

# The Living Room Times

## Girls Basketball Special

325th *LR Times* issue  
since Dec. 27, 1993

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1997

6th *LR Times* "Girls  
Basketball Special"

## Bring on the Knights! #1 Southington visits NHS tonight

### Indians coach Sandy Pilz on the rivalry:

"There's nothing like  
Newington/Southington.  
Nothing compares.  
Nothing ever will."

### The latest chapter:

#1 Southington at  
#5 Newington

Varsity game at 7:15

Tickets on sale today at school,  
tonight at the door starting 4:45

Two perennial powers of Connecticut girls basketball will add another chapter to their rivalry tonight as the Southington Blue Knights, ranked #1 in the state, visit the fifth-ranked Newington Indians for a 7:15 showdown in the NHS gym.

The Knights are 14-0 overall; the Indians are 11-2. But both are undefeated in the CCC South, and so the winner of tonight's game will take the conference lead.

And although Southington's record and rank should make them the favorite to win, Newington coach Sandy Pilz is expecting big things from his Indians.

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## Indians score dramatic win

Come from behind late to  
beat Bristol Eastern by 4

On January 21, while most Newington High School students were still preparing for their exams, the girls basketball team faced their biggest test of the year to date,

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*Above: Kate Strong (left) and Ela Lapciuk (right) celebrate Newington's win over Bristol Eastern.*

*Below: A look at the final 3 minutes, in which the Indians rallied from 5 behind to a 4-point win.*

## LR Times goes online Times sets up site on World Wide Web

*The Living Room Times* leaped into cyberspace Friday with the launch of our World Wide Web site, making Newington news and sports, as reported in Newington High's unofficial school newspaper, available to anyone in the world with a computer, a modem, and a web browser.

*The Living Room Times Online* is located on CompuServe's "Our World" server, which means we have a rather long Web address. You can log on at: [ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/LRtimes.htm](http://ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/LRtimes.htm).

One of the features included in our site is an extensive section devoted to Newington girls basketball, with stats, pictures, and game summaries, as well as a special area—three pages, in fact—all about the Newington

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### THE LIVING ROOM TIMES ONLINE

#### **The Living Room Times homepage:**

[http://ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/LRtimes.htm](http://ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/LRtimes.htm)

#### **Newington girls basketball homepage:**

[http://ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/indians.htm](http://ourworld.compuServe.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/indians.htm)

### In the final 3 minutes

- Indians rebounds: 5
- Lancers rebounds: 1
- Indians points from offensive rebounds: 4
- Lancers points from offensive rebounds: 0
- Indians turnovers: 0
- Lancers turnovers: 2
- Fouls committed by Indians: 2
- Fouls committed by Lancers: 4
- Points scored by Indians: 13
- Points scored by Lancers: 4

# Bench comes up big in blowout wins

Routs of Maloney, Bristol Central provide showcase for Newington freshmen

If depth is a characteristic of a championship team, then you can buy your tickets to the Class LL final now.

The Newington bench players further proved that they can come in for the starting five without missing a beat as the Indians rolled to easy victories over Maloney and Bristol Central, thanks in part to the sensational performances of freshmen Raeann Boutilier, Kathleen Burdelski, and Sandy Ramos.

In Newington's 61-point demolition of a struggling Maloney squad, Boutilier reached into double-digits in a varsity game for the first time in her high school career with 11 points. Burdelski added nine points to the varsity cause, and Ramos chipped in eight, for a total freshman contribution of 28 points.

Then, against Bristol Central last Tuesday, Boutilier turned in one of the most impressive individual performances of the season, scoring a career-high 14 points in the varsity game after 18 points in the junior varsity game for a total of 32 points on the night. Kathleen Burdelski scored another 9 points, and Taylor Bengston added five points, including a three-pointer, bringing the freshman varsity point total to—once again—28.

But despite all those points scored by freshmen off the bench in the Central game, Coach Pilz was just as impressed, if not more so, with freshman Sandy Ramos's

## Newington's freshman sensations

### Against Maloney

**Raeann Boutilier**—11 points  
**Kathleen Burdelski**—9 points  
**Sandy Ramos**—8 points

### Against Bristol Central

**Raeann Boutilier**—18 points in JV game,  
14 points in varsity game for team-high  
total of 32 points on the night  
**Kathleen Burdelski**—9 points  
**Sandy Ramos**—10 rebounds

10 varsity rebounds. "That's incredible!" Pilz exclaimed. "So Sandy is really coming on, and Taylor is starting to come on. Taylor's getting more and more comfortable, and [she's] starting to play with some confidence. And that's very, very exciting because the longer we can make our bench feed, the more we can attack teams and use fatigue as an advantage....So I'm really excited about these kids developing."

