

Comment's hot shooting puts Cass City in quarterfinals

Wow! Hawks advance with miracle finish

The Cass City Red Hawks roared into the state quarterfinals of the Class C Michigan High School Basketball Tournaments Saturday with an almost unbelievable come from behind victory over Flint Hamady, 60-59.

It was an out-of-this-world win and was made possible by some out-of-this-world shooting by Todd Comment and clutch performances by the entire team.

In a way it was a reflection of the team's performance the entire season.

Like it did in several key games during the season Cass City fell behind early and then rallied to win. But until the final 30 seconds of the game it

appeared that the age of miracles was past and that the Thumb's last representative was going to the sidelines.

Despite tremendous shooting by Comment, who hit nine of 10 shots in the last half and scored 12 of his 30 points in the last quarter, Cass City trailed, 55-50, with a minute and a half remaining. A tough call on Ken Martin for being in the lane too soon on a free throw gave Leon White a second chance and he scored to put the margin at five points.

That appeared big and seemingly erased the Hawks' last chance to win. It meant Cass City had to score 3 times to tie or win instead of twice.

Comment tossed in a jumper from the side to cut the margin to three, but Levan White hit the front end of a one and one to shove the Hamady lead back to four points with 59 seconds left.

Comment whipped in a basket from the top of the key with Hamady players all over him, to cut the margin to a single basket.

Bill Harris took the in-bounds pass after the bucket and was attempting to dribble up the court with the ball when Rusty Hoag slapped it away to Tim Johnson who pushed in a layup and the score was tied as Cass City fans went berserk.

Levan White was fouled as he dribbled the ball out front and he hit the front end of the one and one for Hamady and then missed the second. Cass City called time out with 30 seconds left and the plan was for Comment or Martin to take the shot.

Comment pushed up a 15-foot jumper and Cass City was ahead for only the third time in the game, 58-57.

Hamady was detected travelling and lost the ball. Johnson was fouled with nine seconds left. After two Hamady time-outs he calmly swished both free throws to put Cass City ahead, 60-57. John Reese hit a long bomb with two seconds left and after another time out Cass City passed in to Comment and he held the ball as time ran out.

Cass City opened the game with a beautiful fast break basket to take a short-lived lead, 2-0. After that Hamady scored the next 12 points. They whipped in two fast break baskets, stole the ball from Cass City guards for two more and, when the Hawks couldn't find the shooting range, picked up three more points. Things looked dark.

But Cass City had been in that situation before. The buckets started to drop and the Hawks added six for six from the charity stripe to pull back into contention at the end of the quarter, 14-12.

Hamady then spurred in the see-saw game and went ahead again by six points. The Hawks countered with some of their best basketball of the night to register nine unanswered points and go in front, 25-21, with two minutes left.

Hamady forced a turnover and took a rebound to score two buckets as the quarter ended and the two teams left the floor at intermission deadlocked at 25-all.

Paced by some awesome rebounding by the White brothers, Hamady spurred ahead by five points before Comment started hitting to shove the Hawks ahead

briefly for the only time in the second half until the end of the game. The one-point Hawk margin didn't last long as Hamady charged back to lead by four going into the fateful final frame.

Comment made 9 of 10 in the last half and 12 of 16 for the game. Coupled with 6 for 6 from the free throw line, it added up to 30 points. Martin netted 10 points and Tim Fahrner also scored 10 while playing a very fine defensive game. Cass City hit 22 of 46 from the floor for 47.8 percent.

For Hamady, which shot 50 percent on 25 of 50, Leon White scored 19 and his brother, Levan scored 15. Reese was credited with 10. One of the keys to the win was that Cass City was able to hold Harris in check. He scored six points but was not the dominant player he was when Hamady knocked Uby from the tournament.

QUARTERFINALS

The Hawks were to play in the quarterfinals Wednesday at Troy Athens against highly regarded Ecorse, a team predicted by some experts to be the next state champions in class C, despite a 14-9 season's record.

The last time Cass City reached the quarterfinals was in 1974 when Scott Hartel, Paul Bliss and company were defeated by Bay City All Saints, the State Champions that season.

