

?Austin nips North Harrison girls'; Floyd runs past North Harrison boys'

Written by Administrator

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? Austin defeated North Harrison in a big Mid Southern Conference match up last Wednesday 64-63, while Eastern fended off North Harrison 53-49 in the Musketeers' homecoming Friday night, and the Floyd Central Highlanders continued to improve this season and defeated the visiting North Harrison Cougars 73-45 in Floyd's homecoming Saturday night.

Girls'-

Austin 64, North Harrison 63 -

It all came down to a play that North Harrison coach Hal Pearson knew was going to happen sooner or later. Austin was trailing 63-61 with 12.5 seconds left in the contest, but they got the ball to Katy McIntosh on an inbounds play, she scored a bucket on a lay in, and was fouled by the Lady Cats' Katie Watts in the process. McIntosh sank the free throw, and Austin led 64-63.

North Harrison called a time out with 6.6 seconds in the game, and got the ball to Watts on the baseline. She took a jump shot from close in, but it didn't go in.

"She got to the hole," said Pearson of Watts. "We got a good look; it just didn't fall."

The game didn't appear to even be in doubt early, at least for North Harrison, who got off to a 17 point lead by 5:16 in the 2nd quarter, when they led 33-16.

Austin started off with 3-0 and 5-2 leads, but the Lady Cats caught up in quick order, and tied it at 5-5 on a three by Kacey Cox at 6:49 in the 1st. Austin briefly led 10-8 before North tied it up at 10-10 on a basket by Sasha Grangier at 4:48. Grangier scored again, and after Ashley Dowling scored for Austin, Cox buried another three to give the Lady Cats a 15-12 lead. Austin then took a time out, but a 12-2 streak by North Harrison gave the visitors a 27-14 lead heading into the 2nd quarter. The barrage included treys by Cox and Wynn Shroyer to end the period.

Kayla Lambert and Caitlyn Janes added buckets to start the 2nd period, giving the visitors a 31-14 lead, and prompting another Austin time out. The Lady Eagles outscored the Lady Cats 6-4 over the following stretch, to get to within 35-20. This caused North Harrison to call a 30 second time out with 3:05 left in the half, but it didn't exactly stem the Austin tide.

In quick succession, Austin's Chelsea Jones scored a three, McIntosh hit a deuce, Ashley Dowling hit a three, and Jones hit a two point goal to get the Lady Eagles within 35-30 at the half.

Lambert missed an attempt for North Harrison in the final seconds of the 1st half, and Grangier missed a shot off of an offensive rebound.

In the 3rd quarter, Austin went on a 10-0 run to start the period, with McIntosh hitting a three and a deuce in the flurry. Austin had gained a 40-35 lead by this juncture, and the Lady Cats called a full time out at 5:54 to talk over the matter. Grangier and Cox each scored a bucket, along with a free throw from Watts, to knot up the score 40-40. North Harrison then kept a lead as high as four points until the end of the 3rd. Jones hit a three with two seconds left in the 3rd to get Austin within 46-45.

The Lady Cats' Kayla Lambert scored eight points in the early stages of the final period, to keep North Harrison in the game, but the lead changed hands several times before a 61-61 tie with exactly a minute left.

Watts gave North Harrison a 63-61 lead with a bucket with 29 ticks left, before the game ending heroics by Austin's McIntosh.

Pearson said he thought the game was changed in Austin's favor when his team stopped attacking on offense. "We quit attacking, and quit transitioning," he said. "We've talked about transition defense, and getting back quicker. We're not really good when we're not forcing the action offensively. We played not to lose, instead of to win."

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Austin was led by Chelsea Jones' 26 points, and fellow Lady Eagles Michelle Goodin and Katy McIntosh added 14 and 10 to the win.

The Lady Cats were led in scoring by Kacey Cox' 18, with 16 coming from Kayla Lambert and 11 coming from Sasha Grangier.

Boys' -

Eastern 53, North Harrison 49 -

Eastern coach Scott Newcomb might think that a homecoming game like the one the Musketeers won over visiting North Harrison is a change in routine for his players, but he realizes that a homecoming is part of the atmosphere of Indiana high school basketball.

He's just glad to have seen his team win the contest.

The Musketeers got off to a 4-0 start, but North Harrison managed to tie the score 7-7, and went up briefly at 9-7 with a pair of charity tosses from the Cougars' Devin Southard. Eastern then went on a 5-0 run, and led 12-9 at the end of the 1st period.

