

2006 STOP-DWI HOLIDAY CLASSIC

December 28th, 2006

Ryan Connolly & Chris Williams

Regional Division I

Game 1

Vestal High School (Vestal, NY)	49
Windsor High School (Windsor, NY)	41

The Golden Bears of Vestal tipped off against the Windsor Black Knights in Regional Division action to start the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic. Vestal, the defending Regional Division I champions are coming off a 17-6 campaign in which they captured their first STAC Championship since 1968. The Black Knights, lead by third year coach Joe Costello, feature nine returning players highlighted by senior Brian O'Neil (9 ppg).

Both teams got off to a dismal start in the first quarter with Vestal holding onto a 12-7 lead at quarters end thanks to five Cameron Boyden points that fueled a 9-0 Vestal run. The scoring picked up in the second quarter as Windsor began its comeback riding the shoulders of Chipper Hurd. With 2:15 to play in the half Hurd cashed in a three from the top of the key to bring the score to 22-20 in favor of the Golden Bears. Vestal and Windsor would trade baskets and a late Vestal free-throw capped the first half scoring, and the Golden Bears went to the locker room with a 25-22 lead. Vestal shot poorly from the field connecting on only 34.6% as a team; however, the difference came at the foul line. Vestal made there way to the charity stripe 11 times in the first half to Windsor's three.

Windsor's Brian O'Neil had the hot hand coming out of the locker room knocking down two three pointers on the Black Knights' first two possessions giving Windsor their first lead of the game 28-27. The Windsor lead would be short lived as O'Neil and company would not continue their shooting success finishing a miserable 33.3% from the floor. Vestal pulled away down the stretch distancing themselves from the Black Knights and taking the first step in defending their title winning 49-41. Vestal's Corey Taylor finished with 14 to lead all scorers.

Vestal will head to the Regional Division I Championship game on Saturday at 7:30 against the winner of the Owego Free Academy/Seton Catholic Central game. Windsor falls to the consolation bracket and will play the loser of the Owego/Seton game Friday at 9:30am.

National Division

Game 2

Gaffney High School (Gaffney, SC).....	48
Mission Prep High School (Lan Luis Obispo, CA).....	51

The first National Division action tipped off with a coast-to-coast battle – the Royals of Mission Prep High School in central California versus the Gaffney High Indians from South Carolina. Mission Prep is riding on six consecutive 20-win seasons and three straight CIF Championships. They are lead by 6’8” All-State senior Luis Santiago (13 ppg and 8 rbs). The Indians also boast an impressive record over the last three seasons, bringing home three 4A State Championships compiling an 81-3 mark over that time.

Mission Prep jumped out to a commanding lead in the first quarter, 18-3. The Royals’ disciplined and crisp style of play provided open looks to the benefit of Santiago who tallied six quick points but was sat down for a majority of the half due to early foul trouble. Scott Williams led all scorers for Mission Prep with 10 first half points. The speedy Gaffney team began to find success in their run and gun pressure offense and full court press defense in the second quarter, forcing sloppy turnovers and converting at the free-throw line. Still, shooting only 14.7% from the field in the half, they failed to close the gap and went to the locker room down 31-18.

An energized Gaffney team came out of the blocks for the second half continuing to pressure the Royals into turnovers and creating easy baskets inside. Limiting Mission Prep to only four buckets in the third quarter, Gaffney rode the shoulders of Rodney Love who tallied seven third quarter points and set the tone with his tenacity on the boards. At quarters end, the Indians had climbed back into the contest only down five heading into the final frame.

A Love lay-up off a turnover capped the Gaffney comeback and with 4:30 remaining, the Indians took their first lead of the game. Santiago came right back with a dominant move inside and regained the lead for Mission Prep. After a flashy behind the back pass in the lane from Love to Ken Littlejohn put the Indians back on top momentarily, Mitch Woolpert finally connected from behind the arc putting the Royals back ahead by a possession, 46-44, with 3:17 left to play. On the next possession Santiago convert a tough three-point-play stretching the lead back out to five. A Love lay-in followed by Robert Butler’s floater in the lane once again pulled the Indians within one. However, Santiago again stepped up converting inside and a last ditch effort failed Gaffney as their inspiring effort at a comeback came up just short, taking the loss 51-48. Mission Prep nearly beat themselves committing a staggering 32 turnovers in the contest while shooting a below average 38.8% from the field.

Love recorded a double-double (13 pts and 10 rbs) while Kobe Hollis lead the Indians with 15 points in the losing effort. Williams finished with 15 points for the Royals who advance to the semi-finals against the winner of the Boys and Girls High School and St.

Thomas Aquinas game. That game will be played at 7:30pm on Friday. Gaffney falls to the consolation bracket and will play at 1:00pm on Friday.

