# Hamilton-Wenham boys basketball team off to great start

**By Dom Nicastro / Correspondent – HW Chronicle**

**Posted Jan 4, 2018 at 2:19 AM**

Don’t get Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School boys basketball coach Mike DiMarino wrong. The 3-0 start is terrific.

It’s just that the coach recognizes the team has some kinks to work out in the early going. The team has had two close calls (Masconomet and Amesbury) and a convincing victory over Rockport.

“We’re a work in progress,” DiMarino said.

The good news is the Generals will have had plenty of time to progress between its third and fourth games. The team beat Rockport Dec. 22 and was not scheduled to play again until Tuesday, Jan. 2 at Lynnfield.

That was a key matchup to open the New Year for the Generals. It pitted the defending Cape Ann League Baker Division champions (Hamilton-Wenham) against the defending Cape Ann League Kinney Division champions.

The Generals are back in town Friday, Jan. 5 to take on Georgetown.

DiMarino likes some of what he sees on the court thus far. Upperclassmen like Jake Lanciani and Cam Peach have stepped up and are leading the way in the points department.

But he also cited some sloppy play that needs to be cleaned up if the Generals are to compete in the Cape Ann League as they have – successfully – for the better part of the last decade.

The defense at times has looked great, especially in the Rockport game on the road where the Generals led by 23 after one quarter and cruised.

The leading scorers in that game, the Generals last before the holiday break, were James Lustig (13 points), Lanciani (12), Cole Dwyer (10) and Cam Grinnell (seven).

DiMarino cited the play of newcomers Paul Horgan and Mike Moynihan, who have chipped in for the Generals in many ways even if they aren’t lighting up the scoreboard with points.

As of Dec. 29, the Generals were still hoping to get back its point guard and offensive architect, Billy Whelan. The quarterback suffered an injury in the playoffs, missed his Thanksgiving Day game and has been trying to get back to the court ever since.

DiMarino said he’s day-to-day and that Whelan’s presence is missed. Whelan, along with Lustig, was an All-League selection last winter.

Lanciani has more than picked up the slack in scoring. He led the Generals with 25 points against Masconomet.

Peach has done so as well. He scored 19 points against Masco. Alex Renaud has been a strong presence on offense, gathering key rebounds and steals.

Lanciani was the leader in the Amesbury game as well, scoring 18 points. Grinnell added 15 points.

“If you were to tell me we were 3-0 after all the injuries we’ve had, I’d be happy,” DiMarino said.

The coach did also add he’s not completely satisfied with the team’s play, but knows there are good things to come if they can work out their kinks.

That all started with a big battle against Lynnfield.

“They’ve been great the past couple of years,” DiMarino said. “We beat them by a couple and they beat us. They’ve been solid.”

**Generals use fast start to get past Lynnfield
By Austin Woolman Staff Writer – Salem News**

**Jan 2, 2018**SOUTH HAMILTON -- Getting out to a quick start is a skill coveted by coaches and players across the sporting world. Putting up a few quick points or forcing a couple of early turnovers are assets that can sometimes lock away a victory just minutes into a game. On Tuesday night, the Hamilton-Wenham girls' basketball squad reaped all the benefits from a strong beginning. The Generals defeated Lynnfield, 39-23, thanks in large part to a stellar effort in the first quarter. Hamilton-Wenham jumped out to an 8-0 lead just minutes into the match, and ended up closing out the opening frame with a 14-0 advantage. Generals head coach Jon Flanagan was happy to see his team's assertiveness so early in the game. "We came out slow against Austin Prep," said  Flanagan. "We got down early and really battled back for three quarters, but it wasn't enough in the end. Tonight we talked about getting out to a quick start and I think they took that to heart." Forward Cecily Szady knew that another slow would not cut it for the Generals. The senior noted the amount of time and energy that went into avoiding a repeat performance of Saturday's loss to the Cougars during practice."We've had some slow starts," admitted Szady. "We worked on the first five minutes of game's in practice all week and that really helped. We worked a lot on trying to break another team's full court press by using passes to get the ball up the court quickly, and that was really effective tonight." Working on that particular situation during practice appeared to pay off for the Generals. However, players still need to be ready come game time and execute if they want to be successful, and Szady made sure that was the case. The senior center ended the game with nine points, most of which came in the first quarter, and snared an impressive 13 rebounds. Flanagan knows that Szady is an imperative piece to the Hamilton-Wenham roster: "Cecily's energy got us going tonight. She hustles all the time, and I don't think you are ever going to question her effort." When asked about her impact on the game and her style of play, the captain elected to talk more about the overall identity of the Generals.
"We love to get in people's faces," said Szady. "You can tell that when we are pressing the opposing team, our offense becomes better. It's a part of our game."Szady wasn't the only General who had a strong showing. Sophomores Jemma Shea and Madyson Rivers combined for 20 points and five rebounds as Hamilton-Wenham, while senior Jacqueline Fibbe added another six points herself. In a season that began with a complete coaching staff turnover, Flanagan and Szady both feel the team is finally starting to come together. "They are getting more comfortable in their roles," said Flanagan. "We are starting to understand where our offensive looks are coming from and the communication is getting better on defense." "We are starting to move together more and more as a unit," added Szady. "We've gotten to know each other and are getting comfortable moving at game speed. We just need to keep working on our offense and communication and everything will fall into place eventually."

