

Crusaders rule MAC Red

Hanson's game-high 15 leads LCN to 47-44 victory over Ike

By John Hetzler
Macomb Daily Sports Writer

Derrick Hanson rejoiced at midcourt with his teammates and fans from the student.

Boys High School Basketball

Hanson and his L'Anse Creuse North boys basketball team had just defeated visiting Eisenhower 47-44 on Friday to take over sole possession of first place in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division, and

there was plenty to celebrate.

The jumping, shouting and hugging only lasted for a few moments, though.

"Even though we're in front of the MAC Red, we still have three league games to go," Hanson said. "If we lose one of those games, tonight's game means nothing."

Thanks in part to Hanson, though, L'Anse Creuse North has plenty to play for in the final two weeks.

A senior guard, Hanson scored

See LCN, Page 2C

Defensive change sparks Warren-Mott

Marauders slip by the Bathers, 52-50

By Chuck Klonke
Special to The Macomb Daily

Mount Clemens' D.J. Wilson shot so well Friday night that he forced Warren-Mott's basketball team to abandon its original game plan.

And in a strange twist of fate, the Marauders' Plan B turned out to be the difference in the game.

"Wilson really hurt us and got us out of our zone and actually,

Boys High School Basketball

our man-to-man defense won us the game," said

Warren-Mott coach Derek LeFevre after the Marauders slipped a half-game ahead of Mount Clemens in the battle for first place in the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division with a 52-50 victory over the Bathers.

Warren-Mott is 10-1 in the MAC Gold, while Mount

See MARAUDERS, Page 5C



Macomb Daily staff photo by Ray J. Skowronek
L'Anse Creuse North's Zach White and Derrick Hanson celebrate after the Crusaders' 47-44 victory over Eisenhower.

LCN: Hanson scores 15

Continued from Page 1C

a game-high 15 points to help the Crusaders win their sixth straight game and improve to 8-1 in the MAC Red Division.

With wins in the final three division games – at L’Anse Creuse and at Dakota next week before closing the season at home against Ford – the Crusaders can win their second league championship in three years. (LCN claimed a share of the MAC White in the 2007-08 season).

“This does put us in the driver’s seat,” said L’Anse Creuse North coach Jay Seletsky, whose team improved to 14-2 overall.

“But I compare the MAC Red to the Big Ten. Any team can beat any other team.”

Eisenhower can attest to that.

The Eagles won their first eight league games, but they have lost their last two division games by a combined total of four points to fall out of first place.

“It was a good basketball game,” Eisenhower coach Brandon Lemley said.

Joe Wirth scored 13 points, and Dylan Valko added 11 points for the Eagles (8-2 MAC Red, 11-5 overall), who led 12-11 at the end of the first quarter.

But Zach White opened the second quarter with a pullup jumper to give LCN a 13-12 edge, and the Crusaders never would trail the rest of the game.

A steal and layup by Hanson with 13 seconds left in the second sent LCN into halftime with a 28-22 advantage, and the Crusaders led by as many as eight points in the third quarter.

Eisenhower, though, hung tough. Wirth hit a layup and Valko hit a 3-pointer at the end of the period to bring the Eagles within 34-31 going into the fourth quarter.

Another 3-pointer by Valko brought Ike to within two points at 41-39 with 4:12 remaining in the game before Hanson took charge.

He made a layup, and then followed with a steal and layup to increase the Crusaders’ lead to six. Hanson then came up with another steal and fed Calvin Curry for a layup to give LCN a 47-39 advantage with 3:03 remaining.

“I was just thinking I can’t let us lose this game,” Hanson said. “I had to step up and be a leader. And everyone else stepped up, too.”

Again, though, Eisenhower would not quit. Wirth hit a put-back, and Andrew Henk hit a 3-pointer with 1:42 left to make it a one-possession game at 47-44.

Neither team would score again. A turnover and a missed one-and-one by LCN gave Eisenhower two chances to tie, but the Eagles could not even the game.

Henk missed a desperation 3-pointer from the corner as time expired, setting off a celebration by the Crusaders.

Eisenhower	12	10	9	13	-	44
L’Anse Creuse North	11	17	6	13	-	47

EISENHOWER (8-2, 11-5): Dylan Valko 11, Andrew Henk 6, Joe Wirth 13, Corey Petros 9, Brandon Bartneck 5. Totals: 18 (6) 2-2 44.

L’ANSE CREUSE NORTH (8-1, 14-2): Derrick Hanson 15, Calvin Curry 8, Ryan Lombardo 3, Zach White 7, Craig Smelley 3, Mike Osterman 4, Drew Isabell 2, Jesse Schienke 5. Totals: 18 (7) 4-10 44.