

2007 STOP-DWI HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Day 1 – December 28th, 2007

By: Ryan Connolly and Chris Williams

Game 1

Regional Division I

Chenango Valley High School (<i>Chenango Valley, NY</i>).....	68
Oneonta High School (<i>Oneonta, NY</i>).....	58

The 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got under way with a Regional Division I match-up between the Warriors of Chenango Valley High School and the Yellow Jackets from Oneonta High. Chenango Valley features a pair of sharp shooters in seniors Matt Mullins, averaging 20 points per game, and 5'8" guard, Chris Mack. The duo took home the 2007 STOP-DWI Three-Point Shooting Contest Thursday during the pre-tournament festivities. Oneonta will look to ride the shoulders of 2006 All-Conference selection, Dan O'Brien, who is averaging 13 points and seven rebounds heading into today's game.

Chenango Valley took control in the first quarter jumping out to an early 16-6 lead largely in part to Tom Hall's six points. Mullins and Mack got into the action early on as well, both connecting from beyond the arc on CV's first and third possessions respectively. Oneonta came out slow to start the game, failing to score until Brendan Harder found the basket with just 3:30 left in the quarter. The roles reversed in the second quarter as Oneonta came alive with 21 points to take a comfortable six point lead heading in to the break. O'Brien led all first half scorers with 10 points on 4-7 shooting from the field; all ten of those coming in the second quarter as the Yellow Jackets stormed back to take the lead. Hall was best for the Warriors with eight points.

Chenango Valley came alive after the break sprinting back out in front 30-29 midway through the quarter. However, Harder went on a streak of his own, netting nine in a row putting his Yellow Jackets back out in front by four, 43-39, heading into the final frame. Once again, CV stormed back, this time thanks to a five point burst by senior Kris Boyce. Mullins came alive down the stretch pushing the Warriors out in front by three, however, his counterpart O'Brien wouldn't be outdone, and rattling home a game tying three with 12 seconds left sending the game into overtime. It was all Mullins in overtime as he netted nine points in the extra frame, sending his Warriors to the Regional Division I final with a 68-58 victory. Mullins finished with a game high 25 points to go along with eight (rebounds. O'Brien was best for the Yellow Jackets with 19, and Harder added a double-double, 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Chenango Valley will play Union-Endicott on Sunday at 7:30pm in the Regional Division I final. Oneonta moves to the 3rd place game and will face Seton Catholic Saturday at 9:30am.

Game 2

National Division

Shelby Valley High School (*Pikeville, KY*).....82
South Miami High School (*Miami Dade, FL*).....75

National Division action got under way as the Wildcats of Shelby Valley tipped off against the Cobras of South Miami. Shelby Valley features a young squad returning five starters from the 2007 Region 15 and 59th District Championship teams. South Miami also features all five returning starters, each of which averaged over 10 points per game last season. The Cobras are led by 6'3" senior point guard Isaac Brown (16 ppg) and high-flying junior forward Paul Hazel. Hazel captured the 2007 STOP-DWI Dunk Contest crown on Thursday, and would not disappoint early, slamming home three big dunks in the first half.

Brown got the scoring going in the first half with a quick three-pointer sparking an 8-0 Cobras run to start the game. Shelby Valley relied on the three as well to keep the score close as Elisha Justice and Ashley Hatfield both connected from downtown. It would prove to be little help as the Wildcats found themselves still down 10 heading into the second quarter. The scoring trend continued in the second featuring a seven point run by Hazel pushing the lead to 15 as the teams headed to the locker room, South Miami out front, 40-25. Justice led all first half scorers with 12 points hitting two of four from beyond the arc, and Trevis Moss was best for the Cobras with 10.

The third quarter was played evenly, with Shelby finding the rim regularly keeping the score close, setting the stage for a thrilling fourth quarter. Down 16 points, the Wildcats' offense opened up the floodgates and poured on the points to the tune of a 33-16 point fourth quarter in favor of Shelby Valley. With 5:22 left to play in the game, Justice flushed a three sparking a 28-10 run to finish regulation. The South Miami offense lost its rhythm and became sloppy turning over the ball an astounding 27 times in the game, 15 in the second half alone. With 2:18 left in regulation, Justice found the bottom of the basket making it a one possession ballgame, and after trading scores with the Cobras, Justice struck again. This time with 45 seconds remaining, the speedy point guard got out on the break laying in the tying basket and sending the second consecutive game of the tournament into overtime. With the momentum in their favor, Shelby Valley ran away with the game in OT, and capped off a tremendous come from behind, 10 point victory, 82-75.

Justice finished with a game high 32 points on 10 of 15 shooting from the field, and eight of 10 from the line. Hatfield added 14 points, and junior Curby Tackett contributed 13 in a solid effort off the bench. South Miami had four players in double figures in the losing effort, led by Hazel's 21.

