

Troy runs past Romeo

By Jim Evans

Journal Register News Service

TROY — It used to be called the run and gun offense.

Disarm the concept slightly, and that is pretty much the deadly force the host Troy Colts utilized to capture a Class A district championship with a 67-50 victory over Romeo Friday night.

While coach Gary Fralick's Colts ran away from Romeo, they did not shoot them down from long range.

Although the Colts did knock down four 3's

along the way, most of their damage came in close on fast break buckets off the transition game.

"It was their transition offense," said Dale Teller, the Romeo coach. "Troy had 28 points on transition baskets. I thought we had a really good plan, but we didn't follow it. Go look at our board. All it says is transition, transition, transition. That was the only thing that we were really worried about. That's what we really worked on in practice last night."

Troy moves on for the first time in three tries against the Bulldogs. The Colts travel a short distance across town to Troy Athens for regional action, where they will face Pontiac Northern Monday. Northern got past Birmingham Seaholm on Friday.

In the other bracket, it will be Clarkston against Flint Northwestern

Troy's Rashaun Lowery finished with a game-high 18 points. Wunderlich, a junior, had 15 points. Senior Eric Cotton scored 11, and getting nine each were senior Jason Wise and junior Damon Brown.

"Rashaun Lowery is so quick, he is hard to contain," said Fralick. "He dribbles the ball so low to the ground, it is hard for people to steal it. He set the tempo for us. He's been very solid the last two games.

"Romeo sends all five guys to the glass. We were worried about that. We were probably fortunate they did not shoot the ball too well tonight. Our goal was to win leagues and win a district championship. We fell a little short in the league. We were tied for first heading into the final week, but dropped our last two league games. We played three solid games in the districts. I was proud with the way our guys bounced back," said Fralick.

Both Romeo and Troy are 18-5. Coach Teller's squad was led by senior Nate Saliga, who scored 13. Knocking in 10 apiece were junior Ryan Thomas and Rick Roth, a senior.

"Going into this year, we lost a ton of good players. Three of them are playing college basketball right now. If you had asked me at beginning of the season if I would be happy playing in the district finals, I'd have to say yes," said Teller.

Troy 67, Romeo 50

Romeo	14	6	18	12	-	50
Troy	17	14	19	17	-	67

ROMEO (18-5): Ryan Thomas 10, Rick Roth 10, Ryan Grzegorzewski 2, Nate Saliga 13, Jayson Shirmer 5, Brandon Hoenicke 4, Kyle Maxwell 6. Totals: 17 (2) 12-18 50.

TROY (18-5): Rashaun Lowery 18, Nick Berlage 2, Bobby Wunderlich 15, Damon Brown 9, Eric Cotton 11, Kevin Muma 3, Jason Wise 9. Totals: 30 (4) 3-7 67.

Boys Basketball Class A districts