National Division

Game 3

Towson Catholic High School (Towson, MD)..... 80
Paul Dunbar High School (Lexington, KY)..... 62

The 2nd game of National Division play saw the Owls of Towson Catholic tipping off against the Bulldogs from Paul Dunbar High. Towson features a team that produced a #9 ranking in the State of Maryland in 2005 and a 6'10" Syracuse bound Dante Greene who is averaging 12 rebounds and five blocks to go along with 23 points per game. A young Paul Dunbar team is led by juniors Dion Johnson (12 ppg) and De'Andre Webb (7ppg).

Towson dominated in the early goings jumping out to a 9-0 lead within the first two minutes of the game. At quarters end, the Owls had stretched their lead to 22-7 led by Greene's seven first quarter points. Paul Dunbar picked it up offensively in the second frame, but still couldn't slow down Greene underneath who finished the half with 12 points and nine rebounds. On 43.8% shooting from the floor, Towson headed to the locker room with a commanding 36-23 lead. Nick Hudson had 12 points in the first half for Paul Dunbar.

The second half featured much of the same play from both teams. The high-flying and explosive Towson team dominated the boards but, the Bulldogs still managed to trade baskets with the Owls keeping the game still within reach at the end of the 3rd quarter. The offensive production from Towson flourished in the final quarter as they stretched out their lead to 22 with 5:40 left. Paul Dunbar would fail to make a comeback effort as the Owls were too strong down the stretch and cruised to an 80-62 victory. Greene finished with 25 points and 13 rebounds.

Towson moves into the Semi-finals and will play the winner of Binghamton and All Hallows Friday at 9:15pm. Paul Dunbar will play the loser of the Binghamton/All Hallows game in the consolation bracket at 2:45pm Friday.

Regional Division I

Game 4

Seton Catholic Central (Binghamton, NY).....	33
Owego Free Academy (Owego, NY).....	36

The 2nd Regional Division I match-up featured the Saints from Seton Catholic Central and the Owego Free Academy Indians. The Saints are led by senior Max Jones and sophomore Chris Furner, both averaging seven points and five rebounds per game. The Indians return four starters to their 2005 Section IV Class A Championship team, led by junior Jack Keough (21 ppg and 5 rbs) and senior Andy Marzo (8 ppg and 6 rbs).

Both teams got out to a slow start, Seton failing to connect from the field until the 3:07 mark of the first quarter and sitting on two points at quarters end, down 10-2. However, in the second quarter, the Saints stormed back going on a 9-1 run to start the quarter and taking a 17-15 lead heading into the break. Keogh led all first half scorers with 10 points, and Furner was tops for Seton with six.

The second half featured little offensive production from either squad, each team trading baskets through the third quarter with the Saints hanging onto a slim lead. With less than two minutes remaining the Indians finally broke through and took the lead as the game hit its final stretch. Up two, Ryan Bullock found himself at the charity stripe for the Indians with 11.5 seconds to play looking to seal the win. However, he only connected on one of two and the Saints still had an opportunity to tie. With 2.2 seconds left Matt Meier was fouled during a three-point attempt and was sent to the foul line with a chance to send the contest to extras. Meier came up empty on all three free throws and the Saints took the opening round loss, 36-33.

Keough led all scorers with 19 points adding eight rebounds to his output. Meier was tops for the Saints with nine. Seton heads to the consolation bracket and will face Windsor on Friday at 7:30am. Owego Free Academy will face Vestal in the Regional Division I final on Saturday at 7:30pm.

National Division

Game 5

St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Ft. Lauderdale , FL).....	55
Boys and Girls High School (Brooklyn, NY)	64

National Division action continued on Day 1 with the Raiders from St. Thomas Aquinas battled the Kangaroos from Boys and Girls High School. The Raiders, 2000 STOP-DWI Classic Champions, feature many marquee players in the state of Florida. Notably are 6'3" Martavis Kee, committed to Temple (23.3 ppg and 5 apg), and University of Miami football recruit Leonard Hankerson. The Kangaroos are led by 6'3" senior Kevin Mills (10ppg and 5 rbs) along with 6'7" classmate Wayne Allison (7ppg and 10rbs).

The first quarter was played evenly, featuring both teams going on small runs taking advantage of quick opportunities to run the floor. At quarters end, Boys and Girls held onto a four point lead, 18-14. St. Thomas Aquinas closed the gap with a three from Jack Eggleston and then took the lead, 27-26 on a pair of free throws from junior John Carr. A late bucket by Allison put the Kangaroos back up 28-27, and that's how the half would finish. Boys and Girls' Zamal Nixon led all first half scorers with 11 points, and Eggleston and Hankerson had seven a piece for the Raiders.

The third quarter saw much of the same action as the teams traded field goals until late in the quarter when Eggleston got his second wind. With 45 seconds left, Eggleston drove the baseline and threw down a powerful two handed dunk. Thirty-five seconds later he had the ball in his hands again, and he connected from beyond the arc, putting the Raiders back on top, 43-42, heading into the final frame. Boys and Girls responded right away going on a 10-0 run, capped off by a break away dunk from Nixon. St. Thomas Aquinas failed to cut into the deficit and Boys and Girls took the opening night win, 64-55.

