first National Division game of day one's evening session. Friendly returns eight players from last year's varsity squad while Villa Angela is led by Ohio State bound David Lighty and senior Darryl Rushton.

Both teams came out running in the first quarter, pushing the ball up the floor and playing aggressive defense. Villa Angela took an early 19-14 lead after the first led by senior Erich Leden's eight points, including his second three pointer which he rattled in as the buzzer sounded. The Vikings continued to grow their lead, starting the second quarter on a 13-2 run jumping out to a 29-16 lead with 4:10 to play in the half. Walter Scott did his best to keep the Patriots close, scoring 12 first half points on six of nine shooting, however, the Vikings maintained their 13 point lead, going into the half up 36-23. David Lighty connected for 13 to lead Villa Angela, as the Vikings shot an impressive 58.3% from the field in the first half.

Villa Angela continued to roll in the second half, expanding their lead to 21 three minutes and 15 seconds into the half and showing no signs of slowing. Friendly simply could not match up with Villa Angela's athletes, as six different Vikings scored in the third quarter. By quarters end the Patriots found themselves down 57-35. The fourth quarter was much of the same as the Vikings continued to dominate play on both ends of the floor. With the game clearly out of reach both teams substituted their reserves to finish out the final three minutes. Villa Angela cruised to a 74-52 victory, never facing a serious threat after the first quarter. Walter Scott finished with a game high 16 for Friendly in the losing effort, while David Lighty led the Vikings with 15 despite not playing at all in the fourth quarter. Villa Angela shot 60.4% from the field for the game, while Friendly shot a mere 33.3%.

The Vikings move on to tomorrow's National Division Semi-Final against Landstown, VA at 7:30 pm, while the Patriots will play in the consolation bracket at 1:00 pm against Xaverian.

National Division

Game 6

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School (Brooklyn, NY).....63

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....57

The day one night cap of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic featured the host Binghamton Patriots against the Bishop Ford Falcons. Binghamton, the reigning Metro Division Champions are led by seniors Bruno Saraceno, Matt Pappo and Scott Valenta, while Bishop Ford features a pair of 6'3" seniors Justin Alexander and Michael Troeller.

Bishop Ford struggled early shooting the ball and Binghamton jumped out to an 8-1 lead with 5 minutes left in the first quarter. When Bishop Ford threatened the lead a minute later, Coach David Springer, made a five-man substitution, bringing in leading scorer Dan Jenkins who contributed immediately with a three pointer to put Binghamton back out in front by 5, and the score would stay that way till quarters end. Bishop Ford went on a 13-0 run in to end the half putting them up for the first time in the game and well out in front 27-19. The Falcon surge was led by 6'5" center Kevin Purcell who led all scorers in the first half with nine points and three rebounds. Bruno Saraceno was the top scorer for the Patriots in the first half netting six points on two of four from the field.

Binghamton came out flying to start the second half; scoring 11 unanswered points to take back the lead, 30-27. However, Bishop Ford kept themselves in the game tying it up at 37 with 2:22 left in the third quarter. Junior newcomer Brian Johnson, who had eight points in the third quarter, put Binghamton ahead with a jumper with 1:40 to play in the quarter. But Ion Lewis quickly responded tying it back up at 39. Saraceno hit on a three point play in the last seconds of the quarter, giving the Patriots the lead after three quarters of play. In the fourth Bishop Ford, on the shoulders of Quraan Davis, pulled away with a 63 -57 victory. Davis who had 17 points in the second half, finished with a game high 21, and Bruno Saraceno led Binghamton with 17.

Bishop Ford will move on to play Taft High School at 9:15 pm Wednesday in a National Division Semi-final, while Binghamton will compete in the consolation bracket against Franklin County High School at 2:45 pm Wednesday.

2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic

Binghamton, New York

December 28, 2005

Regional Division II

Game 7

Norwich High School (Norwich, NY).....	65
Union-Endicott High School (Endicott, NY).....	54

Day two of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got under way with the Regional Division I Third Place game between the Tigers of Union-Endicott and the Purple Tornadoes from Norwich. Union-Endicott failed in its bid for a Regional Championship berth against Seton Catholic Central despite a 13 point effort from senior guard Adam Skonieczki. Norwich found itself in the consolation bracket after dropping a nail biter to Vestal on day one. Norwich looked for senior Ryan Benenati to stay hot after his 16 point outburst on six of fourteen shooting from three point land against the Golden Bears.