The best that any Cass City team has done in history was to go to the finals which has been achieved twice. The last time was in

1944 when Cass City lost to Lansing St. Mary's in a game played at the Vocational School at Lansing.

How sweet it is

Cass City	FG	FT	PTS
Comment	12	6-6	30
Fahrner	3	4-4	10
Martin	4	2-2	10
Tonti	1	-	2
Johnson	1	2-2	4
Hoag	1	1-1	3
Richards	-	1-2	1
	22	16-17	60

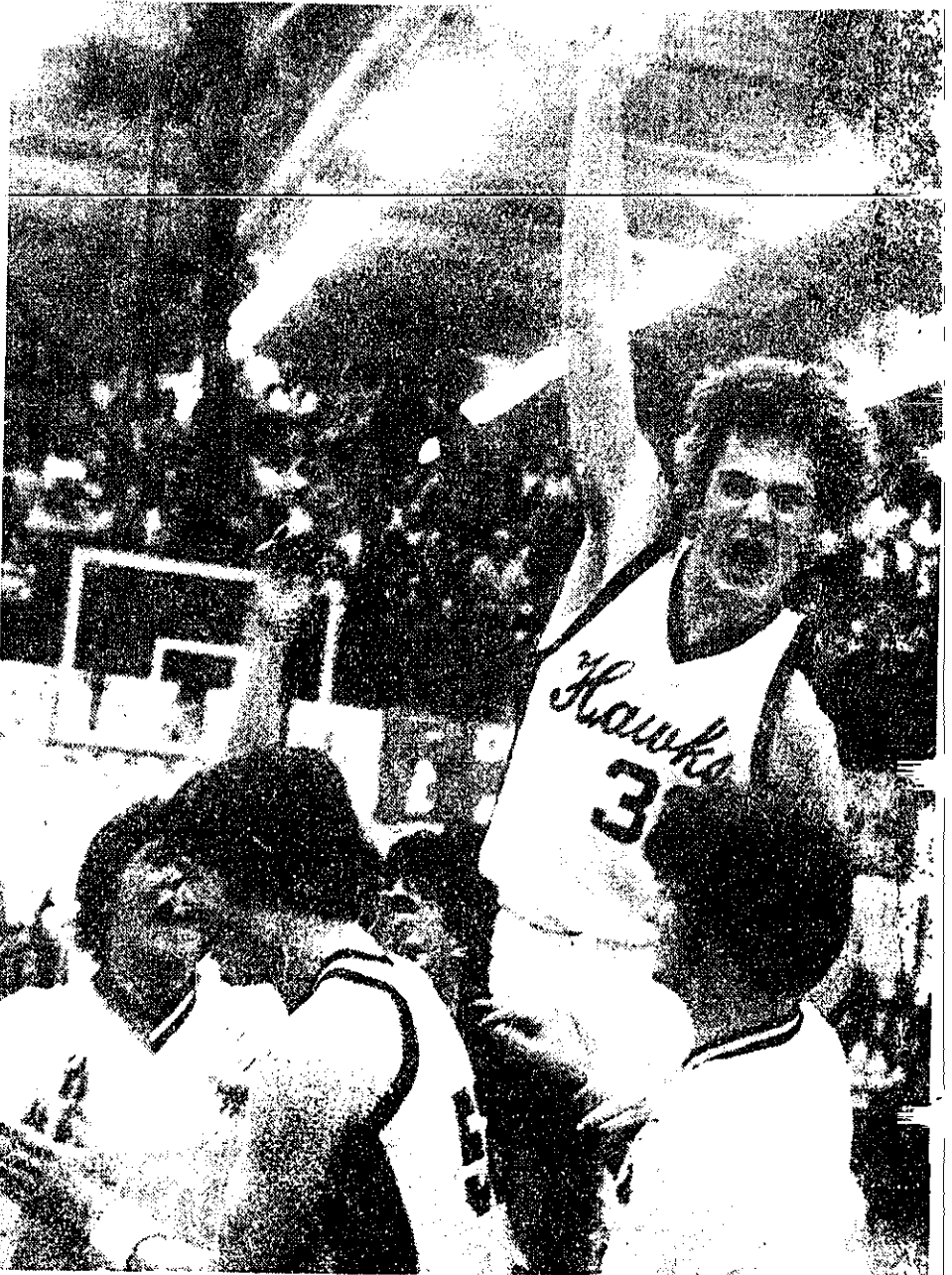
Hamady	FG	FT	PTS
Reese	4	2-2	10
Williams, J.	3	1-2	7
Leon White	8	3-3	19
Levan White	6	3-6	15
Harris	3	0-0	6
Forte	1	0-0	2
	25	9-13	59