Zamal Nixon, clearly the emotional leader of the Kangaroos, had a big night with 22 points on 9-14 shooting from the field. Eggleston was best for the Raiders with 12 points and eight rebounds. Boys and Girls moves into the Semi-finals and will face Mission Prep on Friday at 7:30pm. St. Thomas Aquinas will face Gaffney High in consolation bracket action on Friday at 1:00pm.

National Division

Game 6

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....	63
All Hallows High School (Bronx, NY).....	49

Day 1 of the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic finished up with a National Division match-up between the host Patriots from Binghamton High School and the All Hallows Gaels. Binghamton is lead by guards Brendan Doherty and James Garcia. Coach Edwin Gonzalez leads a team who has made back to back Final Four appearances in the New York City Catholic High School Athletic Association “AA” Championships. The Gaels feature senior Chris DelaRosa who has made a commitment to Sienna College.

It was an up-and-down battle through the first quarter. Binghamton climbed out to an early 6-2 lead before surrendering a three pointer to speedy sharp shooter Nick Walsh. Binghamton fought back to tie the score at 13 a piece at the end of the first with a three point play from Garcia. Binghamton kept the momentum through the second quarter going on an 8-2 run to jump out to a 21-17 lead. However, they would give it right back, sparked by another three from the hand of Walsh. Once again, the resilient Patriots kept the Gaels within reach and with 15 seconds left Azim Griffin rattled home a three to send the Pats to the locker room with the half time lead, 30-28. Walsh led all scorers with 11 points connecting on three of five from beyond the arc. Brian Johnson was best for the Pats with eight first half points.

In the second half, it was all Binghamton. In front of a large home crowd, an emotional Patriots team put on a clinic in teamwork and used precise ball movement to get easy buckets and distance themselves from All Hallows. The Pats used a 15-0 run spanning from late in the third quarter into the fourth, capped off by a Chris Cartwright three pointer. The only offensive threat for the Gaels was Walsh, and despite his game high 24 points successful on six threes, he alone couldn't close the gap and the Patriots moved into the Semi-finals with the 63-49 victory. Cartwright had an impressive second half off the bench netting 11 points. Four Patriots finished in double figures, Griffin adding 10 rebounds to his 13 point performance. Johnson led the Pats with 16 points and five steals.

Binghamton will face the high-flying Towson Owls Friday night at 9:15pm. The Gaels move to the consolation bracket to play Paul Dunbar Friday at 2:45pm.

2006 STOP-DWI HOLIDAY CLASSIC

December 29th, 2006

Ryan Connolly & Chris Williams

Regional Division I

Game 7

Windsor High School (Windsor, NY).....	44
Seton Catholic Central High School (Binghamton, NY).....	42

Day 2 of the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got under way with a Regional Division I consolation bracket match-up between the Black Knights of Windsor High and the Saints of Seton Catholic Central. The Knights and the Saints are looking to salvage a 3rd place finish after dropping their first round games. Windsor was knocked off by Vestal High, 49-41 in a game in which Windsor shot only 33.3% from the field. The Saints fell to Owego Free Academy on opening night, 36-33. The Saints struggled offensively in the contest as not a single Saint scored in double figures. Seton was plagued by poor free throw shooting, connecting on a dismal 29.4% from the line.

Seton's offensive woes continued on day two as made good on only 25% from the field in the first half. However, they managed to hold the early first quarter lead, 11-6, thanks to two three-point plays by Nick Wan and Max Jones. In the second quarter, Windsor closed the gap, going on a seven point run, ignited by a Brian O'Neil three from the wing. Tip Martino knocked down two free throws and putting the Black Knights up two with 26 seconds remaining in the half. However, Seton's Kit Kolpakas came right back with a jumper at the buzzer tying the score at 19 heading into the break.

Neither team seemed to find a consistent rhythm as the score see-sawed back and forth. With the score knotted at 28 a piece, a jumper from Chris Furner found the bottom of the basket with 0.2 seconds left giving Seton the two point advantage heading into the final frame. Seton looked to pull away midway through the fourth quarter, paced by Jones' nine fourth quarter points. As the first three quarters have shown, neither team could hold the lead and close the deal. Within two minutes, Windsor had closed the seven point seven point gap and the game was tied up again with 2:08 left to play. Down one with 15.2 seconds on the clock, Matt Meier redeemed himself after yesterday's late free throw struggles, rattling home a three to put the Saints up 42-40. Windsor had one last possession and Martino made the most of it, hitting a three from the wing and getting fouled, sending him to the line with a four point opportunity. He converted and a last ditch effort from Seton rimmed out giving the Indians the win, 44-42, and a third place finish in Regional Division I.

O'Neil led all scorers with 16 points, and Jones was best for the Saints, recording a double-double (14 pts and 11 rbs).

