

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE: Five LHAC squads entered the PIAA playoffs but after round one was said and done, only one remained: Central Cambria. The Red Devils edged Monessen of the WPIAL 68-67. As per usual, Jordan Miller led CC and all scorers with 36 points.

Steve Traino's club improved to 14-13 and advance to take another WPIAL power in Aliquippa. Traino took a few moments to talk about both the Monessen contest and to look ahead to the Quips:

"I think our kids played with heart, they really competed. I am extremely proud of our squad. They never gave up and continued to work hard and trust in each other. I think the key to the win was hustle. We did a few things on defense to try and stop dribble penetration, but it just came down to hustle and heart. Aliquippa is a physical, athletic team. We will have to play our best to stay in the game."

TROJANS FALL TO FOE FROM THE EAST: Three and a half bus ride? No problem. Game practically at your opponent's home gym? No problem. Lancaster Catholic, the sixth and last team out of District 3 to qualify for the state Class AAA bracket overcame all those odds and defeated the Johnstown Trojans 55-45 Friday night.

HIGHLANDS ELIMINATES SOMERSET: Scott Close's Somerset Golden Eagles were eliminated by Highlands 95-66 in the first round of the Class AAA PIAA playoffs. Although Jeremiah Judy scored 23 points, Somerset was no match for the Rams.

The Golden Eagles finish their season at 18-8.

HIGHLANDERS' DREAM SEASON ENDS: The best Cambria Heights basketball season in recent memory ran out of gas in the first round of the Class AA state playoffs as the Highlanders ran into a buzzsaw in Beaver Falls of the WPIAL. The Tigers defeated the Highlanders 69-48. Doug Biega's club was paced by Todd Thomas as the Pitt-bound (for football) senior dropped 28 points in the victory.

The Highlanders finish the season with a 21-6 record.

CADETS MARCH OVER HUSKIES: The Bishop Carroll Huskies were eliminated by Scotland School out of District 3 by the score of 67-57. Jackie Moschgat led BC with 21 points while Chad Panick had 14 in the loss.

Cosie Aliquo reflected on the game, BC's season in general and the state of the program going forward: "The last game against Scotland was a pretty tough game. I thought we played well but we just weren't able to handle their quickness to the ball. My guys gave a great effort and they've done that all year. I don't think I'll find a tougher defensive combination than Matt, Chad and Luke. What my 7 seniors have given me the last 2 years has been absolutely awesome. A District 6 Title, 34 wins, and 2 state tournament appearances. That's not to bad at all. I have 12 sophomores back so there will be a lot of playing time available, even the freshman will be given a chance. But these guys need to step up and keep BC on the basketball map."

BC ends the season with an 18-8 mark.