It didn't take the Purple Tornadoes long to get going, firing down three threes on consecutive trips down the floor, two coming from Benenat while Alex Paula added one of his own. Benenati had eight points in the first quarter sending Norwich out to the early 22-12 lead. Skonieczki got into the action in the second quarter going on a run of which he hit for ten straight points bringing the Tigers back within two; however, Norwich would bang in two more threes at the end of the half to take a 37-29 advantage going into the break. Skonieczki led all first half scorers with 17 points shooting a perfect three of three from behind the arc. Benenati was best for the Purple Tornadoes with 11 points.

Mike Abbott was the big story in the third, coming alive to the tune of 11 points including a trio of three pointers; however, Skonieczki would not let Norwich run away with the game, pumping in eight points and his fourth three of the day. Despite Skonieczki's effort, Norwich still held an 11 point lead after three quarters of play. In the fourth, the Tigers were unable to mount a substantial comeback and Norwich cruised to a 65-54 win securing a third place finish in the Regional Division I bracket of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic.

Norwich had four players scoring in double digits highlighted by Ryan Benenati's 18 points. Benenati and teammate, Mike Abbott combined for nine threes in the win. Union-Endicott's Adam Skonieczki had a game high 28 in the losing effort.

Regional Division II

Game 8

Bainbridge Guilford High School (Bainbridge, NY).....41

Trumansburg High School (Trumansburg, NY).....71

The 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic Regional Division II tournament got underway on day two with the Bobcats of Bainbridge Guilford taking to the floor against the Trumansburg Blue Raiders. Bainbridge returns four starters from last year's squad, seniors Jon Walker, Andy McFee, David Nelson, and junior Willie McGinnis. Trumansburg is led by senior Eric Nobles and juniors Zach Golden and Christian Smith.

Bainbridge struggled early on to break Trumansburg's aggressive full-court trapping defense, turning the ball over six times in the first quarter and finding themselves down 11-4 going into the second. The Bobcats awoke in the second quarter pulling within three, 16-13 with 5:05 left in the half on four straight David Nelson points, but the Blue Raiders responded by turning up the defensive pressure and outscoring Bainbridge 14-5 over the last four minutes of the half, taking a 30-18 lead into the break. Eric Nobles led all first half scorers with ten, shooting a perfect four of four from the field and two of two from the free throw line.

Despite scoring a quick seven points in the first minute and a half of the third quarter, Bainbridge continued to struggle against the Blue Raiders' trapping defense and found themselves unable to get any consistent offense going, falling behind 51-27 by the end of the third quarter. Trumansburg dominated the fourth quarter, pushing the ball up the floor and coasting to a 71-41 win, allowing both teams' reserves a chance to finish out the final few minutes of the game. Zach Golden had a game high 19 for the Blue Raiders, who move on to the Regional Division II Finals tomorrow evening. David Nelson led the Bobcats with nine points. Bainbridge turned the ball over 28 times and shot just 29.4% from the floor, and will play tomorrow morning in the Regional Division II consolation game.

National Division

Game 9

Xaverian High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	61
Friendly High School (Fort Washington, MD).....	41

The first consolation game of the National Division tournament placed the Clippers from Xaverian against the Friendly High Patriots. Both teams dropped their first game, Xaverian losing to Landstown, VA despite taking an early lead, while Friendly lost by 22 to the 2004 tournament's third place finisher Villa Angela St. Joseph. Walter Scott led the Patriots with 16 points and 8 rebounds on day one, and Xaverian standout Brian McKenzie had 26, but did not play on day two for disciplinary reasons, instead leaving sophomore Brandon Romain to guide the Clippers; Romain finished with 15 against Landstown.

Both teams played the first six minutes of the opening quarter even, however, Friendly came on strong by quarters' end, connecting on long three pointers from Michael Wright and James Stewart to take a 17-12 lead going into the second. Brandon Romain answered in the second quarter for Xaverian, scoring six straight points to put the Clippers ahead 18-17 with 4:34 left to play in the half. Xaverian shut down Friendly's offense for the remainder of the half, only allowing four Patriot points while making good for 16 of their own, all coming from Romain, Vincent Council, and Patrick Jackson. By half, the Clippers had a 28-21 lead. Romain led all first half scorers with 10 points and the Clippers out rebounded the Patriots 17 to 10.