Regional Division II

Game 8

Candor Central High School (Candor, NY).....	65
Susquehanna Valley High School (Conklin, NY).....	59

Regional Division II action got under way on Day 2 of the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic as the Indians of Candor Central tipped off against the Sabers of Susquehanna Valley. The Indians are led by four returning senior starters featuring Clint Foster, a 1st Team All-IAC selection in 2005 (20 ppg and 5 rbs). Susquehanna Valley is led by five returning seniors to go along with first year head coach, Mark Ward.

Candor jumped out to an early lead getting hot from three point range. Making good on three threes in the first four possessions, they held an 11-4 lead at the halfway mark of the first quarter. Nick Pace paved the way back for the Sabers, taking them on a 10-0 run to end the quarter. Susquehanna Valley stayed out in front for most of the second, until a late three-pointer from Dustin Quick ended the scoring and put Candor up one, 28-27, heading into the locker room at half. Candor finished 6-11 from beyond the arc in the half, and Foster finished best in the first half with 10 points. Pace was tops for the Sabers with eight.

In the second half, Susquehanna Valley stayed on the heels of the heels of the Indians but could never jump past into the lead. At 2:37 of the third, a Foster three sparked a 16-4 Candor run putting them up 10 with just under four minutes to play. The Sabers, plagued by mental mistakes and missed opportunities in the paint, failed to close the gap down the stretch and will move to the consolation bracket falling to Candor 65-59.

Foster led all scorers with 20 points and seven rebounds, and Terell Irvine paced the way for the Sabers with 17 points in the losing effort. The Sabers will play Saturday at 2:45pm against the loser of the Oneonta/Lansing Central game. Candor moves to the Regional Division II final against the winner of the Oneonta/Lansing at 5:45pm.

National Division

Game 9

Gaffney High School (Gaffney, SC).....	55
St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).....	74

National Division action got under way on Day 2 of the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic with a consolation bracket game between the Raiders of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Gaffney Indians. After dropping their opening round games, they looked to work their way through the consolation bracket and capture a 5th place finish. Gaffney took the loss to Mission Prep, nearly climbing out of a 13 point half-time deficit. Rodney Love will look to improve on his double-double (13 points 10 rebounds) performance on day one. St. Thomas Aquinas fell to Boys and Girls High School 64-55, a game in which poor shooting from the field plagued the Raider offense.

Gaffney wasted no time getting to the rim coming out of blocks much crisper than their efforts on day one. The Indians used aggressive defense and speed to capitalize on St. Thomas Aquinas misses and run the floor for easy buckets. They jumped out to an early, but not long standing, lead going on an 8-0 run at the 6:26 mark of the first. The Raiders stormed right back going on a run of their own, capped off by a John Carr three with 1:30 left in the quarter, putting themselves back up five. Gaffney kept the Raiders within reach and at quarters end were down three, 20-17. The second quarter featured much of the same back and forth scoring, however, at the end of the half St. Thomas Aquinas managed to distance themselves with a buzzer beating trey from the hand of Temple bound Martavis Kee. At the break, it was St. Thomas Aquinas up five, 38-33. Kee led all scorers in the half with 11 points.

The second half was all St. Thomas Aquinas as they used a 15-2 run in the fourth to capture the win, 74-55. Martavis Kee continued his success in the second half, scoring nine straight points for the Raiders to start the fourth quarter. He finished with a game high 24 points on 11-21 shooting. St. Thomas Aquinas shot better than 50% as a team from the field in the win. The Raiders will play the winner of the Paul Dunbar/All Hallows for fifth place on Saturday at 11:15am. Gaffney will play the loser of the Paul Dunbar/All Hallows game for 7th place on Saturday at 9:30am.

National Division

Game 10

Paul Dunbar High School (Lexington, KY).....	81
All Hallows High School (Bronx, NY).....	63

The second consolation bracket game in the National Division featured the Bulldogs from Paul Dunbar High and the Gaels from All Hallows. Paul Dunbar dropped their first game to the high flying Towson High Owls despite Nick Hudson's 18 point effort. All Hallows faced off against host Binghamton High and was outplayed in the second half, eventually taking the loss 63-49.

In the first half All Hallows fell behind, struggling to find the bottom of the basket and Hudson didn't give the Gaels many opportunities to climb back into the game connecting on 7-10 shooting for 18 points. He went on a 14 point outburst over a minute and a half that included four threes. At the half, Hudson and the Bulldogs had distanced themselves from the Gaels, 36-20. Chris DelaRosa's eight points were best for the Gaels who shot only 38.5% from the field, and went 0-7 from beyond the arc.

Up sixteen, the Bulldogs came out of the locker room hungry to widen the gap and put away All Hallows outworking the Gaels on both ends of the floor. Playing a disciplined brand of basketball Paul Dunbar limited their mistakes and kept the All Hallows threat at bay. The Gaels would never get within 10, and Paul Dunbar took the victory 81-63. Hudson finished up with a game high 27 points on 11-17 from the field and 4-8 from beyond the arc. Three of Hudson's teammates scored in double figures as well. Lenny Rivera picked up the slack in the second half for the Gaels, connecting for 22 points including a 5-7 effort from three point range.

