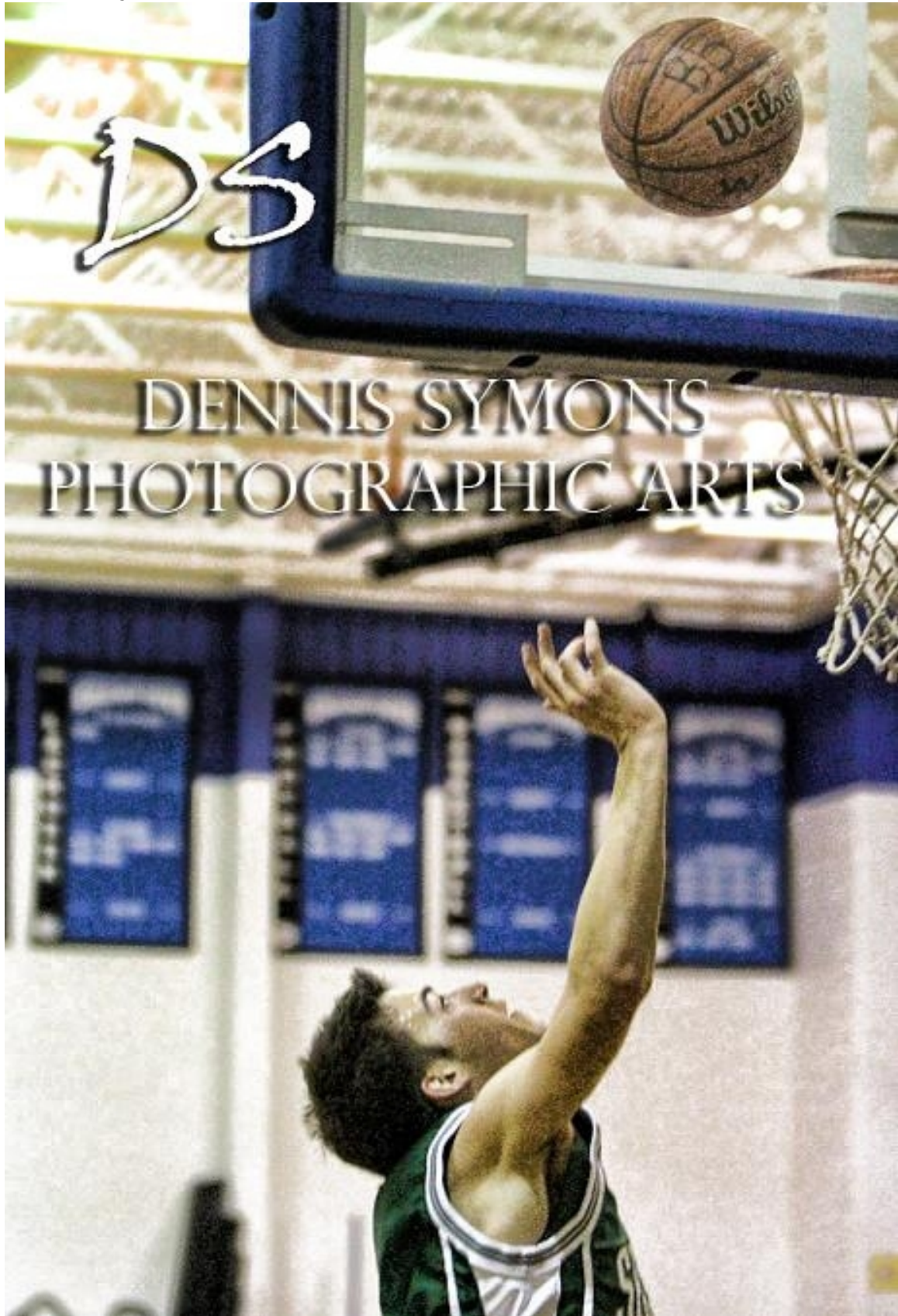


Jan. 23 Boys Basketball



*Ryan LaMarca popped in 23 points tonight to help Steinert to an impressive come-from-behind victory over Pennington. (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr/purchase photos at [www.dennissymons.com](http://www.dennissymons.com)).*

## Garcia's defensive effort helps Hamilton upset Princeton Day School

By Ken Weingartner  
Fish4scores.com

**Jan. 23:** Hamilton West's boys basketball players didn't have much time to work on a new defense, but the Hornets managed to learn enough.

