

# Saranac Lake foe rushes into title picture

By TIM REYNOLDS  
Staff Writer

**LEROY** — As his team prepares for its first-ever trip to the Carrier Dome to play in the state Class C football championship, LeRoy coach Brian Moran is hiding nothing.

Truth is, Moran really has nothing to hide.

"We've won four sectional championships in the last seven years," said Moran, whose Oatkan (Oh-at-can, from a nearby creek) Knights meet Saranac Lake Sunday in Syracuse for the state title. "In those four wins, I think we've thrown the ball a total of four times."

If LeRoy throws the football four times Sunday, it will likely be out of desperation. For the Knights, it's football the old-fashioned way — grind-it-

out power running.

LeRoy's rushing attack features two juniors, Eric Geiger and Ryan Novak. Both have eclipsed the 1,000-yard plateau for the season. The blocking fullback is senior Derek Spink, who carried the ball 12 times for 53 yards and both touchdowns against Dolgeville in the semifinals.

The quarterback is another underclassman, sophomore Justin Ausher. Of the 11 offensive starters, nine are underclassmen.

"We lost last year in the Western regionals, 7-6 to Falconer," Moran said. "Most of these kids played last year as 10th-graders and they've worked very hard to get here."

LeRoy relies on a double tight end set, with speed on the left side of the line and bulk on the right side. From

the left, tight end Brian Fulmer (6'6", 185), tackle Bill MacKenzie (6'0", 2-5) and guard Brian Licata (6'0", 200) are the quicker side of the line, a feature LeRoy uses most on its counter plays.

On the right end, tackle Dave Shaughnessy (5'8", 265), guard Pat Ashley (6'0", 280) and tight end Brandon Shaughnessy (6'0", 200) are the bruisers, blowing opponents well off the line of scrimmage. The center is Zach Dillow (5'10", 190).

"They're extremely strong and quick, with a lot of power," Saranac Lake coach John Raymond said. "There's no question they're a great team."

No fewer than eight of LeRoy's offensive starters play defense as well. Typically, the Knights are in a 4-4 set, with Spink, Ashley, Dave Shaughnessy and

Brandon Shaughnessy up front. The group weighs nearly 1,000 pounds.

The four linebackers are considerably smaller, with only one — Dillow — checking in at more than 160 pounds.

LeRoy's offense may be well-heralded, with two 1,000-yard rushers, but Moran said defense got the Knights to the Dome.

"It wouldn't be fair to pick one kid out as a defensive leader because we've got so many good kids defensively," Moran said. "It's a team effort."

Middle linebacker Steve Saeva had a team-high nine tackles against Dolgeville. Defensive MVP Spink and Dillow each recovered two fumbles against the team which entered last weekend as the state's top-ranked Class C team — only to fumble the football 11 times, losing six, against LeRoy.

"Dolgeville had won 69 of 71 games going into the semifinals against us," Moran said. "You never know where you're going to end up."

LeRoy's league, the Livingston-Genesee Division I Conference, is power-laden, with four Class B schools and defending state Class D champion Caledonia-Mumford on the schedule.

Caledonia-Mumford, which also won the 1993 Class C title, dealt LeRoy the only loss on its 1995 schedule, a 20-6 defeat in Week 3.

In each of Moran's seven seasons on LeRoy's sidelines, at least two teams from Division I have won Section V championships.

"We have to come ready to play every single week," Moran said.

## Syracuse goes on defensive

By WILLIAM KATES  
AP Sports Writer

**SYRACUSE** — Imagine losing three of your top four scorers, including one who ended his career as the Big East's leading all-time scorer and you get the idea of what Syracuse faces this season.

Now, picture coach Jim Boeheim, who says without hesitation, that playing defense will be the Orangemen's biggest challenge in the 1995-1996 season and you understand the degree of offensive talent Syracuse still has.

"We have guys that can score," said Boeheim, who heads into his 20th season with a career record of 454-150 and 13-year streak of 20-plus-win seasons.

"We are definitely not as strong as we were defensively last season. We lost three really good defenders," he said, referring to the graduated Lawrence Moten and Lucious Jackson and the departed Michael Lloyd.

