

Romeo wins basketball game; Dakota to protest

Cougars thought they had MAC Red game won

The Macomb Daily Sports Staff

Dakota plans to protest the outcome of a boys high school basketball game the Cougars thought they had won.

High School Boys Basketball

Ryan Thomas scored six points in overtime Friday night to lead Romeo to a 77-71 Macomb Area Conference Red Divi-

sion victory over visiting Dakota after the Cougars were called for a technical foul for "excessive celebration" following a 3-point field goal that gave the Cougars the lead late in regulation time.

Romeo's Thomas made the second of two technical foul shots after the Cougars, thinking they had won the game,

were summoned from their locker room to the court, to send the contest into overtime.

A 3-point field goal by Mark Morris had given Dakota a 63-62 lead.

"The buzzer went off as the ball went

See BULLDOGS, Page 4C

BULLDOGS: Dakota plans to protest loss

Continued from Page 1C

through the hoop," Cougars coach Bill Snyder said. "There was clearly no time left on the clock."

Morris made the shot into the basket in front of the Dakota bench.

At the other end of the court, Cougars players, coaches and fans flooded the floor in celebration, believing, Snyder said, the game was over.

Snyder said he stayed on the court to help restore order; in the meantime, Dakota's players went to their dressing room.

After a number of minutes passed, Snyder said, the three-man referee crew told him Dakota was being assessed a technical foul for excessive celebration.

"They called the technical after the time had expired," the Dakota coach said. "In our opinion, if a foul cannot be assessed after the game has ended, the technical is improper.

"If you're going to call excessive celebration after somebody hits a last-second shot, that's a pretty slippery slope."

Snyder said Dakota plans to protest today to the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

"The only question that needs to be answered is whether a foul can be assessed after time has expired," Snyder said.

Romeo outscored Dakota 14-8 in the overtime.

"It was one of those deals that was kind of disbelief," Snyder said. "We were celebrating, we had just won on a last-second shot, we had been in foul trouble the whole game and had battled back."

Snyder said the officials first told him Dakota was called for the technical foul because a Cougars player kicked the ball after Morris' lead-changing 3-pointer.

"But they couldn't tell me who (kicked the ball)," Snyder said. "They went away from that explanation."

Joe Malburg, a Romeo assistant coach, said he wasn't sure why the technical was called, whether it was for celebrating or for a Dakota player doing something with the ball after Morris' shot.

Morris, who made six 3-pointers, led all scorers with 25 points. Thomas scored 23 for Romeo. He added six assists, six rebounds and nine steals.

The Bulldogs' Eddie Theut had 10 rebounds.