With the win, Shelby Valley moves on to the semi-finals and will face the winner of the Middletown/Holy Cross game on Saturday at 7:30pm. South Miami falls to the consolation bracket and will face the loser of the Middletown/Holy Cross game on Saturday at 1:00pm.

Game 3

National Division

St. Johns Catholic (*Frederick, MD*).....59
I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity (*Portsmouth, VA*).....89

The third game of the 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic featured a National Division match-up between the Vikings of Saint Johns Catholic and the Greyhounds from I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity. Coach Silas Cheung’s Viking squad returns all five starters from last year’s team led by senior guard Greg Hunt. Height highlights the Norcom line-up, featuring 6’7” senior Deshaune Green (16 ppg, 13 rbs) and 6’10” senior Dominique Hunt (9 ppg, 7 rbs). Norcom is making its first appearance in the STOP-DWI Classic, and Saint John’s is making its second appearance, the first being in 1998.

The long trip from Maryland seemed to plague the Vikings, as they came out of the blocks with little energy, quickly falling behind 13-3 midway through the first quarter. Greg Hunt was Saint Johns’ only offensive threat as he connected twice early from behind the arc keeping the game within reach. Saint Johns picked up the pace in the second quarter playing even with the Greyhounds and went to the locker room only down 10, 43-33. Norcom’s Ed Porter had 10 first half points and Saint Johns’ Grandy Glaze added 10 off the bench for the Vikings.

Saint Johns failed to come out for the second half, surrendering an 18-2 run to start the third quarter with Green connecting for 10 of those points, eight in a row at one point. Saint Johns failed to respond to Norcom’s offense and at quarter’s end Norcom stretched their already large lead to 24, 65-41. The Vikings showed no threat for a comeback in the fourth quarter, and the Greyhounds cruised to an 89-59 victory. Five players finished in double figures for the Greyhounds, led by Green’s game high 22 points. Glaze notched a solid outing off the bench for the Vikings with 16 points on seven of nine shooting and seven boards.

I.C. Norcom moves to the semi-finals and will face the winner of the Mount St. Michael/Binghamton game at 9:15pm Saturday. Saint Johns falls to the consolation bracket and will take on the loser of the Mount St. Michaels/Binghamton game at 2:45 on Saturday.

Game 4

Regional Division II

Seton Catholic Central (*Binghamton, NY*).....43

Union-Endicott High School (*Endicott, NY*).....64

Game two of Regional Division I action got underway with a battle of local foes, the Saints of Seton Catholic Central and the Tigers from Union-Endicott. Seton is led by All Division players Nick Wan, averaging seven points per game, and 6’5” forward Dan Furner, who is averaging 11 points and 7 rebounds per game heading into the tournament. The Tigers are led by Syracuse University football recruit, and All Division selection Chandler Jones.

Union-Endicott jumped out front in the first quarter, with help from an array of scorers. Jones added two early buckets, and senior Jermaine White flushed a buzzer beating three to cap the first quarter scoring and give U-E the 16-7 lead heading into the second frame. U-E stayed hot continuing their run, completing an 18-0 stretch spanning the first and second quarters. Seton failed to muster anything that looked like an offense and found themselves out the game early, down 22 heading into the break. Brett Hall was topped all first half scorers with nine.

The Saints showed signs of generating some scoring in the second half, but Union-Endicott wouldn’t allow a comeback using small runs to stay comfortably out in front and take down the Saints, 64-43. White led all scorers with 13, and Hall and CJ Megelick added 11 and 10 respectively in the winning effort. Devin Kane was tops for the Saints netting 10.

Seton falls to the 3rd place game and will face Oneonta Saturday at 9:30am, and Union-Endicott moves to the Regional Division I final against Chenango Valley on Sunday at 7:30pm.

Game 5

National Division

Middletown High School (*Middletown, OH*).....64

Holy Cross High School (*Flushing, NY*).....76

National Division play continued during the Evening Session of Day 1 of the 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic. The Middies of Middletown High tipped off against the Knights of Holy Cross High in New York City. The Middies are led by veteran coach Bob Ronai, who boasts an impressive 177-8 high school coaching record. He returns four starters from a team that went 13-9 last season. The Knights are powered by one of the best players in the nation in Sylven Landesberg. The University of Virginia-bound star is averaging 26 points and 11 rebounds per game heading into today's contest.

It was all Landesberg in the first half effortlessly making his presence known all over the court. The smooth 6'6" forward snatched up 10 rebounds in the first half alone to go with his leading 17 points. Despite Landenberg's stellar first half effort, the Knights only led by nine heading into the locker room. Tony Peters kept Middletown within striking distance with 12 first half points including a pair of back-to-back threes midway through the second quarter.

Holy Cross distanced themselves right out the gate in the second half, going on a 15-2 run capped by a Blaise French three. The Middies went on a run of their own to start the fourth quarter bringing the score within 12. That would prove to be their only threat as Holy Cross came right back with seven straight points and cruised down the stretch and into the semi-finals with a 76-64 win. Landesberg was fairly quiet in the second half, however; still put together an impressive opening night effort with 21 points and 14 boards. Blaise also had an above average night with 20 points and five helpers. Allen Roberts finished with 21 points, five assists, and a perfect 6-6 night from the line in the losing effort.