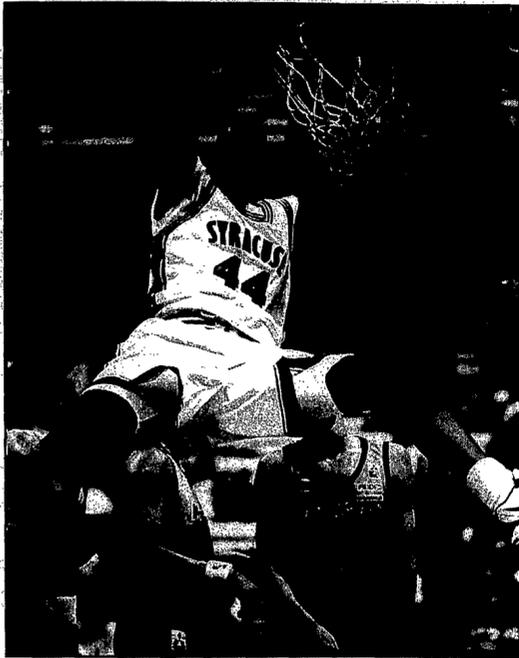
"But I think we are probably as good offensively as we were last year, if not as good overall," said Boeheim, whose squad finished 20-10 last and was dumped from the NCAAAs in the second round by Arkansas, 96-94, in overtime.

Syracuse opens its season on Nov. 25 with Lafayette.

Boeheim may not have been so assured had power forward John Wallace carried through on plans to skip his senior year and jump to the NBA. But Wallace changed his mind on the eve of the draft and is back to validate himself as a top first-round pick.

"The year will really solidify his game and show people that he can really shoot the ball outside and physically be a dominating player," Boeheim said. "He has made progress every year and he will make progress this year. There's more shots. That's all he needs. He shoots a very high percentage. He just needs more shots. And we are losing three guys who took a lot of shots."

Wallace was second on the team in scoring last season behind conference scoring king Moten, averaging nearly 17 points a game and a Big East-best .588 shooting percentage. Moten, Jackson and Lloyd, who ran into academic difficulties



AP Photo

**John Wallace, shown dunking against Melbourne, Australia Tigers in exhibition last week, returns to lead the Orange.**

and had to withdraw from school, combined for 44 points a game.

So where will Syracuse make up for the lost points?

"I think we have 10 guys and I wouldn't be hesitant to put any of them in there. The only guy who has to be in there is John," Boeheim said. "The rest can all help us."

The front line will be the strength of the Orangemen this season, said Boeheim, who has veteran big men Otis Hill and J.B. Reafsnider returning to share the center spot.

The bruising 6-foot-8, 255-pound Hill started as a freshman two years ago, with the 6-11 Reafsnider as a backup. Last year, they reversed roles, although Hill came on strong at the end of the season after losing his starting job six games into the season.

Hill has averaged 7.2 points and five rebounds a game throughout his career, while Reafsnider, a senior, has

scored 4.4 points and 3.6 rebounds.

Syracuse has some big bodies to bring off the bench. Bobby Lazor, a 6-8 220-pound sophomore, is improving daily as he battles against Wallace in practice and newcomer Elvir Ocina, a 6-11, 245-pound freshman from Bosnia, has made an immediate impression on Boeheim.

"We weren't counting on him too much and he looks very good right now," Boeheim said. "He plays from high to low. He's got a nice little hook shot. He is an excellent passer, surprisingly good."

In the backcourt, Syracuse's guards are capable of providing balance to the offense, Boeheim said.

The highest expectations are maybe for sophomore Todd Burgan, a svelte 6-7 swingman who as a freshman provided glimpses of a bright future as an explosive, slashing player with a good touch outside.

Burgan played in 27 games — sometimes with uncontainable excitement — and finished as the team's best 3-point shooter (12-31) and had strong games against Kentucky, Providence, Connecticut, Villanova and Georgetown, showing a penchant for clutch performance.

"Todd will be a big-time scorer. Todd is capable of scoring in the 20-point range. He is a great 3-point shooter. He is just a real good offense player," Boeheim said.

"When he played he scored. Lukie (Jackson) was just playing so well and we really needed Lukie in the game," said Boeheim, who expects Burgan to inherit Jackson's role as the team's defensive stopper.

Jason Cippola, who red-shirted last season after transferring from Tallahassee Community College, will give Syracuse another scorer on the perimeter, Boeheim said. The 6-7 Cippola averaged over 20 points a game in two years at Tallahassee.

Sophomore Marius Janlius is a 3-point threat off the bench.