Xaverian continued to shut down Friendly early in the third, increasing their lead to 11 on Brandon Romain's three pointer with 4:13 left in the quarter. Hillary Haley scored five of the Patriots' seven third quarter points, but Friendly found themselves facing a 15 point deficit to start the final quarter, down 43-28. The Patriots stepped up their defense in the fourth, switching to a 3-2 trapping zone, momentarily slowing down the Clippers while scoring six unanswered points of their own. The success was short lived as Xaverian quickly adjusted to the zone and regained their 15 point lead midway through the fourth. The Friendly comeback was far too little, too late as Xaverian easily went on to the 61-41 win. Brandon Romain led all scorers for the Clippers with 21 points as Xaverian advances to play for 5th place in the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic tomorrow afternoon, while Friendly's Walter Scott had 12 in the losing effort.

National Division

Game 10

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....	74
Franklin County High School (Franklin, KY).....	64

Host Binghamton High School looked to rebound after a disappointing opening night loss to Bishop Ford from Brooklyn. Binghamton held a small lead for most of the game, however, they were unable to control the tempo through the fourth quarter and fell to the Falcons, 63-57. Bruno Saraceno put forth a stellar effort despite the loss, and the Patriots looked for him to lead the charge against the Flyers of Franklin County High in their first consolation bracket game of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic. The Patriots find themselves in unfamiliar territory, this being the first time in five years that Binghamton has lost their first round game. Franklin County suffered a heart breaker on day one to the explosive Taft team from Cincinnati, 75-72. The Flyers had double digit outputs from three players, Matt Harris, Cameron Connor and Chase Straw, against the Spartans, and they hoped to ride their shoulders into a 5th place game on Thursday.

Binghamton got out to a dismal start, failing to score a point until the 4:20 mark as Franklin County went on an 11-0 run to start the game. The Patriots were outplayed for the majority of the first half. Franklin County's intense press defense plagued Binghamton who rotated five-man units throughout the half. Neither group was able to muster up any offense, as Binghamton was held to just 24 points, all of those coming without a three pointer or a free throw. Franklin County had point production from all but two players, shooting a perfect 100% from the line, and 51.7% from the field, putting them out in front 39-24 at the break. Binghamton's Brian Johnson led all first half scorers with ten points, and Chase Straw was best for the Flyers with eight.

The start of the second half would prove to be more even matched between the two teams, yet Franklin County maintained a solid ten point lead. With 2:30 left in the third quarter, Binghamton pulled within seven on a Danny Jenkins floater, but that would be as close as the Pats would get, playing even through the fourth to take their second loss of the tournament, 74-64. Chase Straw was tops for the Flyers tallying 16 points and ten rebounds. Brian Johnson led all scorers with 17 points.

Binghamton will play Thursday in the 7th place game against Friendly High School from Maryland at 9:30 am. The Flyers move on to battle Xaverian, NY for 5th place at 11:15 am.

Regional Division II

Game 11

Harpurville High School (Harpurville, NY).....	57
Chenango Forks High School (Chenango, NY).....	48

The second game of Regional Division II play took to the floor Wednesday evening as the Hornets of Harpurville tipped off against the Chenango Forks Blue Devils. The Hornets, who return five senior starters, looked to veteran leadership to carry them through the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic. Chenango Forks is led by three returning seniors, Ricky Mirabito, Tyler Spencer and Matt Faughnan.

Both teams got off to a rocky start, scoring a combined 21 points in the first quarter with Harpurville out to the early lead, 14-7. In the second, Forks battled back with a 13-0 run to start the quarter, taking a 20-14 lead with 3:25 to play in the half. Harpurville would not go settle, countering with a run of six unanswered to take the lead, 24-23, heading into the break. Ricky Mirabito led all scorers in the half with 12 points, all coming from behind the arc. Tyler Hartman fronted the Hornet assault contributing ten points on four of eight shooting.

Despite carrying the lead into the second half, Harpurville was on the wrong end of a 17-4 sequence over the first 6 minutes of the third. At quarters end, Chenango Forks was out in front by 11, 44-33. Ricky Mirabito stayed hot in the second half, hitting from NBA range pacing Forks' comeback. The Blue Devils cruised through the fourth, winning 57-48, securing a bid in the Regional Division II Championship game against Trumansburg Thursday at 5:45 pm. Harpurville moves on to play Bainbridge Guilford in the consolation bracket.