The whole team was impressive in the Indians' romps over Maloney and Bristol Central. In the 89-28 rout of

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## Varsity players of the week: Milardo, Vicino

Junior Varsity honorees: Harrington, Estanislau, Boutilier

Indians varsity coach Sandy Pilz named Kim Milardo his Player of the Week from January 19-25, and Ashley Vicino from January 26 to February 1.

Milardo was honored for the week which included a tense, down-to-the-wire win over Bristol Eastern and a 61-point romp over Maloney. Asked why he named her, Pilz replied, "For many reasons.

Her confidence is back up, she's playing extremely well, but the one thing that I was most excited about was, when we called a timeout with ten seconds to go in the Eastern game just to make sure we didn't make any mistakes, she couldn't stop smiling. She was smiling on the bench so much, she just started laughing out loud,



**Kim Milardo**  
Jan. 19-25

**Ashley Vicino**  
Jan. 26-Feb. 1

she was so happy. And to see that it meant so much to her, that that game meant so much to her, she just was, like, giddy—it made my day. It made my week. To see her giddy like that, she definitely was all-team. And I'm really proud of her."

The following week, last week, only included one game because of the postponement of Friday's scheduled game against Bulkeley.

The game played last week was a 41-point win at home over Bristol Central. But Pilz's Player of the Week, Ashley Vicino, was honored not for her play on the court, but her commitment off the court. Vicino been trying to balance her time with the Indians against her

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# Indians rally in fourth, top Lancers

## Newington beats Bristol Eastern with exceptional play late

*(Continued from page 1)*

and in the end, they earned a passing grade—barely—by beating conference rival Bristol Eastern, 51-47.



*Above: Newington's bench celebrates late in the fourth quarter as the Indians inch towards a dramatic come-from-behind victory.*

Actually, Newington coach Sandy Pilz said he couldn't give the Indians one overall "grade" for the entire game because their performance was widely varied. "They get an 'A+' for their performance in the fourth quarter. They get an 'A' for courage in the fourth quarter, and a 'D' for courage in the second and third quarters."

Pilz said Newington was afraid early in the game, and it cost them. The Indians trailed 20-17 at halftime, and 34-26 at the end of the third quarter.

"Once you lose a game that you feel you should have won," Pilz said, referring to Newington's loss earlier this season to Masuk, "you stop being afraid and you start being angry. And they felt the Eastern game slipping away, and they knew that it shouldn't be happening. You know, we're playing Eastern in our



*Above: Newington's Leslie Carlson (bottom) and Kate Strong (top) battle for a loose ball with two Bristol Eastern players.*

gym, we shouldn't be losing this game. And [so] they came out with an attitude in that fourth quarter, kind of like, 'No! You're not going to do this!'"

And indeed, in the end, the Indians did not let the Lancers do it. But, Pilz explained, "It took being afraid [early in the game] to finally get them angry [late in the game]."

With the clock down to just over 3:00 left, the Indians had battled back only slightly from the 34-26 deficit that they faced at the end of the third quarter. It was a 5-point game—48-43—with 3:05 left when momentum began to shift the Indians' way.

Ernestine Austin, Bristol Eastern's star and one of the best girls basketball players in the state, missed a short jump shot with 3:00 on the clock. Ela Lapciuk grabbed the rebound, then launched a long pass down the floor to Leslie Carlson. Carlson quickly threw a bullet pass to Kim Milardo, who was open under the hoop. Milardo hit a layup, bringing the game within three points at 48-45.

After that made basket, Newington turned up the heat on defense, pressuring the Lancers at every turn. After several seconds, Ernestine Austin was trapped near the sideline just across halfcourt by Kathleen Burdelski and Kate Strong. Under pressure, Austin lost the ball out of bounds, and the Indians got it back.

On the Indians' next possession, a foul on an Eastern player sent Lapciuk to the free-throw line to shoot two. She hit the first, then missed the second, but Carlson came up with a huge offensive rebound and was immediately fouled under the hoop with 2:28 left and the score



*Above: Newington's Leslie Carlson (center) grabs a huge offensive rebound off of a missed Ela Lapciuk free throw.*

standing at Eastern 43, Newington 41.

