

Highlanders finish at .500; Lanesville drubs Musketeers at home

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 04 March 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 04 March 2009 09:37

In the final week of regular season basketball for boys in Indiana, the Floyd Central Highlanders won a big 73-68 decision over the visiting Charlestown Pirates Friday night, and last Tuesday, the Lanesville Eagles traveled to Eastern and defeated the host Musketeers 59-41.

Floyd Central 73, Charlestown 68 -

It's been several years since the Floyd Central Highlanders enjoyed a regular season of at least .500 ball, but they achieved that milestone Friday night against a determined Charlestown Pirates team.

It almost looked as though it wouldn't happen, either. Charlestown led 47-36 with 6:46 in the 3rd quarter, after the Pirates' Damon Vest canned a deuce.

Floyd's Cody Banet scored a pair of baskets for the home team, sandwiched around a 30 second time out by the Highlanders (6:33 in the 3rd).

Leading only 47-40, the four points by Banet forced a 30 second time out by Charlestown at 5:38.

The Pirates almost made up their lost ground, scoring off of a basket each by Terry Crenshaw and Anthony Lloyd, with a three by Banet in between the Pirate buckets. Charlestown led 51-43 at this point, but Barrett Crone and Brandon Codey each scored for Floyd (51-47).

The Highlanders outscored Charlestown 7-6 to keep the margin almost identical going into the 4th period.

Other than a three ball by Ryan Adam at 7:23 in the game, the Pirates outscored their hosts 7-2 to start the crucial final period of play, forcing a full time out by the Highlanders with 6:02 to play.

The time to talk it over obviously helped the Highlanders, at least, as they pulled into a 65-65 lead with the Pirates on a three by Adam (3:48).

Ben Allen gave the home team a lead they would not relinquish the remainder of the game, when he connected with 2:19 to play.

After a lone Charlestown free throw cut the lead to one (67-66), the Pirates were unable to capitalize on anything down the stretch, and were whistled for a costly traveling call with 1:07 to play. With 55 seconds left, Banet scored off of an assist by Codey, and Floyd led 69-66.

Chad Brady scored for the Pirates with 42 seconds left, but the Highlanders hit three of four free throws and Banet hit one more for the final margin.

Charlestown Coach Sean Smith said that the late turnovers were costly, and wished his team was better at taking care of the ball late in the game.

"A couple of shots didn't fall; a couple of costly turnovers," said Smith. "That's our Achilles' heel; we panic, and don't take care of the ball well."

"We've struggled with ball handling late in the game."

To Smith, the prescription is simple to figure out.

"If we'd work, listen, and learn with that passion every day, we'd be in a different spot," Smith said.

Floyd Central Coach Randy Gianfagna was glad to see his team get to .500, but saw things that they needed to work on. For one thing, his team missed a large amount of inside shots.

"We got it to three, and once we got the lead, I figured we'd be okay," he said. "At the half, we were upset (and down 40-34)."

While Gianfagna said his team has progressed, he said they have things they need to work on to get better.

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“We’re still giving up too many points in the paint.”

Lanesville 59, Eastern 41 -

It didn't look like a win by the visiting Lanesville Eagles might even happen Tuesday night at Eastern.

Eastern connected on an old fashioned three point play and another bucket for an early 5-0 advantage, and held the advantage until the Eagles tied it up at 10-10 after Cameron Teeter hit two freebies.

Jeff Hammond briefly gave the Eagles a lead at 11-10 with a single free throw, but Uriah Maudlin hit a pair of baskets to give Eastern an advantage again.

Jeff Hammond hit a three as the buzzer sounded the end of the 1st quarter, to tie it up again, at 14-14 this time.

The Eagles led by as much as 23-14 in the early going in the 2nd quarter, but the hosts almost caught up and were down only 23-21 with 3:26 left in the first half.

When Michael Doebler hot a three with 42 seconds left in the half, the Musketeers had cut it to one at 27-26.

Lanesville Coach Mikel Miller noticed the open looks at the basket that Doebler got in the first half.

“We gave Doebler too many open looks,” said Miller.

At the half, Miller said he talked with his team about the need to keep tabs on Doebler.

“If he gets a shot, let it be only one,” Miller explained. If he did, I don't think it was anything that was open.”

Lanesville expanded their lead in the second half, dominating the offensive proceedings early in the 3rd quarter.

Twice in the 3rd quarter, Eastern cut the Lanesville lead to two points, but the Eagles had raised the advantage to 10 at 41-31 by the end of the quarter.

The final period saw a long parade of Lanesville Eagles score to create the final margin.

Eastern missed a pair of free throws at 7:25, and Lanesville outscored Eastern 12-5 to take a commanding 53-36 lead. This provoked an Eastern time out with 2:50 left in the game. Lanesville outscored Eastern 6-4 the rest of the way, for the win.

With the sectional this week at Henryville, Miller was glad to see his team head into single elimination play with a win.

“We’ve been playing fairly well recently,” Miller stated. “You like to finish on a good note. There are five teams that have a chance of winning (the sectional). When you get to the sectional, you kind of throw records out.”

Lanesville is now 15-5, and Eastern is presently 3-16.