The Gaels will face Gaffney High for seventh place on Saturday at 9:30am. Paul Dunbar moves to the 5th place game against the Raiders of St. Thomas Aquinas, and that game will be played on Saturday at 11:15am.

Regional Division II

Game 11

Oneonta High School (Oneonta, NY).....	41
Lansing Central High School (Lansing, NY).....	36

The second of Regional Division II games saw the Lansing High Bobcats taking on the Yellow Jackets of Oneonta High. Lansing features Ryan Shaff, a 2nd Team All-IAC player averaging seven rebounds to go along with 12 points per game. He is joined by underclassman Teagan Barresi, who in his sophomore campaign earned 1st Team All-IAC honors. The Yellow Jackets are led by 2005 All-STAC selection Dan O'Brien (17 ppg).

Oneonta jumped out to the early lead in the first quarter, going on a 9-0 run highlighted by a three from both Alex Mirabito and D.J. Basile. At quarters end the Yellow Jackets held an 18-9 lead. In the second frame Lansing closed the gap, outscoring Oneonta 11-4 and pulling within two, 22-20, heading to the break. Lansing's Barresi led all scorers in the half with seven, and O'Brien was tops for the Yellow Jackets with six.

The third quarter was played evenly, with each team trading field goals to a 30-28 Oneonta advantage heading into the fourth. At 2:15, Shaff converted inside and tied the ball game at 34. Oneonta nailed five free throws in a row to pull back away and with 3.4 seconds left and up a possession, Mirabito made good on two more sealing the deal and sending the Yellow Jackets to the Regional Division II Final, 41-36.

O'Brien led all scorers with 14 points on 5-7 shooting from the field, and Barresi was best for the Tigers with 11 points. Oneonta will play Candor in the Regional Division II Final on Saturday at 5:45pm. Lansing will face-off with Susquehanna Valley in the consolation bracket at 2:45pm on Saturday.

National Division

Game 12

Mission Prep High School (San Luis Obispo, CA).....	43
Boys and Girls High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	86

The first Semi-final game in the National Division pitted the Royals of Mission Prep versus the Kangaroos from Boys and Girls High School. Mission Prep survived a valiant comeback effort from Gaffney High in the first round after the Royals took a commanding half time lead, taking the victory and the trip to the semis, 51-48. Mission Prep will look to shoot better from the field against a solid Kangaroo squad, improving on their 38.8% efficiency Thursday night. Boys and Girls pulled away in the fourth quarter against St. Thomas Aquinas in the first round, taking the win 64-55. Zamal Nixon had a big night for the 'Roos, cashing in for 22 points and six steals.

The first half was all Boys and Girls as they jumped out in front using a quick 9-0 outburst within a minute and a half, taking the lead 15-6. The Kangaroos never let Mission Prep get any closer going on another big run at the end of the half to go up 33-17 heading to the locker room. Nixon was best in the half with eight points and seven different 'Roos had a hand in the scoring. Luis Santiago and Andrew Richardson each had five for the Royals.

In the second half, Boys and Girls quickly put the game out of reach, scoring at whenever they wanted. Late in the third quarter, the Kangaroos had spread the lead to 32. It was no contest in the fourth as the Boys and Girls bench cleaned up and secured the Kangaroo berth in the National Final with an 86-43 victory. Santiago was alone in the fourth as was responsible for half the Royal points en route to a game high 17. Nixon was again best for the 'Roos with an efficient 16 on 7-10 from the field.

Boys and Girls will head to the Final to face the winner of the Towson/Binghamton Semi-final at 9:15pm Saturday. Mission Prep will move to the consolation bracket and play for 3rd place against the loser of the Towson/Binghamton game at 1:00pm Saturday.

National Division

Game 13

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....	40
Towson Catholic High School (Towson, MD).....	74

The second Semi-final in the National Division pitted the host Patriots from Binghamton High and the Owls from Towson Catholic. Both teams come off convincing opening round wins, Binghamton taking it to All Hallows, 63-49, and the Owls defeated Paul Dunbar High 80-62. Binghamton will look to work their offensive sets, limiting the touches of 6'10" Syracuse bound star Donte Greene who had 25 points and 13 rebounds in the Owls opener. The winner will move on to face Boys and Girls High School in the National Division Final.

In the first half, the Patriots did what they set out to do, shut down Donte Greene. Greene was virtually non-existent with no points on only two attempts from the field and only picked up three rebounds. The Pats fell behind early, working out the "big-game" jitters of an inexperienced Binghamton team. They finally settled in and went on a late-half 16-0 rampage closing the huge deficit to just four, 29-24. Malcolm Delaney was tops in the half, closing with 12 points with two three pointers. Azim Griffin and James Garcia were each good for seven points in the first half for Binghamton.