Holy Cross advances to play Shelby Valley Saturday at 7:30pm, and Middletown falls to the Consolation Bracket and will face South Miami on Saturday at 1:00pm.

Game 6

National Division

Binghamton High School (*Binghamton, NY*).....57

Mount St. Michael Academy (*Bronx, NY*).....54

Day 1 wrapped up with a National Division match-up featuring the host Binghamton Patriots against the Mountaineers from Mount St. Michael Academy. Binghamton, led by Coach David Springer, return two starters in 6'2" guard Brendan Doherty, and 6'4" forward Nate Papso. Mount St. Michael is led by speedy point guard William Williams and 6'7" forward Justin Daniels.

Both teams came out off the tip playing solid defense but neither team wanted to pull away at the offensive end. They traded baskets much of the way through the first quarter with Mount St. Michael holding onto to a 15-14 advantage at quarter's end. Mount St. Michael found a short burst midway through the second quarter going on a 9-0 run, distancing themselves from the Pats', 33-27 at half. Binghamton's Chris Cartwright was top first-half scorer with 15 points including 2-4 from beyond the arc. Gary Acquah was best for the Mountaineers with 13 points, 10 of which came in the first quarter alone.

Brendan Doherty came alive in the second half for the Patriots, netting 10 points in the third quarter, including two big threes at quarters' end to pull Binghamton within one. Shortly into the fourth, Binghamton took the lead for good on a Jimmy Gray fast-break lay-up. Fueling off a huge opening-night crowd, the Patriots held on down the stretch, and now move on to the semi-finals with a 57-54 win. Cartwright finished with 21 for the Pats', and Gray also added 15 points, including 3-7 from three-point-land. Acquah was best for the Mountaineers with 21 points and seven boards.

Mount St. Michael moves to the Consolation bracket to face St. Johns Catholic at 2:45pm, Saturday. Binghamton will take on I.C. Norcom in the semi-finals on Saturday at 9:15pm.

2007 STOP-DWI HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Day 2 – December 29th, 2007

By: Ryan Connolly and Chris Williams

Game 7

Regional Division I

Seton Catholic Central (*Binghamton, NY*).....43

Oneonta High School (*Oneonta, NY*).....48

Day Two of the 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got underway with a Regional Division I Third Place game between STAC Divisional foes Seton Catholic Central and Oneonta. Both teams fell on Day One, and now find themselves battling for a chance to salvage the weekend with a win and a Third Place finish. The Saints' Devin Kane, a 5'10" sophomore guard finds himself amongst the starting five after contributing 10 points off the bench in an opening round loss to Union-Endicott, a game in which the Saints shot only 35% from the floor. Oneonta failed on a repeat visit to the Regional Division final from 2006 by losing an overtime shootout with Chenango Valley, 68-58. Dan O'Brien leads the Yellow Jackets into today's game after a solid 19 point effort on Day One.

Seton's offensive woes continued into their second game, shooting a below average 33.3% from the field. They couldn't take advantage of their trips to the charity stripe either, connecting on only two of six attempts. Oneonta took care of business on the boards, out-rebounding the Saints 17-11, and picking up five blocks. Seton's Chris Furner led all scorers with 10 points, however, only three of his teammates had any point production and the Saints went to the locker room down two, 23-21. Zach Harlem was best for the Yellow Jackets with seven points.

Seton was able to jump out in front in the third quarter, as Oneonta's offense went stagnant managing only eight points, four of them coming off the hand of Alex Mirabito. The Saints' third quarter scoring was capped by a Christian Laettner-esque buzzer-beater by Dan Gosney, sending Seton into the final frame up 38-31. Seton followed up a solid third quarter effort with a measly five points, and Oneonta used a 14-0 run to pull away and take the victory, 48-43.

Furner was top scorer with 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds in the losing effort. Harlem led the Yellow Jackets in scoring with 13, and Brendan Harder and Mirabito added 12 and 11 respectively.

Game 8

Regional Division II

Susquehanna Valley High School (*Conklin, NY*).....70

Oxford High School (*Oxford, NY*).....64

Region Division II action got underway on Day Two as the Sabers of Susquehanna Valley tipped off against the Blackhawk's of Oxford High. The Sabers are led by senior point guard Nick Pace whose 10 points lead Susquehanna Valley into the 2007 Holiday Classic. Oxford is making its first tournament appearance since 2000 when they dropped both of their games to take home Fourth Place in Regional Division II. The Blackhawk's are led by seniors Scott Seiler and John Witchella.

