

City's Best Meet Today

Brown and Hawkins to Lead Quintets

By ROBERT M. LIPSYTE

The two finest high school basketball players in the city face each other today at Madison Square Garden.

Connie Hawkins of Boys and Roger Brown of Wingate, Brooklyn schoolyard friends, lead their teams into the semi-finals of the Public Schools Athletic League play-offs. Columbus plays Van

High School Sports Euren in the first game of the double-header. The first Hawkins-Brown clash, which is hardly expected to end a year's speculation about their comparative merits, almost overshadows the best P. S. A. L. semi-finals field in years. All four teams are unbeaten.

Hawkins, a 6-foot-6-inch center, is the best inside shooter in the city. Working in and around the key, the 18-year-old senior has dominated the backboards in all of Boys' games and has passed superbly.

Brown, two inches shorter than Hawkins, has an uncannily accurate outside jump shot. His ball-handling is not so smooth as Hawkins' but his feeding and rebounding are as good or better.

However, most observers believe that the Wingate-Boys contest will be decided by the supporting casts.

Boys probably has the edge if Hawkins and Brown cancel each other in a man-to-man game. The Kangaroos have four potentially dangerous scorers: Walt Davis, a fast, strong, 5-foot-10-inch backcourt player who rebounds like a big man; Wylie Briggs, a 6-foot-2-inch forward who has been averaging 15 points a game; Tom Kurowski, a husky, dependable front-court performer, and Fred Jones, who moves well against a zone defense but is an erratic shooter.

Neither Hawkins, who has been averaging 26.8 points a game, nor the Boys squad has been pressed this season. Their strategy has been to feel out the opposition and wear it down in the first half, then to run wild in the second. In the majority of their twenty games this season, the second-half running has been to protect a 20-point lead.

Wingate, which has also won twenty games, has depended more heavily upon Brown than Boys has upon Hawkins. Brown, a strong 17-year-old senior, has received good support from Martell Wynne. Wynne, a fine



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Connie Hawkins

rebounder and scorer, has never allowed a man he has covered to score more than 8 points.

Other starters are Jimmy Miller, a play-maker; Steve Shacer, the Generals' field marshal, and Neil Feuerstein.

Brown, who has been averaging 24.9 points a game, has scored 1,506 points in his varsity career. He broke Tony Jackson's P. S. A. L. record of 1,433, set three years ago at Thomas Jefferson. Brown has played one more game than Hawkins and usually plays the whole game. The Boys' star often sits out the last few minutes.

The Columbus - Van Buren game is more than just an appetizer to the main course. Both clubs are nineteen-game winners, fast and well balanced. Both have outstanding performers but the emphasis is on team action.

Roy Rubin's Columbus squad will depend on Larry Kessler, the best backcourt man in the city; Ron Miller, a 20-point scorer and a strong rebounder; Warren Lifschutz and Don Mason, the defensive stars, and Albie Grant, a sophomore who is beginning to give the team support under the boards.

Van Buren will give away height but not speed or poise. Coach Charlie Shannon's starters will be Dan Parham and Vern Cummings at the forwards; Roger Meotti, a fine rebounder, and Richie Stopa and Larry Kasday, the scorers and playmakers. They may be the Explorers' match.