Senior Lazarus Sims, nicknamed Z by his teammates, will finally get his chance to run the Syracuse offense full-time. The Syracuse high school star has played a steady backup in his three years at Syracuse. While not a scorer, Sims has a 2-1 assist-to-turnover ratio for his career.

"In the backcourt, we are young and more inexperienced than anything. Z has to be very stable for us because he's been here for five years," said Boeheim.

"Z has the skills and he is shooting the ball better. I think he just needed an opportunity. He has to be able to make some shots, but not a lot," he said.

David Patrick, a 5-10 freshman, is Sims' backup, compounding the importance of Sims' playing well.

The Orangemen will have little time to jell as a team. They play Providence and St. John's in the first week of December, have NIT participants Washington State and Canisius in their Carrier Classic tournament a few days later, travel to Arizona and then on to Hawaii to play Illinois in the Rainbow Classic, and possibly Massachusetts or Missouri, if they advance.

## E'town, Schroon reach hoop final

**SCHROON LAKE** — Elizabethtown's boys basketball team possessed little sympathy for Dan Mannix's coaching debut at Westport.

The Lions pounded the Eagles for a 55-27 victory in the opening round of the Schroon Lake Boys Basketball Tip-Off Tournament Monday night.

Elizabethtown faces Schroon Lake in Wednesday's 8 p.m. final. The Wildcats coasted past Willsboro, 87-43, in the other opening-round game.

Elizabethtown built a 16-4 lead behind its offensive-glass rebounding. The Eagles drew within two but couldn't sustain the momentum.

Elizabethtown reopened its lead as the half drew to a close and put the game away with a 15-5 spurt in the third quarter.

George Vernum and Bill Jones led Elizabethtown's balanced scoring attack with 11 points. Eric Bassett collected 17 rebounds.

In the nightcap, Wayne Welch

and Tony Lang scored 10 points to power Schroon Lake to 28-6 lead. Willsboro, the defending Section VII champions, never recovered.

Lang finished with 18 while Welch ended up with 17.

Nathan Jacques was the only Willsboro player in double-figures: He finished with 15.

Elizabethtown 55, Westport 27					
George Vernum	5-11	Bill Jones	4-21	Chris Haselton	4-0-8
Era Bassett	3-2-8	Roger Carr	1-0-2	Jed Stadel	1-0-2
Janice Baker	3-3-8	Shawn Bottom	2-0-4	Rick Parker	0-0-0
Pat Cashin	0-0-0	Ben Nichols	0-0-0	Wayne Mitchell	0-0-0
Janice Bassett	0-0-0	Totals	28-45		
Westport (27)					
Bernie Fidler	1-0-2	Morgan Atwell	1-0-2	Gordon Biglow	1-0-2
Kevin Campbell	1-0-2	Mike Trumble	0-0-0	Scott Sherman	4-1-9
Matt Atwell	0-2-2	Tony Moore	2-1-5	Al Truiano	0-0-0
Bobby March	0-0-0	Vince Gaglietta	0-0-0	Jason Szyre	0-0-0
Totals	10-4-27				
E'town 14 10 15 16 - 57					
Westport 4 14 5 4 - 27					
3-point goals: Jones, Campbell					

Schroon Lake 53, Willsboro 47					
Janice	4-15	Janice	3-3-8	Morgan	0-7-7
Lesek	2-0-5	Benway	2-0-4	Blumhard	1-2-4
Bauer	1-0-2	Vannoy	0-1-1	Wade	0-0-0
Totals	13-18-47				
Schroon Lake (53)					
Lang	8-2-18	W Welch	7-4-17	Russell	6-0-12
Brook	4-1-8	J Mitchell	3-3-9	T Mitchell	1-1-3
Brand	3-0-6	Hammud	1-1-3	Vanderweide	1-0-2
Horak	1-0-2	Martin	1-0-2	DeZaluz	0-0-0
M Welch	0-0-0	Palmer	0-0-0	Totals	36-11-83
Willsboro 6 19 9 13 - 47					
Schroon Lake 28 15 18 22 - 83					
3-point goals: Jacques, 2, Lesek					

## NCCC wins hockey opener

**BINGHAMTON** — North Country Community College skated to a 6-3 victory over Broome Community College Saturday night in the Saints' season opener.

"Jason Casey and sophomore Scott Walker turned the game around for us," NCCC coach Tim Gerrish said. "We started off flat and they led the team back."

North Country CC will be at Hudson Valley tonight.