Greene came alive in the second half hooking up with Delaney for a powerful ally-oop dunk off the break midway through the third quarter. Halftime coming when it did proved to be a disadvantage to the Pats who clearly thrive on momentum. The break in the action cooled the Binghamton offense as they came up with only two points in the third quarter. By quarters end, the Owls had jumped way in front, 50-28. Towson kept the pressure through the fourth quarter and Binghamton's scoring woes continued totaling only 15 points in the second half falling 74-40.

Greene tacked on 13 points, all coming in the 3rd quarter, to compliment Delaney's game high 20. Greene's brother Brandon added a quiet double-double (10 points and 10 rebounds) and sophomore Leshon Edwards contributed 14 points as well. Brian Johnson was tops for the Pats as he scored his second double-double in as many nights with 12 points and 11 boards.

Towson advances to the final to face Boys and Girls Saturday at 9:15pm. Binghamton falls to the consolation bracket and will look to salvage a two-win weekend against the Royals from Mission Prep High School. That game will take place at 1:00pm Saturday afternoon.

2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic December 30th, 2006

Ryan Connolly & Chris Williams

National Division

Game 14

All Hallows High School (Bronx, NY)	61
Gaffney High School (Gaffney, SC)	71

The final day of the 2006 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic started off with two teams looking to get their first victory of the tournament battling for 7th place in the National Division consolation bracket. The match-up of two loss teams featured All Hallows High School from the Bronx, New York, and Gaffney High of South Carolina. The Indians dropped their first two games due to inconsistencies offensively. They have shot a dismal 25.0% and 33.9% from the field in their first and second games respectively. All Hallows will look to improve on their solid efforts and hope to salvage a win on Day 3.

Gaffney was a new team offensively in their third game. After getting behind by eight in the first two minutes, the Indians went on a 15-6 run to end the first quarter up one. Rodney Love was responsible for the offensive outburst as he netted seven in a row for Gaffney. Josh Corry capped the first quarter scoring, sending the Indians out front with a three pointer with 54 seconds left. The second quarter was no different as Gaffney distanced themselves even further, shooting 55.6% and taking a 41-26 lead into the locker room at half. All Hallows' Lenny Rivera led all first half scorers with 12 points and Love's nine were tops for the Indians.

All Hallows responded to start the second half coming out with a quick three from Chris DelaRosa sparking an 11-4 run cutting the deficit to only eight midway through the third. That's as close as they would get before quarters end, as the Indians held a 53-45 lead as the game headed into its final stanza. Gaffney cruised through the fourth, and held on late for the 10 point, 71-61, victory and a 7th place finish in their first appearance at the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic.

Rodney Love had a huge second half for Gaffney as he finished with a game high 27 points along with 14 rebounds. Rivera was best for the Gaels with 22.

National Division

Game 15

St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Ft. Lauderdale, FL).....70
Paul Dunbar High School (Lexington, KY).....62

In the National Division, the Raiders from St. Thomas Aquinas tipped off against the Bulldogs of Paul Dunbar High for rights to a fifth place finish. After falling to the consolation bracket due to opening night losses, both teams managed to get wins in their second outings, Aquinas taking it to Gaffney High, and the Bulldogs beating All Hallows. Aquinas is coming off an impressive offensive outing putting 74 points on the Indians on 50.8% shooting from the field. The Bulldogs are powered by sophomore standout Nick Hudson who dropped 27 points on Gaels and 18 in Dunbar's opening night game.

Hudson got involved quickly in the first half, knocking down a three to start the game. An array of Aquinas scorers responded and kept the Raiders out in front throughout the half. Miami bound football recruit Leonard Hankerson had a solid half for Aquinas with eight points and teammate Jack Eggleston added six rebounds. Hudson led all first half scorers with 15 points on 3-4 from beyond the arc. Dion Johnson had 11 points of his own for the Bulldogs.

In the second half, St. Thomas Aquinas was able to keep the comeback threat at bay and the closest Dunbar would get was four early in the fourth quarter, as Hudson and Johnson were the only scoring threats for the Bulldogs. Hudson's 29 points were impressive but the story of the game was on the boards. St. Thomas Aquinas dominated off the glass with 41 rebounds to the Bulldogs' 17. Eggleston collected 11 and teammate Jermaine Johnson picked up a game high 13. Hudson lost his touch in the waning minutes of the game and St. Thomas Aquinas cruised to a 70-62 victory.

National Division

Game 16

Binghamton High School (Binghamton, NY).....	54
Mission Prep High School (San Luis Obispo, CA)	51

The battle for 3rd Place in the National Division saw host Binghamton High tip off against the Royals from Mission Prep. Mission Prep was beat handedly by final bound Boys and Girls High School. Binghamton will look to rebound from a poor showing against Towson, a clearly superior team, in the second National Division Semi-final. Despite hanging with the Owls in the first half, Towson came out hot in the second half and ran away from the Pats spreading their margin to 34 by the time the end buzzer sounded. Brian Johnson has been big for Binghamton in their first two games, recording back to back double-doubles.

