

STEFAN FEDORCHAK SCORES 20; REGGIE GREEN 17 PTS; SEAN BABOS 11 PTS, 5 ASSISTS

Cougar Cager Boys Hold Off St. Mary's Elizabeth, 57-50

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Teamwork paid off as the Cranford High School boys basketball team dished out 16 assists that led to easy lay-ups and eight 3-pointers to overcome St. Mary's of Elizabeth, 57-50, in Cranford on February 7.

Senior point-guard Sean Babos distributed, at least, his fair share to finish with five assists, before sinking the bulk of his 11 points, which included a pair of 3-pointers.

"I like to get my teammates the ball before I get my own shot. If they are scoring, it is easier for me to score. I try to get them the ball as much as possible," Babos said.

"He is the catalyst. I will give him the ball. The last three games, he played unbelievably. He did a great job," added Cougar Head Coach Ryan Huber.

Although not close to being the

tallest player on the court, Babos contributed more than his share of rebounds with seven.

"The coach has really been getting on me for not boxing out, so I just stepped it up today and got a lot of rebounds to help the team," Babos said.

Junior forward Stefan Fedorchak was the first Cougar recipient of assists as he bucketed 13 of his game-high 20 points in the first quarter. Fedorchak sank two of his three 3-pointers in the quarter and added the other in the second quarter. He also demonstrated his unselfishness with three assists.

After Fedorchak rolled in a lay-up at the beginning of the second quarter to extend the lead to 22-8, the 9-11 Cougars' hands went ice cold, while the 8-11 Hilltoppers burned the net with a 10-0 run to tighten the score, 22-18, midway through the quar-

ter. But the Cougars burst into flames with three straight 3-pointers, two from Kurt Rutmayer (5 assists, 5 rebounds, blocked shot) and Fedorchak's.

"It's a game of runs, and to-

and a steal. Babos scored the Cougars' next seven points in the quarter, won by the Hilltoppers, 19-17, with his pair of 3-pointers and a free throw.

Cougar Tom Trotter sank a 3-

tried to limit their runs and make sure that they did not take over the game," Babos said.

"We did a nice job of sharing the ball early. We were knocking down some threes. We made five



David B. Corbin for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*

APPLYING DEFENSIVE PRESSURE... Cougar Stefan Fedorchak, No. 5, pressures St. Mary's Stephen Alexander, No. 15. The Cougars won, 57-50. Story is also in *The Westfield Leader* newspaper.



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STRONG ON DEFENSE AND OFFENSE...Cougar Sean Babos, No. 1, had seven rebounds, sank 11 points and dished out five assists in the game against the St. Mary's Hilltoppers in Cranford on February 7.

day we stepped up. That's been our Achilles Heel. Runs have hurt us. However today we responded to their run and we did a nice job of coming back," Coach Huber said.

Junior Reggie Green was the recipient of five straight assists as he scored the Cougars' first 10 points of the third quarter. Green finished with 17 points, six rebounds, three assists, a block

pointer early in the fourth quarter, but the Hilltoppers stepped up the pressure that paid off in a 9-0 run to narrow the Cougars' led to 53-50 with 1:04 remaining. Fedorchak answered with a lay-up and Babos completed the scoring with a pair of free throws.

"They went to a 1-2-2 trap, but we finally escaped out here and got the 'W'. That's what matters. They went on some runs, but we

or six in the first half. We played well, but at the end, we let up a little bit. We were still trying to score, but I think we were looking for the perfect shot instead of a good shot. I don't think it was so much their pressure. I think it was just us trying to make a perfect play," Coach Huber said.

St. Mary's	8	12	19	11	50
Cranford	20	11	17	9	57