Cage finals on TV-19

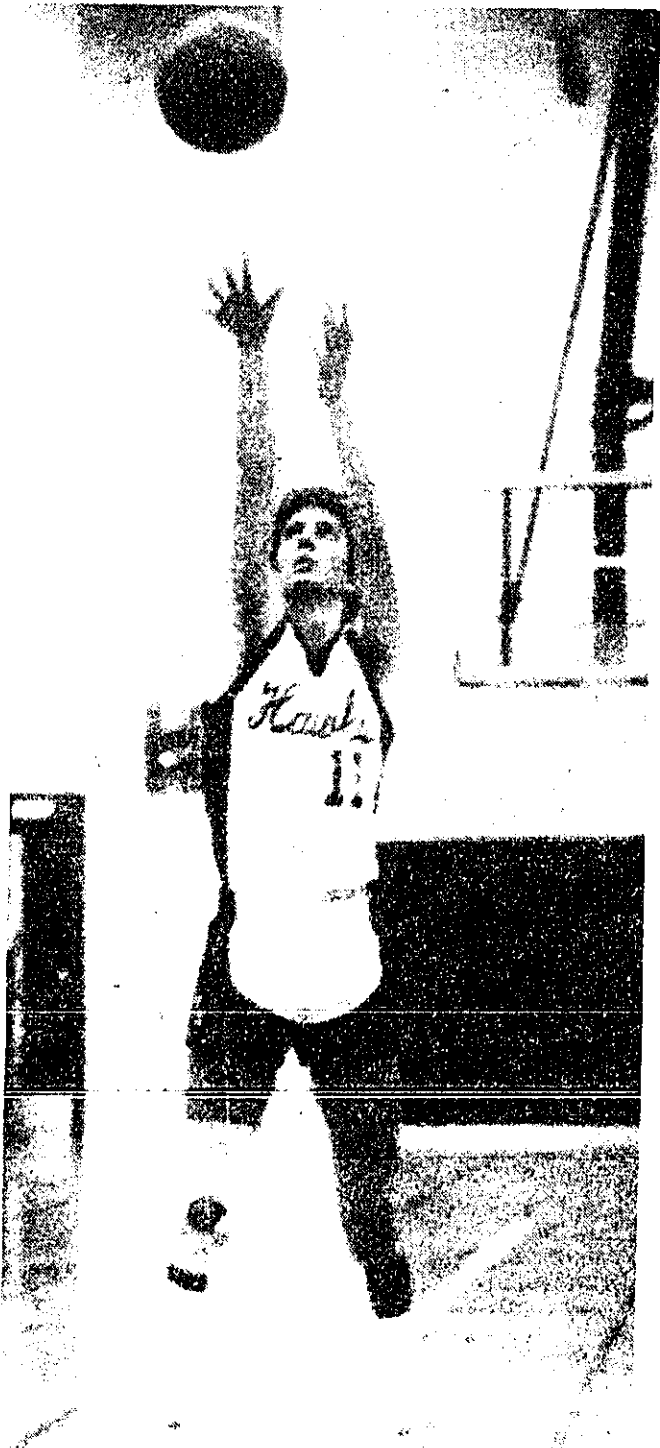
Public television station WUCM, Channel 19, will broadcast the Michigan high school basketball finals Saturday.

Central Michigan University public television WCMU-TV will originate the broadcasts live from Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

Eight teams will play, beginning with Class B competition at 11 a.m. Class A will follow at 2:30 p.m., Class D at 7 p.m., and Class C at 8:30 p.m.



