

Beaverton win

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BY KEN TABACSKO
News Staff Writer

ALMA — Against a good team a full-court press will usually reap only a handful of turnovers.

But sometimes that is enough.

Beaverton took advantage of some late mistakes by Lansing Catholic Central to pull away in the last two minutes of the game and gain a 64-57 victory in Class C regional play here Wednesday night.

The triumph puts the Beavers into the regional final Friday night against Lakeview. Lakeview downed Fulton-Middleton Tuesday night to gain the other final berth.

Doyle Durkee, Beaverton's all-state candidate, once again led his team with 28 points. His heads-up play with about five minutes left helped ignite the late Beaver surge.

Lansing had a 49-48 lead with 4:55 left but then Durkee, a slender 6-2 guard, went to work. He hit two jumpers to put the Beavers on top by one, 52-51, with 3:20 remaining.

He then came down the floor and hit another jumper from the free throw line to make it 54-51. The Beavers then put on

the pressure and Durkee stole the ball, scored on a layup and was fouled.

He stepped to the line with Beaverton on top 56-51, with 2:51 left. He missed the free throw but it really didn't matter. He turned the momentum to the was important Beavers and that's what

"That steal was the key, it got us moving," said Beaverton's happy coach Roy Johnston. "That's the thing about a press. It can be real passive . . . then pow, it suddenly pays off."

That's exactly what it did for the Beavers, now 22-1 for the season. Catholic Central bows out with a 16-8 mark.

Durkee was by no means a one-man scoring show, however. Randy Sroufe tossed in 16 points, including four insurance free throws in the last 13 seconds. Ken Neighbors added 10 for the Beavers.

Charles Willis tallied 26 points to lead Catholic Central. John Reid and Perry Costello added 10 apiece.

Willis, a stocky senior center, tallied 17 points in the first half to push his team to a 35-30 edge. He was red-hot in the second quarter as he scored 12 of the Cougars 22 points.

In the second half Willis could score only nine points as the Beavers' tough defense paid off.

"We really didn't change much for the second half although we did adjust the press a little," said Johnston. "We felt that . If we worked him (Willis) hard he would wear down."

"What we did defensively for the entire game paid off. I also thought Randy (Sroufe) did a better job keeping him away from the basket and that helped."

Despite Durkee's 28 points Catholic Central did a fine defensive job on the Beaverton star. Many of Durkee's points came on long bombs.

"We don't do anything special to get Doyle open, we want him to work for openings himself," said Johnston. "Our offense is geared to getting Jeff (Roehrs), Randy, and Doyle involved. They're the key to our attack."

Roehrs finished the game with eight points.

Beaverton connected on 25 of 56 outside shots and 14 of 18 from the foul line. Lansing Catholic Central was 24 of 71 from the field and nine of 14 from the line.

Johnston expects a wide-open game for the regional title.

"Their coach (Roger Bachman) played at Unionville Sebewaing and they play the same type of running game USA likes to play," Johnston said. "They're really quick."

BEAVERTON (64)

Durkee 13-2-28, Roehrs 3-2-8, Neighbors 3-4-10, Sroufe 5-6-16, Garvin 1-0-2. Totals: 25-14-64. By Quarters: 17-13-12-22-64.

LANSING CATHOLIC CENTRAL (57)

Reid 4-2-10, Willis 11-4-26, Costello 3-3-8, Izzo 1-0-2, Costello 5-0-10. Totals: 24-9-57. By Quarters: 13-22-12-10-57.

High School Basketball

Midland Daily News



...e their team's come-from-be-
t 64-57 Regional victory over
ing Catholic Central Wednes-

day night at Alma. (Daily News
photo by Terry L. Tanner)