

SPORTS



Senior Andrew Matt tries to make a basket as he is guarded by a Trenton player at their February 17 game. Photo: Molly Zanley

Boys basketball second in league

BY MOLLY ZANLEY

After their game January 23 against Inkster, the boys team had a loss 58-51 against Inkster making the boys basketball team second in the league with a record of 13-5.

Earlier in the month on February 17, the team played against the Trenton Trojans. They kept a solid lead the whole game and finishing with a 76-40 victory.

Many of the players were certain of their team going into the game.

"[I'm] confident," senior forward Mickey Bozymowski said. "We've been playing well lately."

Bozymowski was not the only one with confidence. So did junior Tom DeSana.

"Very confident, we had a really good week of practice and I definitely think we'll come out with a win," DeSana said.

By half time, the Bears led 36-21, and just kept spreading the gap.

Two minutes into the third quarter they were already up six more points, 42-21.

Later in the third quarter, senior point guard Andrew VanDierenDonck made two three pointers boosting the score to 54-30.

"As a team, we played collectively and smart," VanDierenDonck said.

VanDierenDonck finished off the third quarter with a slam-dunk, hanging on the rim, extending the lead to 33 points. The dunk was just two of VanDierenDonck's 30 points, five of which were three pointers, and three were dunks.

"We made smart decisions with the ball and had less turn-overs," VanDierenDonck said. "We took advantage of our opportunities."

Two and a half minutes into the fourth quarter junior AJ Sowards made an unexpected attempt at a slam dunk himself, taking after the team leader.

"I thought it was hilarious," VanDierenDonck said. "Young buck trying to follow me in my footsteps."

But without VanDierenDonck and Bozymowski, who were on the bench cheering them on, the team finished off the game 76-40.

Although the boys were feeling good about the Trenton game, they know they still have some tough games to go until they can call themselves MEGA White Champs.

"They're all going to be tough games," Bozymowski said. "We're going to have to win them all to win the league."

There is one game in particular DeSana feels is most important for the team.

"I'm very excited for Inkster because if we beat them, that will secure us into the league championship," DeSana said.

He also thinks the team will be able to pull through and succeed at districts against Woodhaven.

"It will be a challenge but we had a scrimmage with them [Woodhaven] earlier in the year, and we did fairly well against them so I think we should do all right," DeSana said.

Inkster will definitely be a key game for the Bears.

"We'll play Inkster...and they're undefeated in the MEGA White so if we beat them we'll be co-champs," VanDierenDonck said.

VanDierenDonck slam dunks to Northwood

BY JILLIAN MCCALL

At a lanky 6'6", senior Andrew VanDierenDonck is not your typical high school point guard. But, watching him get a steal and drive coast-to-coast for a dunk, basketball fans quickly see the prize Coach Cramton has leading his team.

"Andrew V is a positive leader, he encourages people that aren't doing as well and picks them up," Cramton said.

VanDierenDonck has been playing basketball for eight years. He also runs cross-country and plays golf for RHS. During the off season VanDierenDonck plays AAU basketball. His team is the Michigan Mavericks.

He plays basketball for over 13 hours a week, and spends even more time on the weekends.

"I work hard at everything I do," VanDierenDonck said.

Coach Cramton feels "V" is a threat to the other team with a variety of defensive skills.

"He is a great ball handler, his approach is good and so is his outside shooting," Cramton said.

"He is very skilled at basketball and works very hard," senior Mickey Bozymowski said.

Cramton also feels that he is a valuable asset to the team. VanDierenDonck averages 23 points, 5 rebounds, 5 steals, and 3 assists a game.

"Everything starts with him," said Cramton. "If he wasn't there, there would be a dramatic impact."

"Andrew VanDierenDonck makes me want to learn how to dunk," said sophomore Kyle Blevins. "That would be sweet."

That work ethic has earned "V" a division two full ride to Northwood University in the fall.

"Basketball is just a fun sport and you can play it whenever you want," VanDierenDonck said.

"I train with the best," said VanDierenDonck. "So that makes me the best."

"V" hopes to make an immediate impact on the Northwood Timberwolves.

"I hope to help out Northwood University," said VanDierenDonck. "Make them the best they can be, and help them win a GLIAC Championship."

Bozymowski feels "V" will aid Northwood.

"I think he will be very successful playing basketball in college," said Bozymowski.

After college, VanDierenDonck plans on trying out for the NBA and would like to play for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"I hope to [play professional basketball]," said VanDierenDonck. "It's my dream."

