Boys basketball team drops another close game, falls to 2-6 on season after tough loss

McCarthy turns in strong effort; Dragons get balanced scoring but struggle late

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They peaked, they poked and they tried. They nearly wilted several times but never did. They tied the score with two and a half minutes left in the game.

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Duxbury Clipper Question of the Week**

What drew you to working at Bay Path Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility?

“I went to Federal University of Rio De Janeiro in Brazil for my bachelor of science in nutrition. I came to Bay Path because I have an uncle who works here. I work with a fabulous team whose job it is to continually improve the food satisfaction of the residents!”

Emanuel Lobo
Nutrition assistant

“We working here I get to work with my hands...I don’t have to sit behind a desk. And I like helping the patients!”

Josh Tixeira
Maintenance

“I started out here as a dietary aide but I wanted to work in a nursing home because I’m interested in nursing. I started classes in July, got my CNA license in November. I’m doing what I love, and now I’m a freshwater in nursing school going for my bachelor’s degree! Bay Path has been very supportive of my career!”

Lindsea Mackin
Certified nursing assistant

“My mother lived at Bay Path in their Alzheimer unit for a year. I really enjoyed helping the recreation staff with her and other patients. When my mother passed, I decided this would be a good job fit for me.”

Sharon Cronin
Recreation assistant

“I’ve worked here for three years and I really like it... Nice people!”

Maria Barbosa
Housekeeper

They still have a chance to turn the season around, but they ultimately came up short.

They still have a chance to turn the tournament, but winning eight of the 12 remaining games will be far from easy in a deep Patriot League. All the pieces are there, but they know the late-game execution has to improve.

“The season’s not going to wait for us,” Cushing said. “It’s going to keep marching forward.”

Boys’ Basketball

After trailing by as much as 10, the Dragons clawed all the way back to give themselves a chance in the final minutes. Then they watched helplessly as their hopes of upsetting Whitman-Hanson quickly crumbled. The Panthers held on for a 57-47 win at Duxbury High last Tuesday, outscoring the Dragons 12-2 in the final 2:30 thanks to several timely buckets and opportunistic defense.

The loss summed up a frustrating season so far for the Dragons, who sit at 2-6 as of Wednesday. Despite having a chance to win four games, Duxbury has lost by 2 to North Quincy, 3 to Plymouth South, 5 to Hingham and 10 to Whitman-Hanson, and the W-H game was much closer than the score indicates. Switch two of those results and the Dragons are 4-4. Turn all four of those losses to wins and Duxbury’s near the top of the Patriot League, at 6-2, competing for a league title.

But that’s the way basketball can be. It can be cruel. The final minutes are when it matters most, and Duxbury has struggled when the game is on the line. Part of that is due to injuries and sickness, but the players and coaches aren’t making any excuses. The execution hasn’t been where it needs to be.

“It’s not due to lack of effort,” Duxbury head coach Gordon Cushing said. “We’re playing hard. We’ve just got to do better. It seems like we’ve got a little cloud over us. We’ve got to work our way out of it.”

The opportunities were there. David Colucci found Quinn Murphy for a lefty layup at the 2:35 mark, knotting the score at 45. On the ensuing possession, though, the Dragons left sharpshooter Nikko Raftes with too much breathing room and he staked a 3 to give the Panthers the lead once again.

Duxbury’s Matt Kelly swished two free throws at the 2:05 mark to slice the deficit to 1, but those were the last points the Dragons scored. Senior captains Lucas Franklin, Raftes and Luke Tamulevich all scored late for the Panthers, and their lead ballooned to 10 in the final seconds.

“We’ve got to box out more and not give up open 3s,” Duxbury senior guard Brendan Bolduc said. “We have to fight through the picks. We’ve just got to stay positive and get after it in practice. I think we’ll be all right because we play hard.”

The last few minutes overshadowed what was otherwise a strong all-around game from the Dragons. They’ve relied on senior captains Ryan Reagan and Nick Gearin for the bulk of their scoring lately, but Tuesday was an exception. Seven different players scored at least four points, and Dan McCarthy (10 points) ran the point while Gearin was sidelined with an apparent head injury most of the second half.

McCarthy made a heads-up steal in the final seconds of the first quarter, earning and nailing two free throws with no time on the clock. The Dragons trailed 16-10 after one, but they were still within striking distance.

In the second quarter, Gearin found Murphy on a 3 and nailing two free throws with no time on the clock. The Dragons trailed 16-10 after one, but they were still within striking distance.

In the second quarter, Gearin found Murphy on a 3-point play to help Duxbury slice the deficit to 27-22 at the half.

Reagan, who was shadowed by Tamulevich most of the game, was held scoreless in the first half. In the second, he looked for his offense more because he knew his team needed him to score. He drained a pull-up 3 early in the third, making it 27-25. Whitman-Hanson went on a 10-2 run midway through the third, but McCarthy hit a fade-away baseline jumper at the buzzer to trim the margin to 39-35 after three.

“Dan McCarthy has been our unsung hero so far,” Cushing said. “He’s playing really hard and guards the other team’s best player. Because of Nick’s situation he was running the point, and he’s playing like crazy.”

McCarthy was solid all game, but toward the end of the third and early fourth he entered a different zone. He used a quick first step to score inside early in the fourth. Reagan stopped on a dime and swished a deep 2 to make it 43-39 with 6:01 to go. A jump shot from Kelly cut the deficit to 45-43, and Murphy’s deuce tied it up.

The Dragons were right there. They had a real chance to turn their season around, but they ultimately came up short.

Spring Leagues are as follows:

**Tee Ball Pre-K - Kindergarten**
AA Grades 1-2
AAA Grades 3-4
Major Grades 5-6
Junior Babe Ruth Grade 7, 8 & 9