Susquehanna came out off the tip gunning, trying to avenge a Third Place finish in last years Tournament and make it to the final for the first time since 2003. The Sabers' aggressive press defense resulted in eight steals and they made each possession count, connecting on 73.7% from the field. Seniors Eric Freije and David Hessell made it a point to get to the rim early and often, and Pace provided the punch from outside, connecting from 25 feet late in the half. Oxford struggled early and often to find the bottom of basket shooting a dismal 18.2% in the first quarter and found themselves down 16 after just eight minutes of play. They picked up the pace in the second quarter, getting a lift from senior guard Craig Champlain whose baseline three highlighted a 9-0 Blackhawk run to start the second quarter. Champlain's 10 points were a first half best; however, Oxford was still down 10, 34-24, after two quarters of play. Hessell finished with a team best nine points on 4-4 shooting in the first half for the Sabers.

Through much of the third quarter, each team traded baskets and Oxford had managed to cut the lead to single digits. However, with seconds remaining in the quarter, Eric Novobilski nailed a deep three, pressing the Saber lead back out to 12 heading into the fourth. In the fourth, it was all about fundamentals for the Sabers. Spot on passing led to easy buckets, to the tune of 60.9% from the field for the game. Solid defense forced the Blackhawk's to rely on outside shooting to climb back into the game, and despite a few last minute threes from Scott Seiler, Susquehanna Valley was too much for Oxford as they cruised into the final, 70-64. Hessell led all scorers with 17 points, and Pace tacked on 16 of his own to go along with seven assists. Robert Amor cashed in on 16 points for the Blackhawk's in the loss.

Susquehanna Valley moves to the Regional Division Final and will face Windsor Sunday at 5:45 p.m. Oxford falls to the Third Place game and will play Maine-Endwell Sunday at 2:45 p.m.

Game 9

National Division

Middletown High School (*Middletown, OH*).....71
South Miami High School (*Miami Dade, FL*).....50

South Miami High School came into Saturday’s game against the Middies of Middletown High hoping to redeem themselves after a major collapse in which they surrendered a 17 point second half lead and eventually fell in overtime to Shelby Valley 82-75. Middletown didn’t have an answer on Day One for Holy Cross’ star player, Sylven Landesberg and his 21 points and 14 rebounds, and now find themselves fighting for a chance to take home fifth place overall. Point guard Allen Roberts leads the charge for the Middies after a 21 point effort on opening night.

Roberts got the scoring going early in the first quarter with a break away lay in, then came right back on the next possession and rattled home a three from the wing. South Miami did not look primed to better their efforts from game one, failing to find the rim until midway through the first quarter when Dunk Contest winner Paul Hazel made good on a mid-range jumper. Middletown’s Tony Roberts didn’t waste time getting into the mix nailing one of his five threes on the day with 2:23 left in the first quarter. South Miami’s offense went back to the beach in the second quarter and the Middies pulled farther away going up 13, 33-20, at the break. Roberts finished with 13 points and Peters contributed 10 of his own in the first half.

In the second half, Middletown poured it on from beyond the arc. Peters had the hot hand in the third, flushing two three pointers on Middletown’s first two possessions. Shadrach Jackson came off the bench for the Middies and knocked down two threes of his own, the second of which he was fouled and finished the four-point-play at the line. The Cobras came out sluggish and couldn’t muster a comeback, opening the door for a 71-50 Middletown victory. Peters finished with 21 to lead all scorers, and Roberts turned in another solid performance with 18 points and eight rebounds. Hazel had 14 points on the afternoon and the Cobras collectively shot only 4-14 at the line.

With the win, Middletown moves to the Fifth Place game and will face Saint Johns Catholic at 11:15 a.m. Sunday. South Miami will play at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday against Mount St. Michael.

Game 10

National Division

Mount St. Michael Academy (*Bronx, NY*).....36
Saint Johns Catholic (*Frederick, MD*).....52

The last game of the Morning Session of Day Two at the 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic saw the Mountaineers of Mount St. Michael taking on the Vikings of Saint John Catholic Prep. Both teams are coming off first round losses, and are vying for a chance to salvage their trips to Binghamton with a Fifth Place finish. Mount St. Michael fell to host Binghamton in the night-cap of Day One, never able to get a consistent offense going, shooting only 38% from the floor. The Vikings showed little fight in their opening round loss to I.C. Norcom, a game in which they turned the ball over 21 times.

The first quarter provided little action as the teams played to a 7-7 score at quarter's end. Troy King was the big story in today's game for Saint Johns. He provided the spark for the Viking offense in the first half connecting for a half-high 13 of Saint Johns' 24 points. He was 3-6 from three-point land and solid from the line connecting on two of three after being fouled going up for a three pointer. Nobody took the reigns of the Mount St. Michael offense in the first half, shooting only 35% as a team with no player contributing more than two points. At the half it was Saint Johns out front, 24-15.

Mount St. Michael's Gary Acquah came out the locker room at half doing his best to keep get the Mountaineers back in the game, netting nine in a row to start the half. However, King stayed hot and kept the Vikings comfortably out in front heading into the final quarter. King and freshman Grandy Glaze combined for all of Saint Johns' 14 points in the fourth and the Vikings cruised into the Fifth Place game, 52-36. King had a game high 28 points with seven rebounds, 6-12 from behind the arc. Acquah finished with 11 and 8 rebounds for the Mountaineers.