Carlson hit both free throws, tying the game at 43-43. On the possessions that followed, Eastern and Newington traded missed baskets. Then, with just under two minutes left, Carlson committed her fifth foul, sending herself to

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# Late surge saves Newington

## Indians defeat Lancers in dramatic fashion

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the bench and Ernestine Austin to the line for Eastern. Austin hit both free throws, and with 1:59 to go, it was 45-43 Eastern.

Thirteen seconds later, Ela Lapciuk took a jumpshot from the paint which missed and bounced off the rim at an angle. But Lapciuk leaped up and to her left, grabbed her own rebound, and took another shot at it. That shot was good, and the game was again tied, this time at 45.



*Above: Ela Lapciuk missed this jumpshot, but her putback went in, tying the game at 45-45 with 1:46 left in the Bristol Eastern game.*

On the next play, Lancers star Ernestine Austin, who had struggled throughout the game, took over. Austin made an impressive coast-to-coast play, breaking the entire Newington press and then hitting a huge shot over Newington's 6-foot-3 center Ashley Vicino. Once again, Eastern led by two. It was 47-45 with 1:34 left.

Still trailing by two, Newington ran more than thirty seconds off the clock on their next possession. It paid off when Kate Strong hit a foul-line jumper, tying the game at 47-47 with 1:02 remaining.

The turning point of the game occurred moments later, when Ernestine Austin—who had single-handedly put the Lancers ahead on their previous possession—was called for travelling just after the ball was inbounded. Newington got the ball back with the game tied and 55 seconds to go.

Coach Pilz said that up until that point, Newington had been frustrated by their inability to get beyond tying the game. "We'd tie, but then they'd go ahead, and then we'd tie, and they'd go ahead," he said. "Finally, we tied and they turned it over, and that was the first time where we had a tie and the ball. It was the first time we were in control of the game."

Less than ten seconds had gone by before an Eastern player ran out and—in Coach Pilz's words—"tackled" Kathleen Burdleski, sending her to the free throw line with 47 seconds left. "That was so strange," Pilz said. "Maybe they thought she was a freshman and she was going to miss foul shots. I couldn't figure that one out."

In fact, Burdleski is a freshman, but she has hit clutch free throws in the past—specifically, on opening night against South Windsor, when her three key free-throws secured a two-point Newington win—and she did it again in the Eastern game. Burdleski hit both free throws, giving Newington the lead for good at 49-47.



*Above: For the second time this year, freshman Kathleen Burdleski hit key free throws in the final minute to lock up an Indians win.*

With 36 seconds left, Eastern had a chance to tie things up again, but two missed free throws and an Ela Lapciuk rebound gave Newington the ball back, their two-point lead intact. With 0:16 to go, a reach-in foul sent Kate Strong to free-throw line, where she hit both foul shots and gave Newington a 51-47 lead.

In the final 16 seconds, Eastern missed a three-pointer and couldn't hit the putback two-point shot. When the buzzer sounded, the Indians had prevailed, 51-47.

Asked after the game how she felt, Lapciuk, who led the Indians with 24 points, replied, "Happy. I mean, we played bad, but we pulled it off at the end."

Burdleski, who scored only two points—the biggest two points of the night—commented that she did feel a sense of *deja vu* when she had to go to the line again to hit crucial free throws. "I was thinking, 'Geez, I'd better hit these, too, so I can keep my record.'"

Asked whether *he* felt *deja vu* when Burdleski went to

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# Indians top Lancers with late burst

*(Continued from page 4)*

the line, Coach Pilz responded, "There was part of me that said, 'Oh, this poor kid, I can't believe we're putting her in this situation. I feel so bad we're doing this.' And then there was the other part of me that said, 'Yeah, but if you're going to have a kid at the line, this is the kid. She did it for us last time, and she's a tough kid, and she can do this.'"

As for the game in general, Pilz said, "I was very, very pleased by the outcome. I thought that the method by which we got to that outcome was unnecessary. I don't think we had to fall down by eight points. I'm happy we did, because it's nice to know that, no matter what the situation, we're capable of coming back. And that makes me happy. But shouldn't have had to [do that]. I think we were the better team, and I think we played kind of afraid until the fourth quarter, then showed a tremendous amount of courage in the fourth quarter."

Newington's fourth-quarter courage certainly paid off. The Indians scored 25 points in the quarter, nearly half of their total for the game, and Ela Lapciuk scored 11 of her game-high 24 points in the fourth. Newington out-

scored Eastern 25-13 in the fourth quarter.

