

## Borden gets big conference win at Henryville

Written by Administrator

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After losing seven of their first nine games to start the season, the Borden High School boys' basketball team seems to be hitting its stride sweeping a Friday-Saturday doubleheader over Christian Academy (CA) and Henryville.

The Braves won handily, 45-31, in Friday night's showdown against the visiting Warriors, and then won a one-point thriller Saturday at Henryville.

Saturday's win over Henryville puts the Braves in a position to salvage the season.

While the team's overall record is just 4-7, they are sitting with a 3-1 record in the Southern Athletic Conference.

New Washington, with a mark of 2-0, is in first place, but Borden and Head Coach Doc Nash are set to square off against the Mustangs Feb. 16.

A win in that game by the Braves would guarantee them a piece of the SAC title. That's why Saturday's win against Henryville was a must for Nash and company.

In the end, two technical fouls cost the Hornets in the one-point loss.

The first technical came against Henryville with just 45 seconds remaining in the first half.

A Hornet player was whistled for a rebounding foul and Head Coach Perry Hunter disagreed with the call.

"All I did was complain about the foul being called on our player," Hunter said. "The ref said they both fouled so I said, 'Then call them both!'"

Hunter's technical didn't seem to hurt his team as they led 32-27 at intermission and were able to maintain the advantage with nine of his team's 11 points coming off the hot hand of Taylor Weeks.

The Hornets lead grew to seven, 43-36, at the end of three quarters, but the Braves were still hanging around.

In the final quarter the Hornets couldn't find an answer for Borden's aggressive play on the defensive end of the floor.

A three-point shot by the Braves pulled them to within three and they continued to close the gap thanks to the Hornets second technical with 7:33 remaining in the contest.

A foul had been called against Henryville sending a Borden player to the line for a bonus opportunity.

As play was set to resume, a Henryville player went to the scorers table to enter the game. The referee didn't see the player at the bench and passed the ball to the Borden player.

The horn sounded to call the refs attention to the player trying to get into the game. Without a signal from the ref the Henryville player came on the floor putting six players on the floor with the ball in play.

That play allowed Borden to catch the Hornets and tie the score at 52-all.

Borden's Brandon Beam attempted a 3-point shot with just three seconds remaining. The shot didn't fall, but he was fouled on the play.

Beam converted one of the three attempts and a final shot by Henryville missed the mark, sealing the Braves' win.

"To come over here and get a win is hard," Nash said. "What about those Braves! They never stopped believing and we proved we can be a pretty good team."

Hunter was still fuming with the officials following the contest.

"They scored three points on two bogus technical fouls," he said. "They (Borden) are starting to peak at the right time. In the fourth quarter they hit shots and we didn't play real smart."

Borden's high scorer for the game was Brandon Beam with 21 and Dalton Wagoner added

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15.

Henryville's Taylor Weeks scored 15 with Kyle Robertson adding 13.

Friday's win over Christian Academy didn't feature near as much excitement.

The host Braves used full-court and zone defense and a strong rebounding advantage to build a 16-7 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Borden continued to control the contest and built the lead to 15, 27-12, at the half.

In the third quarter, Borden took the air out of the ball and decided to use some clock and force the Warriors to burn some energy on the defensive end.

The strategy seemed to back-fire on the Braves as they went cold, managing just three points in the period, allowing CA to pull to within 10, 30-20.

A faster pace returned in the fourth quarter and Borden was able to pull away.

Nash pointed out his team had a good run at the end of the first half and then came out lackadaisical in the second.

He was pleased with the play of freshman Billy Kirchgessner off the bench.

CA coach Hutchinson said, "We were 0-6 with 3-point shooting in the first half and that hurt their confidence. Borden played very unselfishly."

Borden's high scorer for the game was Beam with 16 points.

Christian Academy's high scorer was Mattingly with 14.

Borden will now step out of SAC play for five tough games. The first of those five will be Friday at home against Orleans.

The Braves have beaten Orleans, which is ranked in the top five of the state's Class A poll, three straight times.

Christian Academy is back in action Friday against Providence, while Henryville's next game will be at home Friday against South Central.