

Dec. 22 Boys Basketball

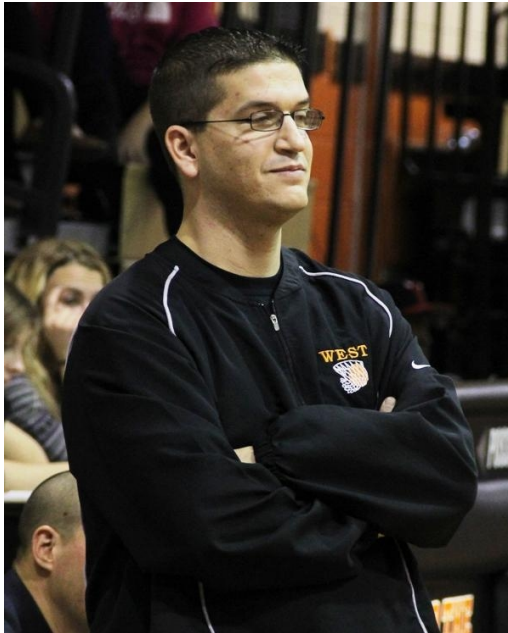


Nottingham's Zach Mesday and Lawrence's Bobby Brackett appear to be performing some sort of synchronized dance step as they pursue a loose ball during tonight's game in the Stars Galaxy (Photo by Mike Dill/purchase photos at www.michaeldillphotography.com).

'Tis the season for Malloy to get first varsity coaching win as Hornets roll
By Ken Weingartner
Fish4scores.com

Dec. 22: Jason Malloy is likely to feel a little jollier heading into the holiday break after picking up his first win as a head coach tonight as Hamilton West won, 40-29, over visiting Allentown.

The Hornets (1-2) scored the game's first seven points and never looked back as they rebounded from a tough loss at Trenton two nights ago. Lenwood Squire scored eight of his game-best 18 points in the first quarter as Hamilton built a 15-5 lead.



As time runs down on Hamilton's win over Allentown tonight, Jason Malloy wore the contented look a man who is about to win his first game as a varsity head coach (Photo by Ken Weingartner).

practice and playing hard.”

Malloy was happy to see the Hornets swarm early and show no ill effects from the Trenton game, which they led in the first quarter by double digits before falling 63-57.

“I told them, especially after the game we had Tuesday against Trenton, that we couldn't be hesitant,” Malloy said. “We had to come out and pick up the intensity and try to get some quick baskets and get it moving from the beginning. That was huge.

“(The lead) kind of just hovered around nine or 10, but we did a good job not letting them cut into it and when we needed to score two or four, we did. They executed everything we asked of them and they played well.”

Hamilton is idle until Wednesday when it travels to Bordentown for the J. Michael Tucker Tournament. The Hornets face Florence in the opening round.

“We've played hard in three straight games,” Malloy said. “These kids are busting their butts for me in practices and in games. They're starting to play more together as a team. I think they're starting to get used to each other. The familiarity with some guys wasn't there at the beginning of the year and I think it's starting to come together now. If we defend like we did tonight, we'll be in most games.

“Even when the guys are making mistakes they understand the mistakes and correct them right away; sometimes more on their own than me telling them. I think that's a good sign.”

It could be a downright jolly sign.

“It feels good,” said Malloy, who replaced Chris “The Baron” Raba on the bench after serving as the program's JV coach since 2007. “It feels special, especially to do it at home in front of the crowd. A bunch of former players were here, too. The guys played a great game and deserve all the credit there. I'm just happy to get a ‘W’ as a team.

“It makes the holidays a little more enjoyable. A lot of these guys, it's their first major varsity experience, so I'm happy for them to get the first win. Now they know what it feels like and we can build on that.”

The Hornets were never threatened after establishing their early lead. Hamilton's margin hovered in the range of seven to 12 points for much of the contest. Bret Stroman joined Squire in double figures, dropping in 11 points, while Brandon George added seven.

“Rebounding was the key,” Squire said. “We knew we were faster than (Allentown) and we just wanted to push the ball and play smart.

“It feels great to win after losing two hard-fought games. I think we can do a lot this season. We've just got to come together as a team. We just need to keep working hard in



Tyleer Wrenn drives to the hoop against Allentown tonight (Photo by Ken Weingartner).

Lawrence keeps rolling with easy win over Nottingham

Lawrence won its third straight game by 30 points or more to start the season, taking an 82-50 victory over Nottingham.

“They’re big and they’re good,” Northstar coach “Irish” Mike Walsh said. “We took a licking tonight. We will learn, grow and move on.”

Sophomores Kevin Alexis (12 points) and Shaquan Worthy (9) paced Nottingham’s scoring. Bobby Brackett had 21 for the Cards and Chris Tate tallied 16.

Nottingham is off until next week, when it competes in the Bordentown Holiday Tournament.

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Coming off a thrilling win over Hightstown Tuesday, Steinert fell victim to Trenton tonight. The final score was not available but the Tornados won by a double-digit margin. The Spartans fell to 1-2.