The first quarter was played evenly Binghamton going on a six point spurt to end the quarter and creeping back within one, 16-15. The Pats carried that momentum to the second frame taking control of the contest and jumping out in front 31-23 at the half. Brian Johnson was leading scorer in the half with 14 points on an efficient 7-9 shooting, and Stephane Eding was best for the Royals.

Mission Prep turned it on in the second half, coming up with scores on its first six possessions. However, Binghamton would not crack under the pressure and Brendon Doherty knocked down a 25 footer to give the Patriots a five point lead, 45-40, heading into the fourth quarter. In the final quarter, Mission Prep fought back and closed the gap, eventually taking the lead on a Mitch Woolpert bucket with 2:15 remaining. Brian Johnson came right back down the floor and after converting on a tough underneath move, was fouled and had chance to make it a two point ballgame. He failed to convert the free throw and on the ensuing possession Eding tipped in a rebound and put the Royals back out in front. Azim Griffin hit three clutch free throws with 8.4 seconds left and Woolpert's last second attempt fell short giving the Pats the win, 54-51, and a 3rd place finish for the host team.

Johnson had a big day for Binghamton recording a game high 25 points, and six of his teammates got in on the offensive production as well. Eding was tops for Mission Prep with 19. Luis Santiago and Woolpert scored in double figures for the Royals with 15 and 14 respectively.

Regional Division II

Game 17

Lansing Central High School (Lansing, NY).....	55
Susquehanna Valley High School (Conklin, NY).....	64

Regional Division II action continued on Saturday as the Lansing Bobcats battled the Susquehanna Valley Sabers in a consolation bracket game. Lansing took the first round loss to Oneonta a game in which the Bobcats only shot 29.5% from the field. Susquehanna Valley moves to the consolation bracket after suffering a tough loss to Candor High in the first round.

Lansing jumped out to the early lead, 12-10, in the first quarter, shooting the ball much better from the floor and converting underneath with big Teagan Barresi. Susquehanna Valley jumped out front quickly at the quarter change and took a commanding 23-14 lead midway through the second. However, Lansing came right back with a quick 10-0 run and at halftime the Sabers held a 29-25 lead. Nick Pace led the way for Susquehanna Valley with 10 points, and Chris Eukauf was best for the Bobcats with eight.

The Sabers would keep their distance from Lansing in the second half, putting the game away late by getting to the charity stripe with regularity and closing out the 64-55 victory. In the game Susquehanna Valley found themselves at the line 41 times, making good on 56.1%. The Sabers' Terrell Irvine, game's leading scorer, made his way to the foul line nine times connecting on nine of 18 attempts. He finished with 17. Eukauf found the bottom of the basket for 15 points in the losing effort.

Regional Division II Championship Game

Game 18

Oneonta High School (Oneonta, NY).....39

Candor Central High School (Candor, NY).....43

The Championship Round got under way on Day 3 with a Regional Division II match-up between the Yellow Jackets from Oneonta and the Candor High Indians. Oneonta moved past Lansing in the first round 41-36, and Candor found a way to win, knocking off Susquehanna Valley on the Day 2. Dan O'Brien leads the Yellow Jackets into the final with a 14 point five rebound performance against the Bobcats. Clint Foster is the catalyst for the Candor offense working with a big body and a potent three point jumper. He had a game high 20 points including four threes in the Indians' opening round win.

Candor came out of the blocks running jumping out in front, 14-7, in the after the first quarter. It would not last as the Indian offense disappeared in the second stanza connecting for only two field goals for five points. O'Brien finished the half with eight leading all scorers. Luke Thomas was best for the Indians with seven points.

Oneonta's offense was stagnant in the second half connecting for only 15 points. They hit only four buckets for a 21.1 field goal percentage in the second half (34.1% for the game). The Indians stayed consistent through the third and fourth quarters cruising past the Yellow Jackets for a 43-39 victory and their first STOP-DWI Holiday Classic Title. Candor rode the shoulders of Regional Division II MVP Clint Foster as he hit for a game high 13 points and five rebounds. O'Brien was best for the Jackets with 10 points and six boards.

Regional Division II All-Stars

Clint Foster – MVP – Candor

Dustin Quick – Candor

Andrew Tenace – Oneonta

Teagan Barresi – Lansing

Dan O'Brien – Oneonta

Terrell Irving – Susquehanna Valley

Regional Division I Championship

Game 19

Owego Free Academy (Owego, NY).....	38
Vestal High School (Vestal, NY).....	55

The Golden Bears of Vestal High tipped off against the Owego Free Academy Indians in the Regional Division II Final. Vestal comes off a victory over STAC foe Windsor High in the first round. Vestal finds itself in the Regional Final for the second year in a row. Last year, Vestal pulled out a thrilling victory over Seton Catholic Central, 61-60. Owego beat Seton Catholic in their first round game, 36-33, using a late fourth quarter rally thanks to 19 Jack Keough points. Owego is making its third appearance in the STOP-DWI Tournament and second in the Regional Final. They took home the title in 1995 beating Union-Endicott High School 47-41.