 **Hamilton-Wenham, Amesbury icemen fit to be tied in penalty filled contest
By Jean DePlacido Correspondent – Salem News
Dec 31, 2017**SOUTH HAMILTON -- A tie game is seldom satisfying to either team. But both Hamilton-Wenham hockey coach Rob Ryan and Amesbury's John Vater found something positive to take out of Saturday night's penalty-filled 2-2 stalemate at Pingree's Johnson Rink.

Amesbury shot out to a 2-0 lead but couldn't hold it as the host Generals roared back with a pair of power play goals. Hamilton-Wenham peppered junior goalie Charlie Baxter with 30 shots, but the Indians' keeper was spectacular in holding the fort, stopping not one but two penalty shots.

"He stood tall," said Vater. "Charlie played with a lot of heart and was the difference in this one.

"Before the game we talked about getting out to a quick start, and were able to do it. But then we lost all momentum."

The Generals dominated the opening period everywhere but the scoreboard, keeping constant pressure on the Indians' end but unable to solve Baxter.

After the first 15 minutes it was Amesbury that had a 1-0 lead, thanks to a goal by Kyle Murray. He beat Generals netminder Finn Brophy with a high shot stick side off a 2-on-1 break. It was one of only three shots on net for Amesbury all period.

Blake Bennett's slapshot in the opening minute of the middle period staked the visitors to a 2-0 lead. But the Generals capitalized on a power play tally by Henry Smith in a jam in front of Baxter's net just over three minutes later.

The game lost any flow after that with a combined 18 penalties called, including one major for each team. It ended with Aidan Daly taking a penalty shot with no time left on the clock in the middle period, but Baxter denied the bid.

"We had a choice between taking the penalty or the penalty shot, and Aidan's my guy," said Ryan, his team now 2-2-1 on the season. "He said 'Coach, I've got this', and he's a very good shooter.

"Their goalie made some great saves, but if we can continue to take 30 shots a game we're going to win most nights. We want to take less penalties for sure, but Henry Jones and Keegan O'Shea were outstanding on the penalty kill. Their forechecking forced turnovers and created scoring chances for us."

Jones sported an old Army helmet after the game, awarded to the Generals' player deemed to have shown the most hard work and hustle by his teammates postgame. "It doesn't necessarily go to the goal scorers," said Ryan. "It's recognition for going all out, and that's what Henry did. We really needed him on the man-down situations."

The third period was also filled with penalties, and Daly was once again awarded a penalty shot in an attempt to tie the game. But again Baxter came up big to deny him with 5:18 left in the game. It came after Daly stole the puck and broke in alone with the Generals shorthanded, and the Indians got the penalty while trying to stop him.

"Too many penalties," said Vater, his team now 1-3-1. "We weren't on our game. After the great start we started running around and taking too many penalties. We had to kill off a lot of penalties and couldn't get any offensive rhythm going. We've got a lot of young kids, and we will get better."

Gourdeau, who had an assist on Hamilton-Wenham's first goal, scored on the power play to tie it up with just over two minutes remaining. Baxter made a save but the rebound came out to Gourdeau, who fired it into the back of the net.