Ricky Mirabito finished up with a game high 22 points, making good on five of ten three pointers, and Tyler Jensen added 15 of his own. Tyler Hartman did his best to keep the Hornets in the game, but his 18 points including a perfect six of six from the line proved to be not enough.

National Division

Game 12

Villa Angela St. Joseph High School (Cleveland, OH).....53

Landstown High School (Virginia Beach, VA).....69

Two of the top teams in this year's STOP-DWI Holiday Classic squared off in the semi-final round of the National Division tournament. Villa Angela St. Joseph, featuring Ohio State bound David Lighty who looked to add to his 15 point output on opening night as the Vikings moved past Friendly High out of Maryland, took to the floor against the Landstown Eagles. Despite scoring a measly four points in the first quarter, the Eagles managed a 66-62 victory over the Brooklyn based Xaverian High, thanks to the efforts of seniors Percey Harvin and Horace Fields, contributing 21 and 23 respectively. Harvin is on his way to the University of Florida to play wide receiver next fall.

Both teams got out to a flying start, knotting the score at 12 midway through the first. However, with Fields leading the way making good on 2 jumpers, Landstown went on an 11-2 tear to end the quarter up 21-14. Villa Angela ran into offensive woes never finding a rhythm, committing an uncharacteristic 12 turnovers during the first half. David Lighty was shut down in the first half, netting only 5 points on two of six shooting. Theo Baker had a first half best 13 points for the Eagles, as they took a big lead heading into the break, 37-20.

Early in the second half, Landstown would extend their lead to as much as 21, but Villa Angela would go on a short spurt of seven unanswered points to bring the deficit back under 15. It would not stay that way for long as the Eagles came right back scoring four and taking the lead back out to 18. Darryl Rushton was Villa Angela's only threat in the third quarter, scoring ten points in a row for the Vikings. The fourth quarter featured small threats of a Villa Angela comeback, but the Vikings could never bring it closer than nine. Rushton and Lighty were the only Villa Angela players to record a point in the last 14 minutes of the half. The Vikings production problems plagued them all night long, giving it away 21 times, and taking the loss 69-53.

Lighty finished with a Villa Angela best 21 points, eight rebounds and five assists, while Horace Fields led all scorers with 22 points on nine of 16 shooting, and Percey Harvin added 18 points, six rebounds and six assists in the winning effort. Landstown heads to the final Thursday night at 9:30 pm against Taft, OH. Villa Angela will play for third place at 1:00 pm against Bishop Ford.

National Division

Game 13

Taft High School (Cincinnati, OH).....	65
Bishop Ford High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	64

The second National Division Semi-Final placed the Taft Senators against the Falcons of Bishop Ford. Bishop Ford knocked off the host Binghamton Patriots on day one, led by Quraan Davis' 21 points. Taft defeated Franklin County led by high flying Heath White's 27 points, highlighted by two jaw dropping ally-oops.

The Senators jumped out to an early 12-8 lead six minutes into the game on Heath White's powerful one handed dunk from the baseline, but Bishop Ford remained close, pulling within two, 14-12, on a Josh Dupuy floater in the lane at the end of the quarter. Dupuy caught fire in the second, connecting for seven points in the first two minutes as he served as the catalyst, propelling Bishop Ford to a 29-16 lead with 3:01 left to play in the half. The Falcons' defense shut down Heath White in the second quarter, holding Taft's star scoreless until Brandon Russ lobbed an ally-oop from near half court to White with just 35 seconds left in the half. The Senators managed nine points late in the half to keep it respectable, down 36-25 going into the break. Dupuy led all scorers with 15 first half points, shooting a perfect five for five from the free throw line. Despite his quiet second quarter, Heath White still ended with eight first half points to lead the Senators.

Midway through the third Heath White began warming up, hitting for five straight points, including a three point play to pull the Senators within six, 42-36 with 4:10 left in the quarter. Bishop Ford struggled to break Taft's pressure defense and the Senators came within a single point, 44-43 with just under a minute left on an acrobatic Heath White tip in. Kevin Purcell responded for the Falcons with a three point play, only to have Monsonna Torbert close out the scoring for Taft with a jump shot, leaving the score 47-45 heading into the final eight minutes. Torbert remained hot in the fourth, connecting on back to back three pointers to tie the game at 51 with 6:14 left to play. Both teams would continue to battle back and forth, with Taft regaining the lead for the first time on the heels of a six point run over a span of 30 seconds with 2:30 left in regulation. The Senators would increase their lead to as much as five, 65-60, but Josh Dupuy converted a pair of free throws to bring the score to 65-62 with just 41.2 seconds to play. Heath White missed the front end of a one and one opportunity with 10.2 seconds left that could have sealed the deal for the Senators, but instead Dupuy grabbed the long rebound and sped the length of the court and laid the ball off the glass to pull the Falcons within one, 65-64 with 2.2 seconds left. This would be as close as Bishop Ford would come, as Taft hung on for the victory. Heath White finished with a game high 21 and teammate Monsonna Torbert had 17 as Taft advances to the National Division Championship, tomorrow night at 9:30 pm against Landstown, Virginia. Josh Dupuy had 19 points to lead the Falcons, who will play against Villa Angela for third place tomorrow afternoon.

