

# 'Unbelievable shooter' does in the Patriots

## Szwejk cans four triples in Romeo triumph

**By Jon Machota**

Special to The Macomb Daily

From the moment Romeo small forward Spencer Szwejk started warming up in Cousino's gymnasium Thursday night, the senior had a feeling it was going to be a good shooting day.

A few hours later that feeling turned into four triples, 19 points and a 61-53 Bulldogs victory.

"The gym was just a good gym to shoot in and I just felt good today," Szwejk said. "The lighting was real good and I liked the rims."

Szwejk did most of his damage early in quarters. He opened the first, third and fourth quarters

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### **Boys High School Basketball**

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the same way, netting triples to help extend Romeo's lead.

"That's pretty much my job on this team," he said. "Just shoot whenever I'm open. Coach gives me the green light and I just do my job."

"Just an unbelievable shooter," Cousino coach Craig Miller said of Szwejk. "One of the best shooters we've seen all year. It's frustrating as a coach because

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# BOYS: Bulldogs jumped out to 17-9 lead in 2nd quarter

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you get that little run and (hitting a triple is) a big time play and he makes big time shots.”

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 17-9 lead early in the second quarter before the Patriots made their first run of the contest. A pair of layups by Eric VanBuren, two more from Kyle Kent and a triple from Ryan Kryska gave Cousino its first lead of the game, 20-17, midway through the second quarter.

However, that lead wouldn't last long. A 20-second timeout by Romeo quickly turned into a 12-2 run by the Bulldogs.

And the Patriots would never lead again.

A short jumper, runner and layup from Ryan Thomas were the highlights of Romeo's second quarter surge that helped build a 29-24 halftime lead.

“We had our moments tonight,” Miller said. “We worked hard at times and sometimes it didn't seem like the focus was there.”

The Patriots pulled within three early in the third quarter but Szwejk knocked down his third triple of the game to give the Bulldogs some extra breathing room.

“Spencer is as good of a shooter as we've had here,” Romeo assistant coach Joe Malburg said. “When he has his feet set he'll make seven or eight out of 10 (3-pointers).”

Another Romeo run ended the third quarter and continued into the fourth. A triple by Ryan Grzegorzewski, who finished with 10 points, opened the 14-7

scoring spurt and another jumper from deep by Szwejk capped it off.

Cousino did make one last effort to close the gap, though.

VanBuren soared in for a layup with 1:22 remaining, pulling the Patriots within five, 56-61.

However, free throws from Thomas, Szwejk and Edwin Theut sealed the outcome.

“We had spurts where we played real good but we still haven't come together and had a good 32-minute game,” Thomas said. “We need to be consistent and lessen the turnovers and just be smart and play good defense.”

Theut led the Bulldogs on the glass, grabbing seven rebounds. Szwejk pulled down six.

Thomas finished with 16 points, seven assists, five rebounds and four steals.

Cousino was led by VanBuren's 16 points.

The Macomb Area Conference crossover victory doesn't affect Romeo in the Red Division standings. The Bulldogs remain within one game of catching Utica Eisenhower.

Romeo plays another crossover game next Thursday as Port Huron comes to town. Cousino doesn't play again until a trip to Utica next Friday.

Romeo	15	14	18	14	—	61
Cousino	9	15	15	14	—	53

**ROMEO (6-5, 4-2):** Spencer Szwejk 19, Ryan Thomas 16, Ryan Grzegorzewski 10, Taylor Brynaert 6, Edwin Theut 6, Steven Saliga 2, Jason Schirmer 2. Totals: 22 (6) 11-20 61.

**COUSINO (7-5, 3-3):** Eric VanBuren 16, Cody Taymore 8, Kyle Kent 7, Ben McCord 4, Drew McGuire 3, Sean LaForge 3, Ryan Kryska 3, Corey Dunaj 2, Kevin Dunaj 2, Andrew Vivano 2, Troy Cross 2, Don Decker 1. Totals: 20 (3) 10-15 53.