Zach Anderson got the Cougars within 12-11 with a pair of free throws at the start of the 2nd, but the Musketeers went on a 6-0 run to take an 18-11 lead.

After North Harrison scored enough to get within 20-16, the Musketeers went on another run, this time outscoring North Harrison 7-2 to close out the 1st half, and head into the locker rooms up 27-18.

"We got up 14 on them, and then in the second half, I really thought our bench won the game for us," said Newcomb.

Eastern maintained a lead of 10-13 points in the early going in the 3rd quarter, but the Cougars kept it competitive. They hit 4 of 6 free throws in the middle of the period, and were within 10 (34-24) with 4:18 left in the period.

North Harrison called a full time out with 3:43 left in the period, but Eastern outscored North Harrison 4-2 to keep the margin up.

Up 41-28, the Musketeers called a full time out with 2:02 left in the 3rd period, but it was the Cougars that seemed to benefit the most from the break. They outscored Eastern 7-0 to end the period. The run was punctuated by a three by the Cougars' T.J. Sanders with a pair of seconds left. Eastern led by 41-35 headed into the final period.

With Eastern up 47-42 at 3:18, Southard was called for a charging foul and fouled out of the game with his fifth personal. The Cougars still managed to outscore the Musketeers 3-2 over the next few minutes to be within 49-45. Eastern hit all four free throw attempts in the last 21 seconds for the win.

Despite the late free throw heroics, Newcomb was unhappy that his team didn't hit any more than the 24 of the 36 free throw attempts that they did hit.

"We didn't hit our free throws and our shot selection was too fast," said Newcomb. He thought his team settled for three point shots too much.

Newcomb thought that the referees were calling a tight game, and he didn't think that his team adjusted very well to the physical strength of North Harrison. "We just didn't play very smart."

Despite coming in last in the Washington County Tourney (on their home court), Newcomb sees improvement in his team. They not only defeated North Harrison, but they defeated Austin and although they lost to Silver Creek, they were close.

"We played decent against Eastern," said North Harrison coach Chris Martin. Martin was hoping that the team would have shot better than 28 percent from the field, though.

"We couldn't hit two in a row, and struggled all night to put the ball in the basket."

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Michael Doebler led Eastern with 17 points, and North Harrison was led by Zach Anderson's 12 points.

Floyd Central 73, North Harrison 45 -

The Highlanders celebrated their homecoming with a 20 point performance from Ryan Adam. His fellow Highlander Buddy McAfee added 15 points to the cause.

It looked like it would turn into a complete rout of the Cougars, when Floyd roared off to a 13-0 lead with just over a few minutes left in the 1st quarter.

Maverick Becht finally got North Harrison into the scoring column with a three at the 1:08 mark. Even so, the Highlanders finished off the 1st with a 4-2 run, and led 17-5 headed into the 2nd.

The Highlanders increased their margin to 25-8, before T.J. Sanders hit an old fashioned three point play to get North Harrison to within 25-11.

The hosts went on a 6-2 tear, before Maverick Becht dropped in a three with 1:02 left in the 2nd period. Floyd still led 31-16 at this point.

The Highlanders went on another 6-2 run to close out the 1st half, and led 37-18 headed into the intermission

North Harrison got within 15 points of Floyd Central at the 4:59 mark in the 3rd quarter, when the Cougars' Dylan Janes scored.

Floyd Central coach Randy Gianfagna thought that his team's shot selection could have been better in the early 3rd quarter, and was concerned about the gap having been closed to 15 points. He thought that his team needed a bit more of a killer instinct.

Gianfagna was happy with the conditioning that his team showed down the stretch, and was glad that his squad kept the Cougars off of the free throw line. North Harrison hit 14 of 22 free throw attempts in the game, with the Highlanders connecting on 12 of 23.

"We just wanted to come out and play hard, keep them in front, and make them shoot over us," Gianfagna explained.

McAfee scored three buckets in the 4th for six points, and Andrew Mitchell and Jeremy Jeffries added four points a piece for the Highlanders in the final period, to lead the scoring.

For North Harrison coach Chris Martin, it was a case of "the same old bugaboo," namely a lack of shooting. "We'll get two or three good looks, but they won't go. We need to do a better job of hitting our post players. We get very few easy shots."