Saint Johns will take on Middleton on Sunday at 11:15 a.m., and Mount St. Michael falls to the Seventh Place game against South Miami at 9:30 a.m., Sunday.

Game 11

Regional Division II

Windsor High School (*Windsor, NY*).....57
Maine-Endwell High School (*Endwell, NY*).....50

The second Regional Division II semi-final pitted the Black Knights of Windsor against the Spartans of Maine-Endwell. The Black Knights are led by seniors Tim Costello and Tip Martino. The Black Knights return to the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic under Coach Joe Costello looking to build on their Third Place finish in last year's tournament. Leading the Spartans into the tournament is All East Division guard Joe Powell who's averaging 13 points this season.

After starting the first quarter on an 8-0 run, the Spartans offense cooled down, scoring only seven more throughout the quarter. The Black Knights, however, started off slow failing to score a basket until two and a half minutes into the first quarter thanks to a Tim Costello lay-up. Both teams traded baskets through most of the quarter and at quarter's end, Windsor held onto a 17-17 lead. In the second quarter, Joe DiNardo and Charles Sopata both contributed six points a piece to push the Windsor lead out to eight at half. Heading into the break, the Black Knights had shot a dazzling 52% and held onto a 31-23 advantage.

At the end of the third, the Spartans had regained the lead, 43-42 thanks to the three point shooting of Ryan Fetterman who flushed two of his three threes of the night in Maine-Endwell's third quarter run. The Spartan offense, however, disappeared in the fourth quarter managing only seven points, and Windsor ran way with the game and into the Regional Division II final, 57-50. Costello and Martino each had 13 for Windsor, and Fetterman finished with 15 to lead all scorers.

Windsor will play Susquehanna Valley at 5:45 p.m., Sunday, and Maine-Endwell takes on Oxford for Third Place at 2:45 p.m.

Game 12

National Division

Holy Cross High School (*Flushing, NY*).....78
Shelby Valley High School (*Pikeville, KY*).....44

The first National Division semi-final featured the high-flying Knights of Holy Cross High facing off against the battle-tested Shelby Valley Wildcats. Holy Cross cruised to the semi-finals, taking down Middletown, 76-64, behind University of Virginia-bound Sylvan Landesberg's 21 points and 14 rebounds. Speedy point guard Blaise French directs Coach Paul Gilvary's offense, and will look to follow-up a solid 20 point opening night performance. For Shelby Valley, fresh off an incredible come-from-behind victory over South Miami, sharp shooting Elisha Justice leads the way after netting 32 points in the overtime thriller.

Highly overmatched on paper, the early minutes of the ballgame looked to preview a long night for the Wildcats. However, after falling behind 24-12 at first quarter's end, largely in part to French's 12 first quarter points, Justice and Co. showed they were not intimidated, getting to work on a 9-0 run to start the second quarter. With tenacious defense, they turned turnovers into easy buckets and climbed all the back within three, 24-21. The brief comeback did not phase the Knights, as they responded with a 12-2 run of their own to end the half up 36-23. Landesberg was top first half scorer with 13 points and five rebounds, and French's 12 first quarter points stood up as second best. Justice finished the half with seven points on 3-4 shooting from the field.

In the second half, Holy Cross continued to feed off the late second quarter run, with 6'6" senior forward Ernest Freeman sending a shiver through the arena with a powerful two handed dunk off the baseline. Shelby Valley managed to hang close in the third, only down 15 at quarter's end, and anyone who witnessed their first round win knew 15 was not a far cry for a Wildcat miracle. The Knights, though, were too much in the fourth, and before Shelby Valley could blink they were down 34 and heading to the Third Place game. Landesberg bettered his first night production with 29 points to go with nine rebounds and seven assists. French added eight more in the second half to finish with 20 for the second consecutive game. Justice sputtered in the second half and finished with only 10 points, a team high.

Holy Cross punched a ticket to the National Division Final with the 78-44 win, and will face ... Sunday at 9:15 p.m. Shelby Valley will play ... in the Third Place game set to tip off at 1:00 p.m., Sunday.

Game 13

National Division

Binghamton High School (*Binghamton, NY*).....61
I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity (*Portsmouth, VA*).....71

The second National Division semi-final saw the host Patriots of Binghamton High tipping off against the Greyhounds of I.C. Norcom. Binghamton advances through to the semi-finals for the sixth time since 2000, and will look to improve on last year's third place finish. They moved on after taking down Mount St. Michael of the Bronx, 57-54. Guard Chris Cartwright's 21 points powered the Pats' into the semis with the help of fellow guards Jimmy Gray and Brendan Doherty who each contributed 15 and 10 points respectively. After cruising through the first round with a win over Saint Johns Catholic, Norcom will play without top scorer and 6'10" big-man, Dominique Hunt, who suffered a leg injury in game one.