2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic

Binghamton, New York

December 29, 2005

National Division

Game 14

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....	56
Friendly High School (Fort Washington, MD).....	78

Day three of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got under way with a battle of the Patriots; host Binghamton High taking to the floor against Friendly High from Fort Washington, Maryland. Binghamton looked to rebound after a poor performance on day two with a loss to Franklin County High in which they committed 25 turnovers, and shot under 50% from the line. Friendly, who dropped their second game of the tournament to Xaverian High, hoped to salvage their trip to Binghamton with a win on the final day.

The first quarter was played evenly, both teams running the floor to the tune of a 17-15 Friendly advantage at quarters end. Binghamton managed to find a way through Friendly's trapping defense getting point production from out of all but one player. In the second quarter Friendly broke a 19-all tie with a 10-0 run, distancing themselves from Binghamton with 4:08 left in the half. Binghamton would creep back to within five, thanks to a late tip-in by Scott Valenta, going down 36-31 heading into the break. Hillary Haley had a first half best, ten points on five of seven shooting. Valenta was tops for Binghamton with eight.

Friendly would again distance themselves from Binghamton in the third, guided by two backboard rattling dunks from 6'9" center Augustus Gilchrist. By the end of the third, Friendly's lead was extended to ten, 42-32. Binghamton would not pose a threat in the fourth, allowing Friendly to cruise to a 78-56 victory, finishing with a 12-1 run to end the game. Gilchrist had a huge second half to finish with a game high 23 points and seven rebounds, while Hillary Haley finished up with 21 of his own for Friendly. Scott Valenta led the host team with 15 points and seven rebounds. This was the first time Binghamton has gone 0-3 for the tournament since the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic's inaugural year in 1992, when Bishop Ford, the team Binghamton played victim to in this years first round, took home the title. Friendly finished the tournament 1-2, good for seventh place.

National Division

Game 15

Xaverian High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	74
Franklin County High School (Franklin, Kentucky).....	61

Both the Xaverian Clippers and Franklin County Flyers lost their first round games, but rebounded on day two to advance to the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic fifth place game. Sophomore Brandon Romain led Xaverian on day two, while star Brian McKenzie returned after serving a one game suspension issued by Coach Jack Alesi. Over the first two days the Flyers had excellent play from seniors Chase Straw and Houston Hardy, and Franklin County needed much of the same on day three to keep it close against the quick Clippers squad.

Xaverian got right to work in the first quarter, scoring ten points in the first three minutes, pushing the ball up the floor and shutting down the Flyers' offense. Despite falling behind early, Franklin County's Matt Harris drained a running three at the buzzer to keep the Flyers' alive, down 21-12 going into the second. Xaverian's lead began to slip away during the second quarter, as the Flyers fought back to pull within five, 30-25 on a Chase Straw bucket with 2:30 left in the half, and then within two with 23 seconds to play when Kaelin Ammons knocked down a base line jump shot. Neither team would score again, leaving it 34-32 at the half. Brandon Romain led all first half scorers with 12 points and also hauled in five rebounds. Chase Straw had eight in the first half to lead Franklin County.

Franklin County connected on back to back three pointers off the hands of Cameron Connor and Houston Hardy to tie the game at 42 with five minutes left in the third. Both teams played relatively even throughout the rest of the third with Xaverian clinging on to a 55-54 lead heading into the final quarter. The Flyers' defense shut down Brandon Romain in the third, holding him scoreless for the entire quarter. The Clippers came out inspired in the fourth, going on an 11 point run over the first three minutes to take a 66-54 lead. Franklin County struggled against the Clipper's aggressive defense and it became evident that their third quarter comeback would be for not. The fourth quarter was all Xaverian, dominating both ends of the floor en route to a 74-61 victory and taking home fifth place in this year's tournament with a 2-1 record. Brian McKenzie had a game high 22 points for the Clippers, while Chase Straw and Paul Chambers finished with 12 and 13 respectively for the Flyers.