"These kids proved once again they can come back after falling behind,,' said Ryan. "We would have loved to get two points, but we'll take the one."

# Hamilton-Wenham boys hockey team wins home opener

**By****Christopher Hurley****churley@wickedlocal.com
Posted Dec 28, 2017 at 3:57 PM**There was no place like home for the Generals, Wednesday night.Matt Dearborn scored a pair of goals, as the Hamilton-Wenham boys hockey team defeated Nashoba Tech, 4-3, in its home opener, Dec. 27.With the win the Generals improved to 2-2 on the season**.**Trailing 2-0, Hamilton-Wenham staged a rally midway through the contest. Dearborn sparked the comeback scoring his first tally assisted by Aidan Daly and Mark Roselli. Daly knotted game up at 2-2 with eight second left in the period.The Generals put the game away potting two more tallies in the second period.Cam Vautour netted the eventual game-winner off a feed by Jack Greenwald.Daly was highly effective moving the puck, picking up a goal and two assists.Nashoba closed the gap off a powerplay with 1:07 remaining, but the Generals held on to win their second game of the season. Clint Gourdeau played a strong defensive game. Goaltender Finn Brophy made 17 saves en route to the victory.Hamilton-Wenham takes on Amerbury at Pingree, Saturday, Dec 30. The puck drops at 7 p.m.

# Hamilton-Wenham boys hockey team earns first win since varsity rebootBy Dom Nicastro / Correspondent – HW ChroniclePosted Dec 28, 2017 at 2:27 PMLast year, the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School boys hockey team returned to the ice after about a decade of defunct years where players paired with other schools.The Generals didn’t win a game in their return, going 0-18-2. But they vowed to get on the winning side of the scoreboard this season.They wasted little time. And did so super convincingly.The Generals opened this season with a 10-0 thrashing of O’Bryant this month. Talk about getting a monkey off their backs. The Generals got the monkey and the rest of the jungle off their backs in this one.Senior captain Cam Vautour, who scored two goals, said it wasn’t a perfect performance. But, then again, it was Game 1 of many, and there is plenty of time to work out the kinks.“Yeah we felt good,” Vautour said. “We started out a little slow playing on their level and eventually started moving the puck better. We looked pretty good for the first game but definitely need to be faster in our next games. We are trying to communicate hard work and effort but we only have one freshman on the team playing. Getting the program’s first win in the first game of the season is huge because we now know how to win and feel confident we will get more.”Sophomore Finn Brophy earned the shutout in his first varsity win. Brophy played plenty in net one year ago. He agreed the team started slow but finished very strong.“We started off slower than we would of liked but we were still looking good,” Brophy said. “We really picked it up in the second and third periods. We looked good but we know we need to get better.”In addition to Vautour’s two goals, Jack Greenwald had a hat trick, and Keegan O’Shea also added two goals. The Generals got single goals from Henry Smith, Kit Shaw and Luke McClintock.Brophy said the team was working its forecheck game well. Because of that, the Generals were able to keep the puck in O’Bryant’s zone for most of the game.“We were also moving the puck very well which allowed us to get a lot of good scoring chances,” Brophy said. “I am hoping we can get better at staying consistent and making sure we come out fast to begin every game.”The goal now? Continue the positive momentum. Last year’s players know it can get rough as the losses pile up. But so far, things are looking good.The Generals battled Minuteman Regional in the next game before falling, 3-2.They had scheduled games with Lynnfield, Nashoba Tech and Amesbury to close out the month of December.“We just try to create a hard-working environment at practice,” Brophy said. “We know that the effort we put in in practice will go a long way. So it’s important that everyone is on board.”Brophy said he was feeling warmed up and confident in net. But, he added, “luckily I didn’t have to face many shots. My defense stepped up big.”That would be Clint Gourdeau, Kit Shaw, John Gebhardt, Tucker Apgar and Luke McClintock.“We have some big, strong defensemen and I think they’ll be one of our team’s biggest strengths this year,” Brophy said. ”(The win) felt awesome. But we plan to make it this first of many.”Against Minuteman, Hamilton-Wenham gave a great effort and did a lot of really good things, according to Generals coach Robert Ryan.He felt the team has a few specific goals for each game:They included: scoring first, scoring on the power play, taking 30 shots, and allowing fewer powerplay chances to the opposition.Check all four off against Minuteman.So far, so good.