Binghamton jumped out front right away in the first with a three from Doherty, followed up by a 25 footer from Cartwright. However, the lead quickly diminished as neither Doherty nor Cartwright connected again in the first half, and opposing guard Deshawn Williams couldn't miss, firing out 18 points on 4-7 from beyond the arc in the first half. Binghamton was dominated on the boards, especially on the offensive end where they were out-rebounded 14-1. At half's end, Binghamton trailed the Greyhounds 37-25. Williams' 18 points led all scorers.

Binghamton came out sluggish to start the third quarter, and seemed to be out of gas and unable to provide the needed spark for a comeback. However, they tapped into the reserve tank late in the quarter and brought the crowd to their feet, rallying back within one. With under a minute left in the third, Jimmy Gray arrived with the same clutch shooting he displayed in the Pats' opening game. First he made good on a mid range jumper, then following with a monster three from NBA range pulling Binghamton within four. On the ensuing inbound, Cartwright intercepted the pass and went to the basket strong getting the foul and the bucket. He connected at the line, and all of the sudden Binghamton was on the verge of taking their first lead since the opening possession of the game. The momentum briefly carried over into the fourth quarter when Cartwright sunk a three-pointer putting the Pats' up 51-49. However, a Williams three, and a bad turnover on an inbound violation sucked the wind out of Binghamton's sail, and they were never able to recover eventually taking the loss, 71-61. Williams, who fouled out with 2:30 left, led all scorers with 31 points, making good on seven threes. Cartwright put forth a valiant effort netting 17 points and eight rebounds in the loss.

I.C. Norman advances to the National Division Final and will tip-off against the Knights of Holy Cross Sunday at 9:15 p.m. Binghamton falls to the Third Place Game for the second year in a row, and will play Shelby Valley at 1:00 p.m.

2007 STOP-DWI HOLIDAY CLASSIC

Day 3 – December 30th, 2007

By: Ryan Connolly and Chris Williams

Game 14

Mount St. Michael Academy (<i>Bronx, NY</i>).....	55
South Miami High School (<i>Miami Dade, FL</i>).....	50

Day Three of the 2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic got underway with a battle for the basement. The Mountaineers of Mount St. Michael and the South Miami Cobras tipped off hoping to salvage, what has started out a poor weekend, with a win and a Seventh Place finish. Mount St. Michael dropped their second game to Saint Johns Catholic 52-36, a game in which only one player scored in double figures, Gary Acquah who had 11. South Miami was unable to bounce back on Day Two after surrendering a 17 point second half lead to Shelby Valley, and again fell to Middletown High, this time in blowout fashion, 71-50.

To start the first quarter, Mount St. Michael was efficient with their offensive sets getting to the rim for easy buckets, taking the lead 15-9 at quarter's end. However, in the second, they failed to take care of business on the glass, eventually getting dominated 16-8 in first half rebounding and going to the dressing room down three, 26-23. Isaac Brown exploded for the Cobras in the second quarter scoring 13 consecutive points to end the half, nine of them coming off three pointers. Brown led all scorers with 16 points, and William Williams had seven in the half for the Mountaineers.

Coach Tom Fraher's message to attack loose balls rung through the Mountaineer locker room, especially with 6'7" senior Sean Dailey who picked up 10 second half rebounds. Cleaning up the garbage around the rim led to a steady diet of points for Mount St. Michael in the second half, and without a charge from South Miami, the Mountaineers captured Seventh Place, 55-50. Brown was best in the game with 24 points, and Dailey finished with a game high 12 rebounds. Williams was top scorer for Mount St. Michael as he finished with 11 points.

Game 15

National Division

Saint Johns Catholic (*Frederick, MD*).....68

Middletown High School (*Middletown, OH*).....66

National Division play continued on Day Three with the Fifth Place game between the Vikings of Saint Johns Catholic and the Middies of Middletown High. Both teams followed up opening night losses with solid performances, Saint Johns taking down Mount St. Michael on the shoulders of Troy King's 28 points, and the Middies blowing out South Miami, 71-50. King was much less of a threat against the Middies; however, he was there with a knockout blow when it mattered the most.

Fundamental basketball highlighted the first half for both teams, each getting wide open looks off their offensive sets. However, the difference maker was Saint Johns failing to convert the easy ones shooting a measly 29.2% for the half. The Middies took advantage of Saint Johns' shooting woes to start the second quarter, going on a 7-0 run pushing their lead to 10. It would remain a 10 point spread heading to halftime, Middletown up 36-26. Middletown's Phillip Barnett broke out in the first half, connecting for 15 points.