National Division

Game 16

Bishop Ford High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	49
Villa Angela St. Joseph High School (Cleveland, NY).....	73

The 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic National Division third place game featured the Bishop Ford Falcons against the Villa Angela St. Joseph Vikings. Both teams won their first round games, but fell on day two. The Falcons knocked off the host Binghamton Patriots but lost a heartbreaker against Taft in the day two nightcap. Villa Angela beat Friendly High on day one, but was beaten by Landstown, Virginia on day two. The Viking's have been led all tournament by seniors David Lighty and Darryl Rushton, while the Falcons' Josh Dupuy and Quraan Davis have been solid in both games.

Villa Angela came out running in the first quarter, but Bishop Ford was right on their heels. The Vikings took a 19-13 lead by the quarters end with seven points coming from sophomore Maurice Haynes in the last four minutes of the quarter. The Falcons hung close in the second quarter, pulling within two, 24-22 with 4:40 left in the half on Eion Lewis's three point play. The Vikings answered by going on a tear, taking a 40-25 lead going into the half highlighted by a David Lighty break away dunk with less than a minute left, and a buzzer beating three pointer from the corner by Ashen Ward. Lighty had a half high 16 points on seven for nine shooting, despite not starting. Quraan Davis had eight for the Falcons.

The Vikings continued to roll in the third quarter, expanding their lead to as much as 21 midway through the quarter. Bishop Ford struggled against the Vikings' aggressive defense, and by quarters end found themselves down 58-41. Desperate throughout the fourth, the Falcons abandoned their set offenses and began launching up long shots hoping to come back, though had little success doing so. Villa Angela ran away with the game, winning easily 73-49 facing no serious challenge since the midway point of the second quarter. For the second straight year the Vikings finish third in the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic with a record of 2-1. David Lighty finished with a game high 28 points and teammate Maurice Haynes added 16 for the Vikings. Eion Lewis and Josh Dupuy had 14 and 12 respectively for the Falcons, who shot just 16.7% from behind the arc.

Regional Division II

Game 17

Harpursville High School (Harpursville, NY).....36

Bainbridge Guilford High School (Bainbridge, NY).....56

The Consolation game of the Regional Division II bracket featured the Hornets from Harpursville pitted against the Bobcats of Bainbridge Guilford. Both teams dropped their first game in rather decisive fashion, Harpursville losing by nine to a powerful Chenango Forks team, and Bainbridge falling to Trumansburg by a huge 30 point margin. Tyler Hartman is the featured player for the Hornets after he dropped 18 on day one in the losing effort, and the Bobcats, who had nine players score in their first game, looked to climb out in front early.

Both teams got out to a rusty start, scoring only a combined 18 points in the first quarter. Hartman was held scoreless as Bainbridge jumped out to the quick lead, 14-4, at quarters end. Harpursville clearly forgot to pack their offense when they made the trip to Binghamton, scoring a dismal 14 points in the first half. Hartman did not get involved until the halfway mark of the second quarter on a dirty work basket underneath and that was all the garbage he would collect in the half. Rather, it was Jared Kimmel who stepped up with six points. At the break it was Bainbridge 24, Harpursville 14. David Nelson from Bainbridge was best in the first half with 11 points.

The Harpursville offense really starting bussing in the second half, as the Hornets nearly outscored their first half total with 13 points in the third quarter alone. Kimmel was again the Hornet force tacking on five more points to bring his total to 11. Despite the Hornets inspired surge, Bainbridge picked up the scoring as well and extended their lead to 14 early in the fourth quarter. That was as close as the Hornets would come as Bainbridge continued to stretch the gap taking 3rd place in Regional Division II with a 56-36 victory. A herd of Bobcat scorers were simply too much for the Hornets, led by Nelson's game high 17 points on a perfect five for five from the free throw line.

Regional Division II Championship

Game 18

Chenango Forks High School (Chenango, NY).....62

Trumansburg High School (Trumansburg, NY).....63

The evening session on day three of the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic kicked off with the Regional Division II Championship Game. The Blue Devils from Chenango Forks matched up their size and strength inside against the speed and outside shooting of the Trumansburg Blue Raiders. Forks moved past Harpursville in the first round thanks to the hot hand of Ricky Mirabito who connected for five threes in the game. Trumansburg finds themselves in the final after rolling over Bainbridge-Guilford, 71-31.

