

# Coaches comments



JANUARY 22, 2008

## BIG WALNUT VS DUBLIN SCIOTO

**Overview...** Tonight's OCC Capital Division game features the Scioto Irish playing host to the Eagles of Big Walnut HS. This showdown matches the two teams many thought would contend each other for the Capital Division crown. Scioto (14-0, 5-0 OCC) is coming off an impressive weekend with victories over Franklin Heights (68-48) and Parkersburg South, WV (75-46). In the Parkersburg South game, the Irish jumped out of the gates with an 29-8 1st quarter lead and continued on to a 41-15 halftime lead. The Patriots never really threatened the rest of the way. Leading the Irish with 15 pts apiece were Blair Gorniak and Marco St. John. Ben Ashwill and Bradley McDougald added 11 and 12 pts respectively.

Big Walnut (10-3, 4-1 OCC) is coached by Steve Comstock. Ranked #6 in the Central District Coaches Poll in Division II, the Eagles come in the winners of five straight contests. The most recent being a 62-34 win over Watkins Memorial last Friday night. The Red & Gold return three experienced starters from last year. Leading the way are 6'3 senior guard Kenton Comstock (15.6 ppg), 6'4 senior forward Evan Walker (12.7 ppg) and 6'4 senior forward Joey Reed (8.1 ppg). 6'0 junior guard and transfer Eugene Cannaday (14.3 ppg) has fit nicely into the Eagles mix. Expected to round out the starting lineup is 5'10 senior wing Anthony Zarcone (2.9 ppg).

**Coach B's Comments on Big Walnut...** Big Walnut, one of the preseason favorites in the Capital Division, brings a wealth of experience back on their front line this year with several years of varsity experience between Comstock, Reed and Walker. Add that with the athletic explosiveness that Cannaday brings to the table, and this becomes our toughest foe to date. Look for the Eagles to try to spread us out in their offense and try to create scoring opportunities with straight line dribble penetration. We must be very sound in our defensive approach and fundamentals. At our offensive end, the Irish must be able to deal with their ever-changing defensive approach, which might include combination man/zone defenses. When it's all said and done however, the difference in this game could come down to which team has the most effective bench play.

**Notes and Nuggets...** This is the 3rd meeting between these two schools with Scioto winning both of the previous contests. Scioto is ranked #7 in the Division I AP State Poll and ranked #2 in the Central Ohio District Poll.

**Upcoming Schedule...** The Irish are home again Friday, January 25th they host Watkins Memorial in an OCC Capital Division game.

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