North Country CC 6, Broome CC 3				
North Country CC	1	2	3	6
Broome CC	1	1	1	3
First period: 1, NCCC, Lacey (Massena) 8:41, 2, BCC, Marlow, 9:37				
Second period: 3, BCC, Hay, 14:17, 4, NCCC, Walker (Casey, Elmont), 15:26, 5, NCCC, Casey, 16:03				
Third period: 6, NCCC, Massena (Walker, Lacey), 9:44, 7, NCCC, Bennett (Massena, Bennett), 12:07, 8, BCC, Hay, 14:17, 9, NCCC, Bennett (Spicer), 14:36				
Shots on goal: North Country CC 9 7 13 - 29				
Broome CC 13 12 6 - 31				
Goalies: Prosek, NCCC; McCarroll, BCC				

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Peru Turkey Trot scheduled for Thursday

**PERU** — The 18th-Annual Peru Turkey Trot/John P. Adams Memorial Race will be held Thanksgiving Day, starting at 9 a.m. from the Peru Elementary School. There will be three events: 10-kilometer race, 5-kilometer run and a one-mile gobbler run.

Ribbons and trophies will be awarded in the two longer events. All participants will be eligible for additional prizes and merchandise. Beverages will be offered at no charge.

Entry fee is \$8 per person for the 5K and 10K events and will include a souvenir fanny pack. The gobbler entry fee is \$2.

Registration will be 7:30-8:45 a.m. race day at the school. All proceeds will be used by the Peru Lions Club to assist those with hearing and sight problems.

For more information, contact Larry Ewald, at 643-8506, or Jim McCarty, at 643-9775.

## Schroon, Beekmantown girls advance

**SCHROON LAKE** — Stephanie Parker canned 12 of her 18 points in the third quarter as Schroon Lake pulled away to a 68-43 victory over Willsboro in Schroon Lake Tip-Off Girls Basketball Tournament Monday night.

The Wildcats face Beekmantown in Wednesday's 6 p.m. final. Beekmantown dispatched Elizabethtown, 72-41, in the other opening-round game.

While Parker pulled Schroon Lake away, the game featured a scoring battle between Willsboro's Nicole Sayward and Schroon Lake's Shannon Brock.

Sayward finished with a team-high 27 points while Brock tallied 29.

Schroon Lake's Naomi Mitchell finished with a triple-double, collecting 14 points, 12 rebounds and 13 steals.

In the other game, Jocelyn Underwood netted eight points in the first quarter as Beekmantown jumped to a 19-8 lead in the frame. Underwood finished with a career-high 21 points.

Beekmantown sealed the win with an 8-0 run to start the second half.

Marisa Vernum led Elizabethtown with 18 points while

Heather Tenney finished with 16.

**Beekmantown 72, Elizabethtown 41**  
Vernum, 6-6-18; Tenney, 8-0-16; Doyle, 2-0-4; Bassett, 1-0-2; Hurd, 0-1-1; Demoss, 0-0-0; Shaw, 0-0-0; Reynolds, 0-0-2; Nichols, 0-0-0. Totals: 17-7-41

**Beekmantown (72)**  
Underwood, 9-3-21; St. Maur, 4-0-11; Downs, 5-0-11; Mussen, 3-3-5; Singer, 4-0-0; Fuller, 3-0-0; M. Downs, 1-0-2; Ward, 1-0-2; Giroux, 1-0-2. Totals: 31-6-72

**Elizabethtown** 8 13 8 12 - 41  
**Beekmantown** 19 16 20 17 - 72  
3-point goals: St. Maur, 3, Downs.

**Schroon Lake 58, Willsboro 43**  
Sayward, 12-3-27; MacDougall, 4-0-8; Bashaw, 2-1-6; A. Sauter, 1-0-2; B. Sauter, 0-0-0; Guay, 0-0-0; Gowens, 0-0-0; Hurd, 0-0-0; Christian, 0-0-0. Totals: 19-4-43

**Schroon Lake (58)**  
Brock, 13-2-29; Parker, 9-0-18; Mitchell, 6-2-14; Sachleben, 1-1-3; Brand, 1-0-2; King, 1-0-2; Turner, 0-0-0; Patton, 0-0-0; LeBlanc, 0-0-0; Williams, 0-0-0. Totals: 31-6-58

**Willsboro** 7 13 8 15 - 43  
**Schroon Lake** 23 10 27 8 - 68

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