**Hamilton-Wenham buries Rockport boys with big first quarter**
**By Nick Curcuru Staff Writer – Salem News**

**Dec 22, 2017**ROCKPORT — Hamilton-Wenham head boys basketball coach Michael DiMarino says his team prides itself on its pressure defense.On Friday night against Rockport at the Rowell Gymnasium, the General's pressure defense essentially put the game away in the first quarter.The visitors caused 10 first quarter turnovers to help open up a 23-point edge by the time the second quarter started. That opening frame ended up being the difference in the contest as Hamilton-Wenham rolled to a 70-47 win.

With the victory, the Generals improve to 3-0 while the Vikings fall to 0-3."(Pressure defense) is what we like to do and it's something they work hard on every day," DiMarino said. "We like to force turnovers and have our defense create our offense."The Generals imposed their will right from the opening tipoff as they opened up a 12-0 lead in the first 3:15 before Rockport hit its first shot with 4:06 left in the frame.A stifling press and numerous steals saw Hamilton-Wenham open up a 28-5 lead after the first."They're a great defensive team," Rockport head coach Phil Whitley said. "We didn't take care of the ball as well as we should have tonight but (Hamilton-Wenham) made us pay for every mistake. They also do a great job switching up their presses. We were a little cold early and then they started to force some turnovers and it led to a big deficit."The Generals relied on a quartet of scorers to open up the big first quarter lead. James Lustig, who scored a team high 13 points, Jake Lanciani (12 points) and Cam Grinnell (7 points) all had seven points in the opening frame while Cole Dwyer also scored in double figures with 10."Our motto is the best shot is the open shot," DiMarino said. "This is such an unselfish team and they know that Hamilton-Wenham is scoring the points so it doesn't matter who gets them."Rockport settled down after the opening frame, but could not put a significant dent into the deficit as it never got back within 20-points. Quinn Mudrock and Ben Bradley led the Vikings with nine points each."This team continued to grind and play hard even after they got a big lead," Whitley said. "That's a good sign. I really like this team, it's young and the kids play hard, we just have to work to get better in some areas. Outside of the early turnovers, I thought (Hamilton-Wenham) also did a really good job keeping us off the offensive glass. It was almost always one shot and done for us."
Hamilton-Wenham emptied the bench after the first quarter and primarily played its second unit the rest of the way. That unit also played well and helped open up a lead as big as 29-points at 50-21 early in the third quarter and 58-29 after three. Yanni Moriatis' seven points sparked the Generals bench and 11 different players scored a point on the night."We have 10 seniors on this team and they're all fighting for minutes," DiMarino said. "Our second team is good and they give the first team a hard time in practice when we scrimmage."The Vikings return to action next week at the BankGloucester Holiday Tournament at the Smith Field House. Rockport meets Whitinsville Christian in the tournament opener (5:30 p.m.). **Weekend area roundup Hamilton-Wenham boys hockey routs O'Bryant for first win in two seasons
Jared Charney – Salem News
Dec 18, 2017

BOYS HOCKEY

Hamilton-Wenham 10, O’Bryant 0:** Jack Greenwald, a senior forward, had a hat trick while senior captain Cam Vautour had a huge night as well with two goals and three assists as the Generals won their first game since resurrecting their varsity program last season.

Sophomore Keegan O’Shea added a pair of goals for the winners and Henry Smith, captain Kit Shaw and Luke McClintock added one each. Henry Jones and Griffin Penn each had two assists, with single helpers went to Mark Roselli, Clint Gourdeau, Matt Dearborn, Tucker Apgar, Callum Hunt and Will Hogan. Sophomore goaltender Finn Brophy earned the shutout as the Generals broke the game open with five goals in the middle period.

**Bounce Passes: Generals look to thrive with new coach
Hadley Green – Salem News
Dec 15, 2017**SOUTH HAMILTON — Good people, good students, good athletes: This has always been the philosophy of Jon Flanagan, Hamilton Wenham’s new girls basketball head coach.

