

**Dec. 16 Boys Basketball – Tough for openers**



*Steinert's James Locklear goes up for a shot amidst a bevy of Allentown defenders during tonight's season opener. The host Redbirds cruised to a 54-40 victory (Photo by Dennis Symons Jr./purchase photos at [www.dennissymons.com](http://www.dennissymons.com)).*

## OLS grad Harris is too much for Hornets in Malloy's head coaching debut

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

**Dec. 16:** It wasn't a showdown between township teams, but a player from Hamilton Township played a big part in spoiling the Hamilton West head coaching debut of Jason Malloy.

Steve Harris, a product of Our Lady of Sorrows CYO teams, made his own varsity debut with 23 points and 16 rebounds tonight to power Notre Dame High's boys' basketball team to a 65-54 win over West at the Hornets Nest.

Making things even tougher for Malloy during his first in-season day as new Hornets coach was the news that junior shooting guard John Lansing looks to be lost for the season with a torn ACL.

In the first minute of the first scrimmage with Bordentown this year, Lansing planted his foot chasing down a loose ball and the knee popped. According to Malloy, he had an MRI today that showed a tear, although Lansing is going for a second opinion.

"He would have started this game tonight, this will be a tough loss," Malloy said. "We have fill in the pieces and pick up the slack with someone else.

"He's very competitive. He would have been another coach out there with (Bret), the two of them knowing everything we do. It's a big loss but we've been practicing the last week without him and we'll have to move on."

It was tough to move on against ND, which looks like it could be in for a nice year. Aside from seniors Mark Maksimow (another township resident) and Ryan Germano, the junior tandem of Isaiah Johnson and Harris provide a nice inside-outside threat.

Johnson scored 15 of his 24 points in the first half, and sparked a late 15-4 run that gave the Irish a 35-24 halftime lead. He was complemented by Harris, a 6-foot-5 junior center who played JV last year.

"I watched him this summer and we talked and I knew in my heart he was gonna bust out," ND coach Bob Turco said. "He's just a big kid that trots. He gives 100 percent all the time. He goes to the glass and that orange ball is important to him and he goes and gets it.

"You gotta give it to him in the off-season. He put on 10 to 15 pounds, he went after it and put eight months of hard work in. He did it all himself and he's reaping the benefits now."

And Hamilton reaped the reverse effect, as Harris did major damage when the Hornets tried to stage a mighty comeback.

Trailing 52-36, Hamilton scored 12 straight as Lenwood Squire hit a driving lay-up and two straight 3-pointers to start the run.

With the score 52-48, Maksimow made two foul shots and Willie Leach (8 points) countered with a bucket to make it 54-40 with 4:35 left.

Hamilton then got sloppy and went cold and Harris went to work, scoring six straight points to start a decisive 10-0 run. His first two buckets were on putbacks and his third was on a layup.

"They were taking the shots we wanted them to take," Malloy said. "We just weren't getting the rebounds."

Notre Dame's press bothered Hamilton too, as it recorded several turnovers during the Irish's late blitz.

If there was a bright spot, it was the production of Squire, who penetrated and hit from the perimeter.

“Lenwood is one of our biggest guys but he might now be our best perimeter shooter,” Malloy said. “He has a lot of hats to wear – he has to rebound defensively, post offensively and be able to step out on the perimeter like he did today. We might have to ask a little more of him with Lansing out, but I think he’s more than capable of handling it.”

And how did Malloy handle his first game as a varsity head coach?

“I always got nervous before the first game of the season when I was JV coach,” he said. “I felt the nerves a little more so today before the game started, but once the ball was tipped it felt like any other game.”

## Nottingham’s youth is apparent in opening-night setback to Little Tigers

By Rich Fisher  
Fish4Scores.com

When Princeton went to a quick zone after Nottingham took a 4-2 lead tonight, it seemed to be the right move as the Little Tigers gradually pulled away to a nine-point advantage.

Nottingham took some bad shots and made some poor entry passes as Princeton opened an 18-9 lead. But the Northstars would bounce back to make it a game before eventually dropping a 57-50 decision to the CVC Valley Division favorite.

The moral of the story is, don’t think a zone will always beat the Northstars.

“We shoot extremely well and we pass well,” coach “Irish” Mike Walsh said. “I think honestly it was jitters. I don’t think you’re gonna be able to zone us.

“But in that first quarter we had jitters. We don’t shoot air balls like that. You take that first quarter away and we knocked some down.”

Particularly Kevin Alexis, who had three 3-pointers en route to a game-high 19 points. Alexis had help from Shaquan Worthy (13 points, 7 rebounds) but Princeton held both players down in the final minutes when it went on a decisive 6-1 run.

“I would have liked to have gotten this one, I didn’t know what to expect,” Walsh said. “But I’m telling them now the season’s a marathon not a sprint. Let’s make sure we keep our heads and keep getting better.

“We have to get better at our decision making and recognizing defenses without me having to call timeouts every time we switch it up. We got in our press breaker and we broke it, but we don’t get in it in our next three possessions. That has something to do with being a young team I guess.”

## Spartans fall to Allentown after slow start

Steinert dropped its opener, 54-40 at Allentown as the Spartans fell behind 8-2 and had trouble recovering. Ryan LaMarca and Shane Plunkett each had 10 points for Steinert.



*Zach Mesday slips between two Princeton defenders for a slick reverse lay-up tonight (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing [jbsportsphoto@aol.com](mailto:jbsportsphoto@aol.com)).*