In the third quarter, freshman Grandy Glaze and Trenton Epps took the Vikings on a 13-2 run inching Saint Johns back into the game with a quarter to play. In the final frame, senior guard Greg Hunt pulled Saint Johns even closer, all the way to two points, 60-58, with 2:17 to play. Hunt got to the charity stripe six different times in the fourth quarter, none more important than his conversion of the backend of a three-point-play with 46 seconds remaining pulling the Vikings within one. Enter King. With 24 seconds on the clock, he toed the foul line, confidently drilling both giving Saint Johns their first lead since the opening minutes of the game, 65-64. On the ensuing possession for Middletown, Glaze picked up his fourth foul sending Lewis Berger to the line for two with four seconds remaining. He made good on both, setting the stage for some Troy King heroics. Off the inbound, King took the long pass from Hunt, stepped back, and while draped in defenders flushed a three as the final buzzer rang, giving the Vikings a dramatic come-from-behind, 68-66 win. Barnett led all scorers in the game with 21 points, and Hunt was tops for the Vikings, with 20, including a solid 12-18 night at the free throw line.

Game 16

National Division

Binghamton High School (*Binghamton, NY*).....65
Shelby Valley High School (*Pikeville, KY*).....86

The Patriots from Binghamton tipped off against the Wildcats from Shelby Valley in the Third Place game of the National Division bracket. Coming off a tough loss to Championship contender I.C. Norcom, the boys from Binghamton find themselves vying for a Third Place finish for the second consecutive year. Shelby Valley dropped their second round game to Holy Cross, 78-44. The Wildcats couldn't manage to muster enough fire power to hang with the highly talented Knights from New York City. Against the Pats', however, there would be no shortage of scoring for Shelby Valley as sophomore Elisha Justice and the rest of the Wildcats unloaded on host Binghamton, 86-65.

Binghamton hung with Shelby Valley in the first quarter, largely in part to Andre Hobson's 10 points. However, nearing the final minute of the first, Justice connected for his first of five three-pointers in the half, and the onslaught was on. Justice wasn't the only one connecting from the outside for the Wildcats. Three others hit from downtown in the first half, collectively making good on nine of 11 attempts. At the half, Shelby Valley sat comfortably out in front, 46-35. Justice led all scorers in the half with 15, and Hobson tacked on a Binghamton best 13 on six of eight shooting.

In the second half, Shelby Valley had no trouble getting to the basket managing to produce points on nearly every trip up the floor. Binghamton had no answer for the Wildcats and finished their tournament with a big loss, 86-65. Justice had his second 20+ performance in three days, finishing with a game high 24 points. Three different players had 17 points for the Pats', but Binghamton received no point production from their bench.

Game 17

Regional Division II

Maine-Endwell High School (*Endwell, NY*).....66
Oxford High School (*Oxford, NY*).....55

Regional consolation play finished up on Day Three with a Division II match-up between the Spartans of Maine-Endwell and the Blackhawk's from Oxford. Maine-Endwell played well in the first round in their loss to Windsor, however, poor rebounding down the stretch doomed the Spartans sending them into today's game looking for a Third Place finish. Oxford looked to come out of the locker room with more energy in their second game, after scoring only six in the first quarter of their first game. Robert Amor leads Oxford into today's game after netting 16 points in the loss to Susquehanna Valley.

Joe Powell got Maine-Endwell out in front early with 10 points in the first quarter. Powell connected twice from beyond the arc before quarter's end, taking the Spartans on his back heading into the second frame, up 14-10. Oxford failed to get a scorer in double figures in the first half, making only four field goals in the second quarter. Maine-Endwell's John Zdimal got into the action in the second quarter cashing in on three three-pointers. Together Zdimal and Powell outscored the entire Oxford offense as the Spartans went into the locker room out in front, 31-18.

Maine-Endwell kept its distance in the second half, cruising to the 11 point victory, 66-55. Zdimal hit twice more from downtown in the fourth quarter helping to preserve the win and a Third Place finish for the Spartans. Powell was high scorer with 19 on the day, Zdimal finished with 12, and Scott Seiler was tops for the Blackhawk's with 16 points.

Game 18

Regional Division II

Windsor High School (*Windsor, NY*).....59
Susquehanna Valley High School (*Conklin, NY*).....38

The first of two Regional Finals of the night got underway as the Black Knights of Windsor battled the Sabers of Susquehanna Valley for a chance to hoist the Division II Championship trophy. Windsor advances after beating Maine-Endwell in the first round, and Susquehanna Valley took down Oxford rather handedly behind David Hessell's 21 points.

Heading into the locker room after 16 minutes of play, Windsor was clinging to a six point advantage. Windsor's Charles Sopata and Joe DiNardo were the difference makers, each collecting eight points and four boards, both half-highs. Nick Pace was leading scorer for the Sabers in the first half with seven points.

In the second half, Zach Wilcox provided the offensive power for the Black Knights. After being held to just two points and five rebounds in the first, he dominated the glass to finish with 13 boards complimenting 10 points and six assists. Susquehanna Valley showed no pulse in the fourth quarter scoring only three points, and falling by 21, 59-38. Windsor notched its first Regional Championship since they took home the title in 1998. Regional Division II Most Valuable Player Tim Costello finished with seven points and four assists for Windsor. DiNardo was high scorer in the game with 16 points.