“I’ve had great athletes to go on and do many great things in their life,” said Flanagan. “This is something I’ve always prioritized before anything else. Now, I’ve brought that here, and it’s going to be our main emphasis this season.”

It sounds like a simplistic goal, but it may be the best course of action for a Generals squad that’s already had to endure adversity early in their season.

In a shocking move, longtime Hamilton-Wenham coach Jon DeMarco resigned from his position just days before winter tryouts began. Needless to say, this left a number of the team’s players utterly confused.

“I came into the first day of tryouts laced up and ready to get in that practice mind set,” said captain Lauren Flynn. “But then it went from that, to [Coach] Demarco walking into the gym saying that he’s not coaching anymore. My whole brain went blank.”

“It was definitely overwhelming,” said fellow captain Jacqueline Fibbe. “Going into the season, we thought we knew what was going to happen, and then everything changed so quickly in the span of two or three days.”

Although the players were quick to chronicle the level of shock they experienced after DeMarco’s departure, they knew they were left in good hands with the newly appointed Flanagan.

“We have a great replacement in coach Flanagan,” said senior captain Cecily Szady. “We feel really optimistic about starting fresh. He’s been analyzing our skill sets a lot and been designing plays that best fit our strengths. It’s exciting.

Returning to the sideline.

Considering the massive overhaul this program underwent on the dawn of a new season, it’s safe to say that Hamilton-Wenham found a way to land on their feet by hiring Flanagan. The seasoned basketball coach has made stops at Swampscott and Gloucester as an assistant and head coach, where he’s gone to four North Finals and won three.

However, after three years of being the Gloucester Athletic Director, Flanagan resigned from the position in 2015 after the birth of his second son. Now, after a two year hiatus, Flanagan is back on the court doing what he loves most — but the decision didn’t come without some difficulty.

“I started the conversation by saying that there was little chance of me taking the job,” laughed Flanagan. “I thought I was being honest; practice started that Monday and I got the offer on Sunday.

“But I weighed the offer carefully. I asked my wife and children what they thought and asked former colleagues of mine their thoughts as well. The biggest thing was that my wife was on board; she pushed me ahead and I wound up saying yes.”

When asked what he missed about coaching and why he ultimately decided to come back, Flanagan thought immediately of his two young boys that he’s been taking care of the last two years.

“You know, my two boys never saw me coach and it’s a big part of my life,” said an emotional Flanagan. “It would be a shame if they didn’t get a chance to see me coach and experience what my passion is.”

Adjusting on the fly

While Flanagan’s decision to return to the coaching world may be a great acquisition for the Generals, the move doesn’t come without difficulties. The captains noted the difficulty of adjusting to a new coach after several years of playing under DeMarco.

“One of the biggest challenges is getting to know each other and his style of coaching,” said sophomore captain Jemma Shea. “Coach [Flanagan] and all of us had to learn both what each other’s personalities are and what we can all contribute as players. It was so sudden for all of us, including him.”

“We’ve had to learn an entire set of new plays,” added Flynn. “We’ve had the same offense since we were in sixth grade, and now we have something totally knew. It’s hard, but I absolutely love it.”

Even though the 2017 season has already provided challenges for the Generals, Flanagan thinks this has given his team the opportunity to flourish before they even take the court.

“These players are incredibly resilient,” said Flanagan. “It was a shock to them, and we met for the first time the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. They’ve had to deal with all of these changes and emotions just days into the season. But as we’ve practiced, we’ve gotten to know one another and we all have the same aspirations. We are all buying in on our goals and what we want to accomplish.”

The Generals will put their newfound chemistry to the test on Friday night against Amesbury, and this game couldn’t come sooner for the entire program.

“Defense is going to be the name of the game,” said Fibbe. “Our intesity and hustle will allow us to play our game, and everything will fall into place.”

“We had really good scouting by our coaches,” said a confident Szady. “They have two really strong offensive players, and they are going to be a threat, but we know what we need to do to shut them down.”

As for Flanagan, this will be his first game coaching in over two years, and he’s ready to have at it.

“They are a very good team,” said Flanagan. “I’ve been looking forward to this. This is why we practice for hours upon hours. I can’t wait to put my suit and tie on and do the real thing. It’s going to be a memorable night for sure.”