

Borden is beating teams this year by an average of a little more than 20 points a game. That held true Saturday in the championship of the First Harrison Bank Holiday Tournament Saturday against West Washington.

The Senators kept the score close for a half, but the pesky Braves opened the lead and pulled away to a 55-36 win.

Though West Washington got the tip the first four minutes were controlled completely by Borden. Four Borden players picked up eight points before West Washington Branson Smith put their first two points on the board with 4:18 to play. By the end of the quarter Borden had run up and maintained an eight point lead with much better rebounding, fewer turnovers and a pair of threes.

“The pressure got to us,” said West Washington Head Coach Greg Dean. “Once we got settled down we did a better job converting turnovers and rebounds into points.”

In the second quarter Borden increased their lead primarily on Josh Vollstedt’s three three-point baskets, giving him four in the first half.

Borden Head Coach Doc Nash said Vollstedt’s baskets energized his team.

“Josh Vollstedt is a tough, hard nose kid that is great to be around,” he said. “I’m glad to see him have a good night.”

West Washington improved their rebounding and pressed harder to score. Borden’s better ball movement and better quality shots gave them a small edge for the quarter and a 31-20 lead at the half.

The third quarter saw West Washington continue to pick up their momentum. They had elevated their game to near even with Borden. They continued their solid board work and forced four Borden turnovers which they converted to points. Borden maintained their level of play but could not put West Washington away.

The third quarter spurt wasn’t enough and Borden regained control of the game and put it away in the final minutes.

West Washington was led in scoring by Evan Woods with 19 points and Ty Bolton contributed 12.

“Evan Woods, a sophomore, played aggressively to the basket and was a great spark for us,” Dean said.

Borden’s leading scorers were Jalen McCoy with 16 and Josh Vollstedt added 14.

The Braves are 7-0 and outside of the season-opener against Eastern, have yet to be tested. That doesn’t stop Nash from expecting more from his team.

He said the goal is to get better everyday, be better than they were the day before.

“We have to clean up our turnovers and play with more intelligence.”

Friday and Saturday’s wins were the fifth consecutive victories in the FHB Holiday Tournament dating back to the 2010-11 consolation game.

Borden will return to the court looking for win number eight, Dec. 28 at Paoli. West Washington’s next contest will be another tournament.

The Senators will compete Dec. 28-29 in the Springs Valley Tournament.

They open pool play Dec. 28 at 3:45 pm against Trinity Lutheran.