Asked about the game as a whole, Kathleen Burdelski said, "I thought we played pretty well. We had our momentary lapses, but when it counted, we came through, and so we won. We played hard in the second half, and that's when it counted."

**Right:**  
Kate Strong (left) and Leslie Carlson (right) team up for a block on Ernestine Austin. Strong got a hand on the back of the ball; Carlson got the rest of it. The Indians defense held Austin to only six points in the game.



**Pictures below:** This sequence of three pictures shows a drive to the hoop and layup by Newington's Ela Lapciuk in the third quarter against Bristol Eastern. Lapciuk scored 24 points in the Eastern game.



# Indians demolish Maloney, 89-28

*(Continued from page 2)*

Maloney, said Coach Pilz, "I don't ever remember being so far ahead and having the bench play so well." Pilz explained that there is a sequence of ways to "put the brakes on" in order to avoid running up the score and embarrassing the opponent: "The first way you put the brakes on is you take the press off. The second thing you do to put the brakes on is you put in your bench. The third thing you do to put the brakes on is you tell them

they can't fast-break anymore. And then the fourth thing you do is you tell them they've got to play a 2-3 defense. But I don't ever remember saying, 'Don't shoot the ball.' And with three minutes to go and 89 points, they were strictly instructed, 'Don't shoot the ball.' And that's never happened before. I felt bad for the Maloney girls.... Our bench played extremely well, much better than I ever expected."

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# Indians rack up blowout victories

## Rout Maloney by 61, Bristol Central by 41

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For Maloney's sake, it's a good thing Coach Pilz finally did find a way to put the brakes on, because at the end of the first quarter, Newington had scored 29 points, putting them on pace to finish the game with 116 points. At the end of the third quarter, the Indians were still on pace to score 100. But thanks to Pilz's "don't shoot the ball" order, Newington finished with 'only' a 89-28 win.

**Right:** Sandy Ramos takes a shot in the Maloney game, an 89-28 win for the Indians. Ramos, a freshman, scored a varsity career-high nine points in the victory.



unusual fashion in that they kind of came into our gym with the idea that 'We're not going to win this game anyway, so we're just going to play everybody and rotate our players.' And it seemed like late in the game, when we weren't attacking and we were backing off, that senior, [Jenny] Sarrambana, she nailed two threes in a row, and they proceeded to take her out of the game, which I thought was strange. I mean, she's a senior, it's her last year, she's nailing threes, the other team's not going to attack her, [the Indians were going to] let her shoot, so, you know, let her hit four or five more! I just thought it was strange that Central seemed so into preparing for next year that, even though we were saying to them, 'Go ahead and close the gap,' they said, 'No.' And I didn't quite understand that."



**Above:** Ela Lapciuk, sitting on the Indians bench, cheers after a Kathleen Burdelski three-pointer.

Ela Lapciuk, who had 21 points in the Maloney win, scored 19 against Central. Raeann Boutilier added 14 and Kate Strong scored 13 as the Indians won, 76-35.

**Right:** Raeann Boutilier hits a jumpshot, the conclusion of one of the most impressive plays of the game against Bristol Central. Boutilier took the inbounds pass, then handed the ball off to Jen Bolduc at midcourt. Bolduc threw a bounce pass to Kate Strong outside the three-point line. Strong launched a chest pass to Leslie Carlson, drawing two defenders to Carlson. Carlson then passed it to Sandy Ramos inside, drawing two more defenders away from their spots. Meanwhile, as all this was going on, Boutilier—who started the whole play—had quietly made her way to the right wing, where she was wide open, waiting for the ball. Ramos threw it to her, and before the Bristol Central defense knew what had hit them, Newington had added two more points to their total. Score the basket to Boutilier, with an assist to the entire team. Everyone on the floor had touched the ball in less than five seconds.



More pictures of the Bristol Central game, **page 8**

# #1 Southington visits NHS tonight

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“To be totally honest with you, I’d be disappointed if we lost,” Pilz said. “I just feel like, you know, they’re missing a key player, it’s in our gym — I see them as being the underdog. I’m sorry. I just feel very confident.”

That key player who will be missing from the Southington lineup is Colleen Klopp, who was injured in the Knights’ win over Bristol Eastern on January 20.

“It’s a significant difference,” Pilz said when asked how Klopp’s absence is likely to affect the game. “They’re the favored team with her there. We’re the favored team with her out.”

