

# Roth, Romeo topple Hilltoppers

## Bulldogs get defensive in 48-43 victory

**By Jason Schmitt**

Special to The Macomb Daily

**TROY** — It's not often Ricky Roth has a chance to stare his opponent straight in the eye.

He stands just 5-foot-7.

But on Wednesday night the Romeo senior stared down

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**H.S. Boys  
Basketball  
Class A  
Districts**

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Rochester Adams' standout guard Kevin Rohner from start to finish. Roth shut

down Rohner, holding the Highlanders' top player scoreless, in the Bulldogs' 48-43 victory in a district semifinal match-up at Troy High School.

"He's our defensive stopper," Romeo coach Dale Teller said of Roth. "We like to put him up top to put a lot of pressure on their shooters. Ricky's only job tonight was to not let (Rohner) catch the ball. And he did a super job."

Adams was forced to pull Rohner from its lineup for

much of the third quarter. That allowed Roth to turn his attention to helping a struggling Bulldogs' offense which put up just 16 points in the first half. Roth first 3-pointer of the game gave Romeo a 20-18 lead with 5:39 left in the third. Two possessions later another Roth triple extended Romeo's lead to four points.

He scored 10 of his game-high 16 points in that third quarter as Romeo took an eight-point lead into the fourth.

Adams cut the Bulldogs' lead to three points with a 6-0 run midway through the fourth, but Romeo answered right back with three straight free throws by senior forward Brandon Hoenicke.

Junior guard Ryan Thomas and Roth each hit two more free throws and senior center Nate Saliga hit one of two in the final five seconds to seal the deal.

Romeo sank 18-of-20 free throws in the game.

But the big story of the night

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# ROMEO: Moves on to face Troy in district championship

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was Romeo's defense and the individual effort by Roth. Rohner entered the game averaging about 12 points per game.

"Their offense is 75 percent (Rohner). So we felt if we could slow him down we'd have a shot," Teller said. "Compliments to some of the other guys on their team. They came through and scored some points."

Senior forward Brian Perry led the Highlanders with 14 points. Junior guard Joey Dillon added 11 to help pick up Rohner's slack.

But it wasn't enough.

"We just couldn't make a shot tonight," Adams coach John Hall said. "I thought we played pretty good. We defended them really well. We just had a lot of

really clean looks and missed. If we make a few shots the game has a whole different flow to it. We were never able to put anything together."

Adams, which finished second in the OAA White division, ends the season at 13-8.

Romeo (18-4) advances to the district championship game Friday night where it will face the host Colts for the title. Troy defeated Troy Athens 64-58 in triple overtime Wednesday.

Tip-off for the championship game will be 7 p.m.

## Romeo 48, Rochester Adams 43

Adams	8	9	7	19	-	43
Romeo	6	10	16	16	-	48

**ROCHESTER ADAMS (13-8):** Connor Boyle 6, Austin McClelland 3, Joey Dillon 11, Michael Curry 7, Bob Patten 1, Brian Perry 14, Mike Johnson. Totals: 13 (3) 14-22 43.

**ROMEO (18-4):** Ryan Thomas 6, Ricky Roth 16, Nate Saliga 9, Spencer Szejwk 2, Brandon Hoenicke 7, Kyle Maxwell 8. TOTAL: 14 (2) 18-20 48.