



Rebecca Haupt of Cranford is a member of the Synchroette Novice Team.

Synchroettes impress at number of skating events

The Essex Skating Club of New Jersey's synchronized Skating Team, the Synchroettes, Novice division, earned a silver medal at the 2010 US Eastern Sectional Synchronized Skating Championships at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, Mass.

This achievement has qualified the team to compete in the upcoming 2010 US National Synchronized Skating Championships in Minneapolis, Minn.

The Synchroette organization is made up of 154 girls on nine teams and is one of only three Synchronized skating clubs in New Jersey.

The Synchroette Novice team includes Cranford High School sophomore Rebecca Haupt, along with 22 other accomplished skaters from the area.

Synchronized skating is a rapidly growing figure skating discipline both within US and worldwide. It is a team sport in which 8-20 skaters perform a program in unison and is characterized by teamwork, speed, intricate formations and challenging step sequences.

Teams perform required elements including blocks, circles, wheels, lines and intersections. The variety and difficulty of these elements require each team member to be a highly skilled individual skater.

Synchronized skating is regulated by the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) and skater's skills are evaluated by a series of tests measuring their ability to perform various skating maneuvers.

The team is required to participate in several hours of on-ice practice each week. Additional ice time is required for individual practice - often before school hours. Their training schedule also includes conditioning and off-ice choreography.

Through their rigorous training, the team learns the importance of time management, organization and commitment. These girls are dedicated students and many participate in other sports and extra curricular activities at their individual schools.

Along with the Silver Medal at Eastern Sectionals, their performance routine, set to "Don't Rain on My Parade" by Barbra Streisand from the Broadway show and movie, "Funny Girl" has earned the team a Silver Medal at the Thanksgiving Classic, Plymouth, Mass.; a Silver Medal at the Cape Cod Classic, Bourne, Mass.; a Gold Medal at the Terry Conners Synchronized Skating Open, Stamford, Conn.; and a Bronze Medal at the Colonial Classic, Lowell, Mass.

The team has performed in public appearances at The Pond at Bryant Park, NY, NY, the Aviator Sports and Events Center, Flatbush, Brooklyn, NY and during NJ Rockhoppers' Hockey Games.

They regularly participate in community service activities both on and off the ice including a highly successful skating exhibition to benefit Toys for Tots and "Stand Up for Life" an ice show to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation which also featured Olympic greats JoJo Starbuck and Oksana Baiul.

Team members include Rebecca Haupt, Imani Rickerby, Joanna Zotti, Hannah Ajmani, April Goldberg, Atia Curtiss, Jessica Lim, Lila Faria, Danielle Kaiser, Flora Jane Sugarman, Jacqueline Roth, Olivia Pilling, Molly Farber, Anna Marshall, daphne Campbell, Tori Mueller, Sara Bayless, Abigail DeTosto, Jessica Lemchuk, Ashley Tomich, Michelle Rose, Brooke Klein and Irene Petrocelli.



This is the Synchroette Novice Team, with Silver Medals, at the Eastern Sectionals.

RC halts Dayton in battle for Valley lead Boys' extend win streak

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

SPRINGFIELD – After beating New Providence at home to improve to 2-4, the Roselle Catholic boys' basketball team continued its winning ways by defeating Brearley and Roselle Park back-to-back.

What made the latter two victories special was that the Lions held the Bears and Panthers to under 10 points all four quarters.

Granted under-.500 Brearley and Roselle Park are not the strongest teams in the Valley Division of the Union County Conference this year, but it was still a step in the right direction for Roselle Catholic, which last month sought to build on any kind of success.

To hold Brearley and Roselle Park to under 10 points all four quarters is one thing.

To do it against Dayton on the road in a hostile environment is another, especially considering the Lions and Bulldogs were tied for first in the Valley Division.

That's what Roselle Catholic accomplished Feb. 2 as the Lions posted a more football-like score victory to the tune of 35-20 over a Dayton team it was defeated by at home on Jan. 5 by the count of 49-42.

Dayton was held to seven points in the first quarter, four in the second, two in the third and seven again in the fourth.

The 20 points was the lowest allowed by a Roselle Catholic team under head coach Dave Boff's three years at the helm.

Roselle Catholic led the entire game, with the closest Dayton getting to was two points at 9-7 in the first quarter and 13-11 on a tip-in in the second.

Early on in the fourth quarter you looked up at the scoreboard and had to look again after it read that Roselle Catholic was ahead 25-13. The first points of the final stanza – coming on an inside basket by RC sophomore forward Jameel Warney – were not scored until three minutes in.

Roselle Catholic's win gave the Lions the lead in the Valley Division with a 7-1 record. It was RC's ninth win in a row and put its record at 10-4.

RC's last loss - as of the beginning of the week - was its home setback to the Bulldogs.

The Lions followed up the Dayton win with conference victories at New Providence 46-30 last Thursday and at Brearley 65-31 last Friday.

Roselle Catholic began the week at 12-4 and with Union County's longest present winning streak of 11.

Dayton fell to 6-2 in the Valley Division and 11-4 overall after the RC game. The Bulldogs, who had a four-game winning streak snapped and had won nine of 10 before playing RC again, bounced back with a 70-41 conference win at Roselle Park last Thursday.

According to the nj.com's Union County schedule, the Bulldogs were to host South Amboy last Friday.

Warney led all scorers with 20 points, almost outscored Dayton by himself, and came down with 18 rebounds.

"Everybody's contributing a lot more," said Warney, who has scored in double digits in all 16 of Roselle Catholic's games so far as of the beginning of the week. "Nobody is selfish anymore. The last game we played (against Dayton) everybody was selfish."

When Roselle Catholic jumped out to a 7-0 lead just two in a half minutes into the game, not many would have forecasted that the Lions would only score 28 more points the rest of the way.

If you would have told Dayton head coach Bob Martin before the game that his team was only going to give up 35 points to a red-hot Roselle Catholic squad, he most likely would have taken that.

However, Roselle Catholic was just as responsible for it only scoring 35 points as Dayton was. It was Roselle Catholic who - offensively - slowed down the game a bit in the third quarter, with the Lions passing the ball around and taking huge chunks of time off the clock with their patient sets.

"The whole pace of the game I thought was a huge shock to me," Boff said.

The only two previous times Dayton was held to under 40 points were in close setbacks to conference rival New Providence 40-37 on the road Dec. 18 and at home to non-conference foe Rahway 37-35 on Jan. 21.

"I did not expect that score coming into the game," Boff said. "It's just the way the pace of the game dictated that score."

Dayton's shots were not falling in the second quarter - or any other quarter for that matter - and both teams turned the ball over in the final two minutes of the first half, with the score remaining 17-11 at intermission.

Roselle Catholic then scored the first two baskets of the third quarter on inside field goals by Warney, upping its lead to 21-11. After Dayton called a timeout, the Bulldogs finally got on the board when junior Kareem Jackson scored on a layup to make it 21-13.

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