Vestal looked to set the tempo early as Kevin Kraly cashed in a three on Vestal's first possession. Vestal went on a 14-2 run to end the quarter capped by another three, this time coming off the hand of Logan Gillard. At quarters end, the Bears held a 21-12 lead. The Golden Bears went into hibernation in the second quarter allowing the Indians to get back within reach, only scoring eight points to Owego's 13. At the half, it was Vestal, only up four, 29-25. Andy Marzo led all first half scorers for Owego with 10, and Corey Taylor and Gillard were tops for the Bears with seven a piece.

Taylor took over in the second half for the Bears, providing the emotional spark down the stretch with a game high 17, and proving himself worthy of his MVP honors. Off an Owego turnover in the lane, Taylor took the fast break to the rim picking up the bucket and the foul. He converted the free throw and put the Bears out in front by 12, 44-32. Owego attempted to cut into the deficit off a long three from Ryan Bullock, but clutch Taylor came back down the floor and got a three of his own to go, and the Owego threat was gone for good. Vestal cruised to the finish picking up their second title in as many years, 55-38.

Again, Taylor lead all scorers with 17 points on 6-13 shooting from the field and a perfect 4-4 from the free throw line. Marzo led Owego with 11 points in the losing effort, and Keough added a quiet double-double of his own on 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Regional Division I All-Stars

Corey Taylor – MVP – Vestal

Logan Gillard – Vestal

Brian O'Neil – Windsor

Max Jones – Seton Catholic

Andy Marzo – Owego Free Academy

Jack Keough – Owego Free Academy

National Division Championship

Game 20

Towson Catholic high School (Towson, MD).....	71
Boys and Girls High School (Brooklyn, NY).....	73

In front of a nearly sold out crowd at the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena, the soaring Owls from Towson Catholic fronted by star forward Donte Greene faced-off with the run-and-gun Boys and Girls High from Brooklyn, New York. Greene and Co. moved past host Binghamton High, showing potential vulnerability in the first half before busting out in the second half and showing they are worthy of a Championship berth, pummeling the Pats 74-40. Greene had 13 points and four rebounds, all coming in the second half. Boys and Girls never relinquished an early lead in cruising into the Final with a 68-45 victory over Mission Prep High School. Zamal Nixon provides the emotional leadership and top point production for the 'Roos, looking to carry his 17 point, 8 rebound Semi-final performance into tonight's contest.

In the first half, neither team proved to be in control. Each offense was scoring at will, trading fast break points and silky smooth three-pointers. Every time one team would hit a big bucket, the other team came right back and matched the intensity never allowing the other to get too far out in front. A majority of the half was played within a single point differential until the waning minutes of the second quarter. Towson fell into a mental lapse of not taking care of the basketball and the 'Roos made them pay going on an 8-0 spurt in less than 30 seconds, putting them up 36-27 heading into the locker room. Ricco Oliver had his coming out party of the Tournament in the first half, with a leading nine points highlighted by 3-5 shooting from downtown which included a buzzer beater at half spreading the Boys and Girls lead to nine. Donte Greene didn't go unnoticed in the first half either, as he enforced his 6'10" presence inside with four blocks and seven rebounds to go along with nine points.

Boys and Girls kept up the tempo in the third with David Imes getting himself into the mix with six back to back points within a 45 second span. Malcom Delaney wouldn't let the Towson faithful down, coming alive with two threes in the third, one coming with 20 seconds left, keeping the 'Roos within constant reach. Still, it never seemed to be good enough as on the ensuing possession down the court, Oliver clutched up for a second buzzer beater from the corner, negating Delaney's spirited efforts. In the fourth and down 11 points with 1:55 seconds on the clock, Greene, who had been quiet so far in the half, hit a 5th gear and began to take over closing the gap in a hurry. He showcased to the crowd he's not just a one dimensional player, stepping out and nailing two huge three pointers to cut the lead to five with just over a minute to play. Another Towson bucket and a pair of 'Roo free throws from Dixon and Cyril Reid pushing their lead to four, Greene did it again rattling home a three and bringing the Owls within a bucket of the lead. A bad turnover by Delaney on their last drive forced them to foul and allowed Boys and Girls to seal the deal and take the crown, 73-71.

Greene led all scorers with 26 points, 14 rebounds, and five blocks, and Delaney contributed 19 as well in the losing effort. Eight players had a hand in the Kangaroo scoring, four of them good for double-digit points. Imes and Oliver each had 14 points, Oliver netting four threes. Both teams had good nights shooting evident in the combined 17 three pointers made.

National Division All-Stars

Zamal Dixon – MVP – Boys and Girls

Kendall Cutler – Boys and Girls

Donte Greene – Towson

Brandon Greene – Towson

Malcolm Delaney – Towson

Luis Santiago – Mission Prep

Brian Johnson – Binghamton

Nick Hudson – Paul Dunbar

Martavis Kee – St. Thomas Aquinas