

Borden Loses Physical Battle to Paoli

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A good effort by the Borden Braves wasn't enough to overtake visiting Paoli Saturday night (Dec. 2).

Borden turned in one of their better performances of the season, but the Rams used their strength and experience to obtain the 54-41 victory.

The Braves started the game by using their height advantage to take a slim lead on the battle of the boards.

Both teams handled the ball fairly well with each having only three turnovers through the half.

Borden played an effective zone defense most of the half. Paoli did have success shooting over the zone.

What eventually gave Paoli a three-point half-time lead was their shot selection and good shooting percentage.

Borden out rebounded Paoli eleven to three on Paoli's end of the court. This helped minimize Paoli's second shot opportunities but they shot well enough they didn't need them to hold the lead at half 29-26.

Borden's Jacob Rich turned in a strong first half performance scoring 15 of his 23 points for the game.

In the second half Paoli's strength and experience came into play. Paoli played a very physical game without losing control. They balanced out the rebounding game to almost even with Borden. Their strength started winning out as the game moved from the outside to closer to the rim.

Borden showed signs of fatigue late in the third quarter. The motion of the offense, without the ball, declined through the half. Both teams showed signs of wear as the turnovers increased, both teams had twice as many turnovers in the second half.

By the end of the third quarter Paoli had built a seven-point lead to 41-34. There were no big runs as Paoli gained one or two points at a time to build their lead to the final margin.

Paoli coach Joe Hinton stated that Paoli's problem were the turnovers through the game. He said he felt the advantage Paoli had was their physical strength and experience.

"Our kids are older and stronger and it showed," he said.

Borden Coach Doc Nash said, "Despite four or five defensive breakdowns, the first half was one of the best halves we (Borden) have played. They are a football school and that puts us at a physical deficit."

Leading the scoring for Borden was Rich with 23 points. Rich was the only player in double digits for the Braves.

Paoli was lead by Logan Laswell with 20 and Thomas Springer added 16.

Borden's next game will be Friday, Dec. 8 at New Washington.