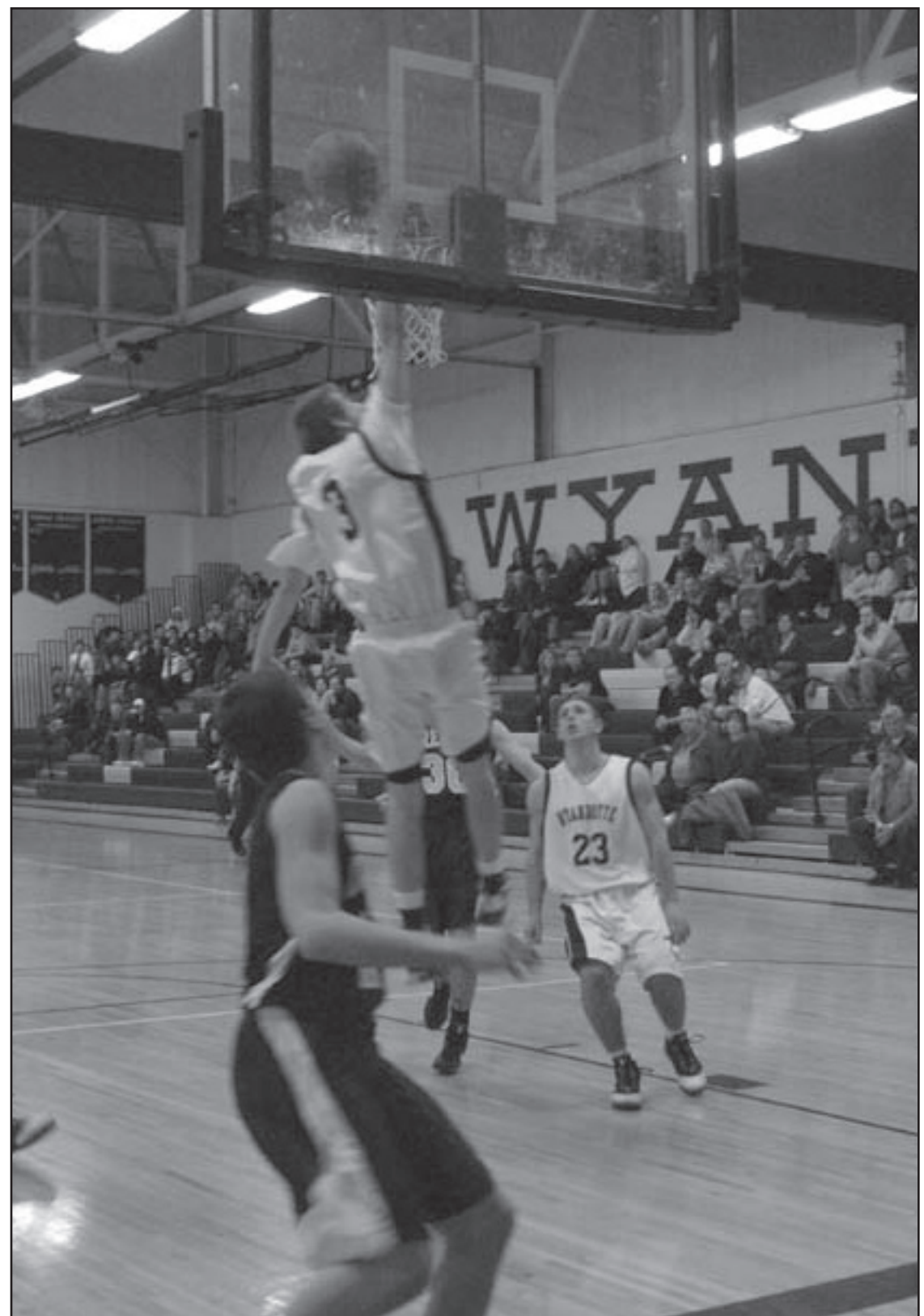
If he does not make it here in America he plans on trying out in Europe.

"I would like to go over seas and play basketball," said VanDierenDonck. "That would be very cool."

Cramton has high hopes for VanDierenDonck at college.

"He has a great chance at being in the starting line up his first year," Cramton said.

"V" is considered to be the top recruit for Northwood University.



Left: VanDierenDonck goes for the show stopper with a backboard dunk. Above: VanDierenDonck shows off his shooting skills that are sending him to Northwood. Photos: Molly Zanley