Chenango Forks was one dimensional in the first quarter, showing nothing that resembled an offensive set. The Blue Devils made good on just three field goals, two coming from Mirabito, and found themselves in an early hole, down 15-6. Chad Moore led Trumansburg's first quarter charge with six points. Forks would pick it up in the second, going on a short 5-0 run to draw them within four of the lead, 17-13 with 5:29 left in the half; however, would fall back down nine with 10.2 seconds left on a Christian Smith drive. Dylan Warner quickly responded with a jumper from the corner at the buzzer, bringing the score to 27-20 heading into the break. Moore and Smith went into half time with seven points, and Mirabito was best for the Blue Devils with six points on three for five shooting.

During the third quarter, Forks crawled back, riding an early 8-0 run, highlighted by a Dylan Warner three that brought the Blue Devils within two of the lead. On their next trip down the floor, Mirabito pulled back and knocked down a ten footer to tie the game at 33, but Trumansburg went *Golden* late in the third, as senior guard Zach Golden connected for 12 straight Blue Raider points, while accounting for all but two of the squad's third quarter points. Golden's rally put the Raiders back on top 43-35 going into the final frame. Big man, Josh Cary came alive for Forks in the fourth, dominating on the inside and bringing the Blue Devils within two with 5:17 left in regulation. Twenty-five seconds later teammate Stephen Wells rattled home a three pointer to give Forks their first lead of the game, 46-45. The lead would see-saw back and forth for the next two minutes. With the score tied and the clock winding down, Forks star Ricky Mirabito drove the lane for the win but was called for traveling allowing time to expire and the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic to enter its first overtime.

In overtime, Chad Moore struck first with a jumper from the lane, giving the Blue Raiders the advantage with two minutes remaining. Eric Nobles was fouled on a fast break, and made good on one of two free throws to extend the lead to three. Forks responded late as senior Tyler Jensen connected on the front end of two free throws, and teammate Josh Cary put back Jensen's rebound to re-tie the game at 56 and send it to double overtime.

Stephen Wells got Forks out in front in the second overtime nailing two huge three pointers, but as they have shown all second half, the Blue Raiders refused to back down, tying the score with 4.8 seconds left. Knotted at 62, Matt Faughnan turned the ball over inbound the ball for Chenango forks and immediately fouled Christian Smith. With a large crowd rolling in, in anticipation of tonight's National Division Final, Smith

knocked down the game-winning foul shot with no time left on the clock, making Trumansburg this year's Regional Division II Champions. Regional Division II Most Valuable Player, Zach Golden, finished with a game high 24 points, while Josh Cary was best for the Blue Devils with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Mirabito and Wells finished with 13 a piece, but the Blue Devils were plagued by turnovers, committing 30 all night, 18 of which came in the second half.

Regional Division I Championship

Game 19

Seton Catholic Central High School (Binghamton, NY).....60

Vestal Central High School (Vestal, NY).....61

The 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic Regional Division I final pitted the Seton Catholic Saints against the Vestal Golden Bears. The Saints knocked off Union-Endicott 54-38 on day one of the tournament, led by senior Matt Cline's game high 17 points. Vestal hung on to beat Norwich in a squeaker, 52-49, led by Nick Voitach's 17 and Chris Baltz's 15. Seton took to the floor looking to defend their 2004 Regional Division I title.

Seton jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter, pushing the ball up the floor and looking to score inside. The Saints' Chris Furner and Matt Cline led the way, connecting for six and eight points first quarter points respectively. The Golden Bears calmed down after a shaky start and fought back to a 16-12 deficit by quarter's end. The second quarter was very evenly matched with Vestal tying the game for the first time since the opening tip on Corey Taylor's jump shot with two minutes left in the half. Cline responded for the Saints, scoring four points in the final 54 seconds to put Seton back on top 29-26 going into the break. Furner had a first half best 14 points and 6 rebounds for the Saints while Chris Baltz scored ten for the Bears.