In the spare moments prior to tonight's game, West coach Jason Malloy put in a box-and-1 defense for Princeton Day School's standout 6-foot-5 shooting guard Davon Reed, with the Hornets' 5-9 Dan Garcia drawing the starting assignment against Reed.

Reed managed to score 23 points, but Garcia and his mates made him work for every one of them. That defense, coupled with clutch baskets and free throw shooting by the Hornets, led Hamilton to a 49-45 upset of PDS. West improved to 5-8 while the Panthers dropped to 10-2.

"I thought about (the defense) over the weekend, but we didn't get to practice Saturday because of the snow, and I didn't want to do anything we hadn't practiced," said Malloy, who discussed the strategy with former West coach Chris "The Baron" Raba this morning. "So I took the guys into the gym prior to the freshmen game to show them what their responsibilities were.

"I give all the credit in the world to the kids. Garcia was giving up a lot of height, but he's scrappy. He's got that mentality where he looked forward to the challenge. I told him after school he was going to start on him. I would have kept him on for 32 minutes, but I wanted to give him breathers every once in a while. Tyleer (Wreen) went on him, Josh (Giddens) went on him, and they did the same thing Dan was doing.

"Reed is going to get his points; you can't stop him. But it made it difficult for him. And when they missed shots we did a great job of rebounding. I couldn't be more proud of the kids."

Garcia said the key was the execution.

"We were just trying to play (Reed) hard and keep him from driving and shooting the ball," he said. "Everyone was helping out. We had a team meeting after school and we executed pretty well. I was just trying to play hard and whenever he put the ball on the floor I tried to go low.



*Hamilton's Tyleer Wrenn drives to the hoop for two points during the Hornets big upset victory over Princeton Day School. Hamilton handed the Panthers just their second loss of the season (Photo by Ken Weingartner).*

“No one really expected us to win that game. We’ve lost a few we probably should have won, so that was a big win for us.”

While the Hornets’ defense was doing all it could to hold down PDS’ prime threat, Lenwood Squire was doing all he could to help spark Hamilton’s offense. West tallied only one field goal in the fourth quarter, but it was a layup by Squire that broke a 41-41 tie and gave the Hornets the lead for good with 2:28 to play. Squire was fouled on the drive and converted the free throw for an old-fashioned three-point play.

Squire scored six of his team-high 18 points in the fourth quarter, when he was 4 of 5 from the foul line. His two free throws with eight seconds to go gave Hamilton its four-point lead and sealed the victory.

The Hornets led 40-33 early in the fourth quarter, but PDS rallied by scoring eight unanswered points. Willie Leach’s free throw with 3:10 to go tied the score at 41 and Squire followed less than a minute later with his clutch three-point play.

“Everybody makes runs; we expected that,” Squire said about PDS’ comeback. “We just needed to bounce back and get the lead back. We stuck it out and we finished the game. The free throws were big at the end.

“This win should give us a lot of momentum for the rest of our games. That was a very good team.”

Garcia finished with 10 points for the Hornets while Bret Stroman scored seven of his nine in the third quarter to help West open up its lead.

Hamilton made 15 of 21 free throws in the game.

Malloy hopes the Hornets’ ability to respond positively after giving away the lead in the fourth quarter is a sign of better days to come.

“I think it shows some growth and maturity,” Malloy said. “We’ve had games where we gave up leads and weren’t able to bounce back. Some of these guys stepped up and made plays. It’s a simple game; if you make free throws and you make layups and rebound, it’s a good recipe.

“This was a great team victory. Every kid that went out there played their butts off. A lot of kids played 30 to 32 minutes. The bench was great; everyone was focused the whole time. It was a big win for us. A big win.”

## **Steinert rallies from huge deficit to take down Pennington**

What looked like another tough night for Steinert became the shining moment of the Spartans season to date.

After falling behind by a staggering 16 points after one quarter, Steinert rallied for a 66-65 victory over Pennington to snap a six-game losing streak.

James Locklear and Ryan LaMarca led the comeback with a combined 49 points. Locklear tallied 26 and hit two 3-pointers, while LaMarca added 23.

The visiting Red Raiders (4-8) stormed to a 19-3 lead after one quarter but the Spartans slowly climbed back into it to gain a much-needed win and improve to 3-8.

Steinert got within 31-25 by halftime and pulled within 44-43 after three before scoring 23 fourth-quarter points to win it. The Spartans had a four-point lead, which was just enough after Pennington hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

“It was great,” Locklear said. “We came back, fought all the way back and beat a great team.”