WE'RE NUMBER ONE says an elated Rusty Hoag and the rest of his teammates immediately after the final whistle blew and the Hawks were regional champions.



TIM JOHNSON whipped in two clutch free throws to ice Cass City's victory over Flint Hamady Saturday. The Hawks were near perfect from the charity stripe, sinking 16 of 17 attempts.



THE BATTLE OF THE boards was fierce all night. Ken Martin worked in close for two points on this shot. Contesting are Leon White, left, and Darryl Forte. Bill Harris, Hamady guard, watches.



AFTER IT WAS OVER the Hawks lined up for a picture, still elated with their narrow win.

Play-offs slated

Mutual cops league title

Mutual of Omaha won the regular season championship of the Cass City Recreational Basketball League, Sunday with a narrow, 69-61, victory over second place People's State Bank.

The two teams were tied with 12-1 records before the title game.

People's rushed out to a 22-14 lead but Mutual used good foul shooting to win the game in the last half. It was a physical game. The winners shot 17 of 30 from the charity stripe while People's went to the line only 7 times and converted 3. A big third quarter margin, 18-10, helped Mutual to the victory. Paul Beachy hit 26 for the winners while Chuck Peterson led the losers with 15. Norm Stephens registered 12.

The remainder of the league games went about as expected. Trend Vendors pushed by tail-end Brown's Party Store, 83-67. Vendors broke the game open after a close, 16-14, first quarter.

Roy Calahan scored 25 and Randy Rife and Marty Zawilinski netted 14 each for Vendors while Craig Miles led the losers with 22 points. Mark Shubel netted 17 and Gary Zellar, 16.

Charmont closed out the season with a win over IGA, 75-52. A big second quarter for Charmont helped pile up a commanding 37-25 half-time margin.

Bill Stevenson scored 32 and Dave Asher, 20, for Charmont. Johann Schultz

had 16 and Chuck Hendrick, 14, for IGA.

In the final game, Tuscola Advertiser demolished Gus's Party Store in a free scoring game, 106-71. Rick Tuckey scored 37. Dave Romig hit for 27 and Tim Severance added 21 for the winners.

Buhl led the losers with 30 while Mark Treiber added 15.

PLAY-OFFS

Drawing for a play-off has been completed. It will start Wednesday, March 26, at the Cass City Intermediate School.

Mutual faces IGA Wednesday, March 26, at 7 p.m. Advertiser plays Trend Vendors at 8 p.m. The winners meet Thursday, March 27, at 8 p.m.

In the other bracket People's faces Gus's at 9 p.m. and Charmont plays Brown's at 10 p.m. Wednesday, March 26. The winners meet at 9 p.m. March 27.

The championship game will be Saturday, March 29, at 2:30 p.m. at Cass City High School gym.

Final standings:

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Final standings:

W	L
Mutual of Omaha	13 1
Peoples State Bank	12 2
Tuscola Advertiser	9 5
Charmont	8 6
Trend Vendors	7 7
Gus's Party Store	3 11
IGA	2 12
Brown's Party Store	2 12

Receiving honorable mention were Marie Lalko and Pam McLemore, both Kingston; Peg Wilfong and Laurie Wilfong, Caseville; Diane Craig, Akron-Fairgrove, and Kim Isler, Port Hope.

Others on the second team were Jenny Engler, Kingston; Kay Pringle, Peck; Michelle McCormick, Caseville, and Beth Emerick, Port Hope.

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Howard all-league selection

Owen-Gage's Becky Howard was named to the North Central D League all-conference volleyball team when league coaches made their selections last Wednesday.

Two Bulldogs made the second team, Julie Andrakowicz and Carol Goslin.

Howard and Andrakowicz are juniors; Goslin is a senior.

Others named to the first team were Brenda Cramer, Akron-Fairgrove (unanimous selection); Sally Engler, Kingston; Shari Dutcher, Caseville; Dinah Kriewall, Port Hope, and Linda Draggoo, Carsonville-Port Sanilac.

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