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Wednesday, January 21, 2009

**High school boys basketball: U-D Jesuit 58, Detroit Catholic Central 47**

# U-D hands C.C. first loss

Rod Beard / The Detroit News

**NOVI** -- Detroit Catholic Central's top priority was stopping Jordan Morgan, University of Detroit-Jesuit's top player.

That strategy left open shots for Morgan's teammates.

U-D got key contributions from Morgan's supporting cast but needed a fourth-quarter spurt to hold off Catholic Central, 58-47, Tuesday night in a Catholic League showdown.

The win gives U-D (6-1, 3-0) sole possession of first in the Central Division.

"(Balance) is really what we talk about and the guys bought in and I give them credit," U-D coach Pat Donnelly said. "It doesn't matter who scores because there are no selfish players in our locker room."

Catholic Central (8-1, 2-1) started the game double-teaming and denying Morgan the ball, but he scored on U-D's first possession, his only field goal of the first half. Despite the defensive onslaught, Catholic Central led 11-7 after the first quarter, behind five points from Tim Dezeliski.

In the second quarter, U-D rallied, shooting 7-of-11 from the field, including eight points by Daniel Fields. In the final four minutes, Fields had a 3-pointer and two straight layups in the paint, pushing U-D to a 25-21 halftime lead.

U-D continued its hot shooting in the third quarter, hitting 8-of-11 field goals. Timothy Schearer scored all 10 of his points in the quarter, including two 3-pointers. Schearer's layup with 1:43 remaining gave U-D a 41-24 advantage.

The defense also responded, holding Catholic Central to two field goals in the quarter -- both in the final minute -- and a 45-29 advantage entering the fourth quarter. In the second and third quarters, Catholic Central shot just 5-of-18 from the field.

"It started with our defense. We had a lot of intensity with our stops and steals that led to quick shots and rebounds," said Morgan, who had 14 points and eight rebounds. "We just had to play to our abilities."

Catholic Central rallied behind Brett Smith, who had six points in an 11-0 run to open the quarter. Dezeliski (13 points, 10 rebounds, five blocks) hit his second 3-pointer of the quarter to cut the lead to 47-43 with 4:02 left, but Catholic Central never got any closer. Morgan had a three-point play and a layup that extended the lead to 54-43; U-D coasted from there.

"We withstood a heck of a run at the end," Donnelly said. "We were very fortunate, and this is a big win."

Fields and Schearer each finished with 10 points and Michael Wenderski had six points and 12 rebounds for U-D.

Smith had 12 points and Steve Harding 10 for Catholic Central.

"They played well in the second and third quarters and we didn't finish," Catholic Central coach Bill Dyer said. "They're the best team we've played so far this season. We didn't think we'd go through undefeated, but we've played well and surprised some people."

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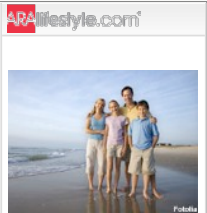
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**Site Index**

|  |  |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Essentials:</b><br>Home<br>Page One PDF<br>Sports PDF<br>Weather<br>Horoscope<br>Lottery<br>Crossword<br>Sudoku<br>Contact Us<br><b>Multimedia:</b><br>Photos/Video<br>News Photos<br>Autos Photos<br>Audio Galleries<br>Video<br>Photo Store | <b>News:</b><br>Nation/World<br>Politics/Govt.<br>Elections<br>Religion<br><b>Local/State:</b><br>Metro/State<br>Wayne<br>Oakland<br>Macomb<br>Livingston<br>Commuting<br>Schools<br>Michigan History<br>Charlie LeDuff<br>Obituaries<br>Death Notices | <b>Autos:</b><br>Autos Insider<br>Drive<br>Joyrides<br>Auto Shows<br>Auto Reviews<br>Auto Photos<br>Autos Talk<br>Test Drive blog<br><b>Business:</b><br>Business News<br>Personal<br>Finance<br>Stocks<br>Technology | <b>Sports:</b><br>Sports<br>Lions/NFL<br>Pistons/NBA<br>Red Wings/NHL<br>Tigers/MLB<br>Shock/WNBA<br>MSU<br>U-M<br>More Colleges<br>High Schools<br>Golf<br>Motor Sports<br>More Sports<br>Ski Guide<br>Scoreboards | <b>Entertainment:</b><br>Entertainment<br>Music<br>Calendar<br>Movies<br>Movie Finder<br>TV Listings<br>TV/Radio<br>Restaurants<br>Wine Report<br>Casinos<br>Celebs<br>Performing Arts<br>Puzzles/Games | <b>Forums:</b><br>Forums Index<br>Lions Talk<br>Wings Talk<br>Pistons Talk<br>Tigers Talk<br>Ask Mike O'Hara<br>Big Ten Talk<br>News Talk<br>Autos Talk<br>Faith Talk<br><b>Opinions:</b><br>Editorials<br>Letter to Editor<br>Blogs<br>Columnists<br>Cybersurveys | <b>Lifestyle:</b><br>Lifestyle<br>Homestyle<br>Food<br>Recipe Finder<br>Health/Fitness<br>Fashion/Shopping<br>Families/Parenting<br>Travel/Recreation<br>MichMoms<br>MichDads<br><b>Other</b><br>Special Reports |
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