Game 19

Regional Division I

Union-Endicott High School (*Endicott, NY*).....66

Chenango Valley High School (*Binghamton, NY*).....57

As the stands began to fill in anticipation of the Holy Cross-I.C. Norcom match-up in the Tournament finale, the second Regional Final of the night featured a battle between the Tigers of Union-Endicott and the Warriors from Chenango Valley. Senior Matt Mullins heads the charge for Chenango Valley, hoping to build on his 25 point effort on opening night.

In the first quarter, Mullins and fellow senior Chris Mack proved once again why they took home the Three-point Shooting Contest title, firing away from beyond the arc and pushing the Warriors into the lead, 16-12, at quarter's end. In the second, Chenango Valley only connected for three field goals and saw their lead disappear, eventually falling behind, 27-23, heading to the break. Mullins was the top scorer in the first half with 11 points.

Out of locker room in the second half, the CV sharp-shooters got back into the groove, Mack hitting first, a big three from the top of the key. Mullins followed that up with 10 out of the next 13 Warrior points, including what proved to be the game winner, just 12 seconds into the fourth quarter. An 11 point Chenango Valley run in the middle of the quarter pushed the Warrior lead out of reach, and secured the red and white their first ever STOP-DWI tournament Championship. Mullins, the well-deserved Regional Division I Most Valuable Player, led all scorers with a dominating double-double, 22 points and 10 rebounds. Mack finished with 15 on three of four shooting from three-point land. Chandler Jones had a solid night for the Tigers with 17 points and seven boards in the loss.

Game 20

National Division

I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity (*Portsmouth, VA*).....42

Holy Cross High School (*Flushing, NY*).....70

In front of near capacity crowd, the Knights from Holy Cross went head to head with the Greyhounds of I.C. Norcom for the right to claim themselves National Division Champion. Holy Cross barely had to break a sweat to reach the final, winning by a combined 46 points in their first two games. I.C. Norcom was tested in their semi-final game with host Binghamton, but secured a birth to the final late in the fourth quarter, and gained momentum heading into their match-up with the high powered Knights.

Off the opening tip, I.C. Norcom jumped out front with six quick points capped by a Deshaune Green three, sending a brief scare through the Holy Cross bench. The small offensive burst did not faze the Knights, as they responded with authority to the tune of 18 unanswered points, and within a quarter, the game was lost for the Greyhounds. Sylvan Landesberg was the story in the first half, quietly dominating in all facets of the game. The I.C. Norcom offense went away after their first quarter run to start the game, shooting a dismal 22.6% from the field in the half. Going into the locker room, the Knights were up big, 33-17. Landesberg was well on his way to his second double-double of the tournament with 17 points and 7 rebounds, both half-highs.

It was the same story in the second half, with I.C. Norcom still failing to find a rhythm offensively, and Landesberg and Co. refusing to let up. Holy Cross cruised through the half, taking home the hardware, 70-42. The 28 point margin of victory is the largest since the inaugural year (1992), when Bishop Ford took down McClatchy by 17. Landesberg, the National Division Most Valuable Player finished the game with 27 points and 12 rebounds. His 77 point total over the three game weekend ties him for eighth all time with David Lightly, now at Ohio State University, and Jake Steuer from Stow High School. Blaise French capped off a stellar weekend running the point for the Knights with 15 points and seven helpers. Green finished with 14 points to lead the Greyhounds in the losing effort.

2007 STOP-DWI Holiday Classic Awards

National Division All-Stars

Troy King – St. Johns Catholic
Allen Roberts – Middletown High School
Elisha Justice – Shelby Valley High School
Jimmy Gray – Binghamton High School
Blaise French – Holy Cross High School
Deshawn Williams – I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity
Chris Cartwright – Binghamton High School
Deshaune Green – I.C. Norcom Boys Varsity
Tim Beinert – Holy Cross High School
MVP – Sylven Landesberg – Holy Cross High School

Regional Division I All-Stars

Brendan Harder – Oneonta High School
Chris Furner – Seton Catholic Central
Chandler Jones – Union-Endicott High School
Chris Mack – Chenango Valley High School
Jonathon White – Union-Endicott High School
MVP – Matt Mullins – Chenango Valley High School

Regional Division II All-Stars

Scott Seiler – Oxford High School
Joe Powell – Maine-Endwell High School
Nick Pace – Susquehanna Valley High School
Charles Sopata – Windsor High School
Rob Stalker – Susquehanna Valley High School
MVP – Tim Costello – Windsor High School

Thomas Schwan Memorial Award

Casey Jordan – Union-Endicott High School

Three-Point Shooting Contest

First Place: Matt Mullins/Chris Mack – Chenango Valley
Second Place: John Zdimal/Joe Powell – Maine-Endwell

Slam Dunk Contest

First Place: Paul Hazel – South Miami High School
Second Place: Matt Stanley – Union-Endicott High School