

## Our Athletes

# Hurricane season

## Knights lose to New Britain again, eliminated at conference tourney

By JOHN GORALSKI  
SPORTS WRITER

It was a tough week for the Blue Knight basketball team as they prepare for the Class L tournament.

Twice, they faced New Britain, a former No. 1 team in the state—once in the regular season, and once in the CCC tournament. Twice, they came close, but twice they fell short.

### Boys Basketball

“You might have thought that Monday night was a moral victory, but tonight was no moral victory,” said Southington coach Bob Lasbury. “A couple of turnovers was the difference in the game. If we make a better decision, and they turn the ball over, we’re up four points and we’re in the game.”

On Thursday, March 25, Southington opened the postseason with a 22-12 lead in the first quarter, held on for a one-point lead at the half, but fell to the Hurricanes in the opening round of the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC) tournament, 69-64.

“It came down to, as it did the other game, to a two-minute stretch in the third quarter coming out of the half,” said Lasbury. “I’m not sure what it was. Maybe it

### CCC Tournament

First Round	Feb. 25
New Britain 69	
Southington 64	

was my fault for not having them ready. In games like this, it comes down to execution in the last minute or minute and a half where every decision has to be perfect, or you’re going to lose. We made a couple ill-advised shots and a couple of turnovers.”

Southington couldn’t have started any better. Jordan Lamson (14 points, 5 rebounds) opened the Knights’ scoring with back-to-back three-pointers. Mike Rhodd (13 rebounds) followed with four of his six points, and Lamson scored to give the Knights an early 12-3 lead.

New Britain answered with a second quarter rally, but Southington entered halftime with a 36-35 lead. The Hurricanes started the second half with an 8-2 rally and out-paced the Knights down the stretch.

Tyler Dube finished with 17 points and five assists. Nick DeFeo added 10 points with three assists, but the Knights turned the ball over 17 times. New Britain finished with just six turnovers.

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Bob Lasbury,  
SHS basketball coach

Southington trailed by two points in the final minute, but fell for the second straight time on last-minute mistakes. The game doesn’t count against Southington when Class LL seedings are announced this week, but Lasbury would have liked another chance to prepare for the state competition.

“It’s very nice to have made the tournament, but it would have been nice to win,” said the coach. “We need to get better if we want to win the state tournament. We have to execute in those last few moments.”

The Knights should be the No. 17 seed when pairings after we went to press. For more details, go to [www.casciac.org](http://www.casciac.org) or [www.rep-am.com](http://www.rep-am.com).

“The opponent that we are going to face will, in all



VINNY ROSSITTO

Nick DeFeo drives toward the basket during a close loss in New Britain in the first round of the conference tournament.

## Castiglione’s season ends at the state open

Wrestling at five o’clock on Saturday is usually a good sign at the state open championships. But when a winter storm delays the opening rounds of the two-day tournament, a late Saturday contest is just a second round match.

### Wrestling

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the Southington wrestling season came to a close. Carmine Castiglione faced a tough, 171-pound weightclass, and was eliminated in the second round at the state open.

Castiglione was the only Blue Knight to advance to the second round of the postseason.

“He wrestled tough,” said Blue Knight coach Derek Dion. “He faced the No. 2 seed in the first round and did pretty well.”

Castiglione entered the meet as a heavy underdog, but stayed off his back against the best in the state.

He lost his first match in a four-point decision to the Class M champion, and lost his consolation match by a one point decision.

The meet marked the end of the winter season for the Knights.

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