Asked what are the keys for Newington to be successful against their archrival, Pilz responded, “When you

“I see them as being the underdog.”

—Sandy Pilz, coach of #5 Newington, referring to #1 Southington

break down Southington...they score the majority of their points in transition, whether it be from turnovers, whether it be from fast breaks off of defensive rebounds, whether it be from fast breaks off of made baskets. So, we can’t turn the ball over, and we’ve got to get back on defense. If we force them to set up, it could be a long night for them.”

“One thing both of our teams have in common is we tend to have a player who is very, very dominant, and we

tend to sometimes rely on that one player too much,” Pilz said, referring to the Indians’ Ela Lapciuk and the Knights’ Jen Gombotz. “But with Colleen Klopp injured, I believe our supporting cast is more talented than theirs is, and I think, at this point in the season, our bench is a little more talented than theirs is.”

Pilz says he is expecting a large crowd. “Not a sellout, but, oh, I don’t know, five-eighths, six-eighths.”

Asked what kind of a game fans should expect to see, Pilz replied, “I hope it’s a high-scoring game. I hope both teams score a lot of points. I hope it’s a good game for girls basketball. I hope it’s not like Masuk, where everybody comes out nervous and turns the ball over the whole first four minutes. I hope both teams play with confidence, and keep putting the ball in the basket. And I hope a lot of different players score. I hope it’s not Ela vs. Jen. I hope it’s Newington vs. Southington.”

The JV game is at 5:45; varsity at 7:15. Tickets will be on sale at school today, and at the door starting at 4:45.

Last year, Southington’s Allison Macca (pictured at right) and the Blue Knights spoiled Newington’s senior night party. This year, with Macca gone due to graduation and senior Colleen Klopp injured, the Indians hope for revenge.



## Coaches’ Players of the Week: Kim Millardo, Ashley Vicino, Carolyn Harrington, Idalina Estanislau, Raeann Boutiller, Suzanne Hanhan, Heather Carpenter, Christine Fournier

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time dealing with colleges which are recruiting her for volleyball. “Player of the Week is Ashley Vicino because it’s been very difficult for her to juggle volleyball and basketball, but she’s done a heck of a job with it, and we’re very, very grateful that she’s made that kind of a sacrifice for us,” Pilz said.

JV coach Jan Langweiser named two Players of the Week from January 19 to 25: Carolyn Harrington and Idalina Estanislau. Estanislau scored the first basket of her JV career against Maloney on January 24, a perimeter two-point basket which ignited the Newington bench into wild cheers and applause. From January 26 to February 1, Langweiser said the Player of the Week is “obviously” Raeann Boutiller, who scored 18 points for the JV team and 14 for varsity against Bristol Central on January 28.

Freshman coach Steve Markie had three Players of the Week to name, because he had not yet chosen anyone for the week from January 12-18. He chose Suzanne Hanhan for that week, Heather Carpenter from January 19-25, and Christine Fournier from January 26 to February 1.

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[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/LRtimes.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/LRtimes.htm)



# ***Living Room Times goes online***

[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/LRtimes.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/LRtimes.htm)

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mascot, that lovable stuffed RCA dog, "Nipper."

Once you've logged onto our main URL, [ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy), you can access **LRtimes.htm** to look up the main *Living Room Times* homepage, **indians.htm** to check out the Newington Indians homepage, or **dog.htm** to check out the "Nipper Homepage." And that's not all. In fact, there are 23 separate pages within *The Living Room Times Online*. You can look at parts of historic issues of the *Times*, check out the latest CCC South girls basketball standings, read articles from the most recent regular edition of the *Times*, find out when and where Newington's next girls basketball game will take place, or look at pictures of Nipper on Town Access TV.

You can even take a look at the front page of this edition of *The Living Room Times* by looking up **Irt-bask.htm**. (Or, you could look at Page 1 of this edition by just looking at Page 1 of this edition.)

*The Living Room Times Online* will be updated as often as possible and necessary, supplying you, and the world, with the latest updated news of Newington and Newington High School.

## **More pictures from the Bristol Central game**



*Newington players shown in pictures are: Top row, from left: Jen Bolduc, Leslie Carlson, Taylor Bengston. Bottom row, from left: Kim Milardo, Ashley Vicino and Kim Milardo, Raeann Boutilier, Kathleen Burdleski*

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[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy/LRtimes.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy/LRtimes.htm)