



## HILLCREST 30<sup>th</sup> HOLIDAY CLASSIC



*Covered by Cynthia Fitch*

Despite the crappy weather and icy roads the athletes and fans were ready for the showdown at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Hillcrest Holiday Classic. This very popular tournament provides some of the best girls' basketball in the state during the holidays displaying the talents of seven of the top ranked teams in the Sun Times, including **No. 1 Marion Catholic and No. 2 Hillcrest.**

Although many fans wanted to see a final matchup between Hillcrest and Homewood-Flossmore for the Championship, most folks were not surprised that Marion Catholic was true to their reputation and secured a spot in the finals. Here's the scoop....

### ***First Round***

There were quite a few upsets during the first round as several of the ranked favorites did not secure a spot in the Quarter Finals including last year's 1<sup>st</sup> place Champion Marist. The results of the 1<sup>st</sup> round are as follows:

- **Von Steuben 38**, Thornton 32
- **Morgan Park 55**, Marist 49
- **Lockport 58**, Stagg 50
- **Homewood-Flossmoor 62**, Oak Forest 40
- **Rich Central 54**, St. Ignatius 42
- **Sandburg 60**, Rich South 48
- **Hillcrest 73**, Shepard 36
- **Marian Catholic 64**, Thornwood 21

## Second Round

The second round was packed with nail bitters. Especially between Homewood-Flossmoor and Morgan Park which was decided just before the buzzer. The results of the 2nd round are as follows:



## Championship Bracket

- **Von Steuben 49**, Lockport 36

- **Homewood-Flossmoor 42**, Morgan Park 40

- **Hillcrest 63**, Rich Central 56

- **Marian Catholic 66**, Sandburg 39

## Consolation Bracket

- **Stagg 54**, Thornton 29

- **Marist 62**, Oak Forest 43

- **St. Ignatius 65**, Shepard 48

- **Rich South 42**, Thornwood 38



### **Third Round** (Semi-Finals)

The third round started with another nail biter between Von Steuben and Hillcrest. The Hawks started the quarter with an 8-0 run and ended the first ½ with a comfortable 5pt. lead thanks to the 3 pointers by Jacquenae Foster (9 Pts.) and Juanita Robinson (12 Pts.), but the panthers fought back. This quarter was unbelievably packed with aggressive plays on both ends as the Panthers led by La Terria Taylor (17 pts) and Kiaherra Powell (15 Pts.) pushed and brought the score within 1 point during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and even took the lead from the Hawks late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Not planning to go down, the Hawks regrouped and kept pressing to bring game to a tie at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> qtr forcing an OT round. It came down to the battle of the free-throws. The Hawks thanks to Uniquah Hampton (8 Pts) and the huge final free throw by Ariel Rouse( 3 Pts.), were able to outscore the Panthers and make the necessary defensive stops to pull out a 56-52 win.



The second game between Marian Catholic and Homewood-Flossmoor also started out with an 8-0 run by Marion thanks to 3 pointers by Jasmine Matthews & Kaila Turner. By 5:40 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr the Spartans had a 20 point lead over the Vikings. Although the Vikings tried to push during the second half lead by Charnelle Reed and Andriana Mickens, they were no match for the shooting power of the Spartans. The Spartans triumphed over the Vikings with a final score of 59-36.

The results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round are as follows:

### **Championship Bracket**

- **Rich Central 57**, Lockport 41
- **Hillcrest 56**, Von Steuben 52, **OT**
- **Morgan Park 44**, Sandburg 34
- **Marian Catholic 59**, Homewood-Flossmoor 36

### **Consolation Bracket**

- **Thornton 45**, Shepard 37
- **Stagg 59**, St. Ignatius 56
- **Oak Forest 58**, Thornwood 36
- **Rich South 50**, Marist 49

## **Going to the Finals....**

### **Marian Catholic and Hillcrest!!!**

The #1 and #2 ranked teams according to the Chicago Sun-Times Standings. The match up will be at Hillcrest H.S. (175<sup>th</sup> Pulaski) in Gym 1 at 8:00pm.



## **This is a game you don't want to miss!!!!**

Be sure to **check back on the site Wednesday**, for more details and pictures of the tournament and the big showdown. Amateur Sports will be there getting the scoop and more pictures for our athletes and fans, **so stay tuned**.

*Also, check the site for reports on the other Holiday Tournaments.*