Vestal continued to fight hard in the third, but Seton refused to relinquish the lead. The Bears hit the game's first three pointers off the hands of Dan Jurick and Chris Baltz, but Seton's steady defense and clutch offense kept the Saints on top 47-46 heading into the final quarter. The fourth quarter began much like the first three with Seton countering every attempt for a Golden Bear comeback. The Bears were finally able to stop the Saint's attack on consecutive trips down the floor, and take their first lead of the game, 57-56, with 2:36 left in the game on a Zach Greenblott jumper. The lead would flip-flop twice over the course of the next two minutes, leaving the Bears up 59-58 with 1:19 left in regulation. The Saints would miss a golden opportunity as Vestal turned the ball over trying to inbound it however Jim Torto's ensuing lay-up attempt careened wildly off the glass. With 18 seconds left, the Bear's Zach Greenblott missed the front end of a one and one when Seton was forced to foul, and the Saints' Matt Cline recovered the ball, raced the length of the floor and dished to Jerome Gosney who drew a blocking call and headed to the line to shoot one and one. With ice flowing through his veins, Gosney drained both, giving the Saints a 60-59 lead with 10.4 seconds left. Following a time out the Bears impounded the ball under their own basket, putting the ball in stand out Chris Baltz's hands to take the final shot. Baltz drove to the baseline and threw up an errant attempt that somehow found the hands of wide open teammate Corey Taylor underneath the basket. Taylor went up hard with the ball and made the lay-up while being fouled with 2.2 seconds as the near capacity crowd erupted. Taylor would miss the consequent foul shot, but it did not matter as the Bears hung on to win the thrilling Regional Division I championship 61-60.

Tournament MVP Chris Baltz finished with a game high 24 for the Golden Bears and teammate Zach Greenblott finished with 13. Chris Furner had a double-double for the Saints in the losing effort, scoring 18 on eight for nine shooting and hauling in ten rebounds.

National Division Championship

Game 20

Landstown High School (Virginia Beach, VA).....	52
Taft High School (Cincinnati, OH).....	60

The 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic National Division Championship featured the Taft High Senators against the Landstown Eagles. Both teams won their first two games, Taft beating Franklin County from Kentucky, and Bishop Ford from Brooklyn, while Landstown came from behind in both their wins to beat Xaverian High out of Brooklyn and Villa Angela St. Joseph from Cleveland. High-flying dunk contest champ Heath White has led the Senators, averaging 24 points a game in the tournament, while Landstown guard Horace Fields has guided the Eagles, averaging 22.5 points per game.

The Senators came out shooting to start the first quarter, knocking down a pair of three pointers off the hands of Heath White and senior Eddie Gray to take an early 6-0 lead. The Eagles kept it close by scoring in half court sets, but Taft clearly controlled momentum, impressing the crowd with plays such as Brandon Russ's powerful reverse dunk with a minute left in the quarter. Landstown went into the second quarter down 13-8, but Taft would begin to expand their lead as the quarter went on. One minute into the second quarter play was delayed ten minutes following a thunderous two hand dunk by Tyrone Bradshaw that rattled the backboard so hard the 35-second clock collapsed. Horace Fields did all he could to keep the Eagles close, playing physical defense and scoring six second quarter points; but the fast paced, high rising game favored the playing style of the Senators, who took a 29-18 lead into the half. White had ten first half points for Taft, and teammate Tyrone Bradshaw blocked four shots to lead the Senator charge. Fields had eight for the Eagles, and teammate Percy Harvin added six of his own, but Landstown was vexed by poor shooting in the first half, converting only seven of 28 shots.

Landstown picked up the hustle in the third quarter trying to cut into Taft's lead. Six foot one guard Percy Harvin pulled the Eagles within seven with a break away dunk over 6'8" Brandon Russ despite being fouled, but Harvin picked up his fifth foul late in the quarter and Landstown was left to play the fourth without their true point guard. The Senators carried a 44-38 lead into the final quarter thanks in large part to their outside shooters who connected for a trio of three pointers. The squad from Virginia made their move in the fourth, pulling within two, 47-45 with 5:52 left on a long Fields three pointer. Taft stayed tough, fighting off the Eagle onslaught led by Brandon Russ's big play down low, collecting rebounds and scoring six points over a three minute span, giving the Senators a 58-52 lead with 1:05 left in the game. The Eagles were forced to throw up desperation threes in the closing seconds of the game, but their attempts fell short and Taft walked away with a 60-52 win to take the 2005 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic National Division Championship. Horace Fields finished with a game high 25 points in the losing effort, while tournament MVP Heath White had 20 to lead the Senators. Taft shot better than 50% from behind the arc while the Eagles shot a dismal 16.7%.