

## **Borden wins Class 1A Sectional Final at Henryville; 63-40**

Written by Administrator

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The eventual outcome of the Class 1A Sectional final at Henryville Saturday night ended up a lot differently than it started. Borden (18-5) won an impressive 63-40 decision over fellow southern Athletic Conference member New Washington (14-11).

New Washington got off to a 3-0 start, after Borden had a turnover and a missed shot at the start.

Consecutive baskets by Chris Beam and Michael Chester gave Borden a 4-3 lead, and New Washington traveled on the next possession. The Mustangs tied the game at 6-6 on a Devin Freels three point goal.

After a Borden deuce, Michael Chester hit a trey for the Braves (2:34), and Lee Kirchgessner hit a trey at 1:27 to run the Borden advantage to 14-8.

New Washington outscored the Braves 5-2 in the final minute of the 1st quarter, and Borden led 16-13 heading into the 2nd period.

The Braves went on a 5-0 run at the start of the 2nd quarter, forcing a 30 second time out by the Mustangs. First, Borden's Dalton Wagoner hit an old fashioned three point play, and seconds after a traveling call against New Washington, Beam hit a bucket to give Borden a 21-13 lead headed into the time out.

Both teams then proceeded to score, but it was still a 5-4 margin in favor of the Braves, and in not making up any ground, New Washington called another 30 second time out with 2:56 in the half, and down 26-17.

The answer from Borden was to go on a 6-0 run, with buckets from three different players. Their lead was 32-17 by the end of the half.

In the 3rd quarter, the Mustangs' Ethan Jones scored two quick buckets, but Borden scored four quick points, and kept the margin at eighth. A 30 second time out was then called by New Washington at 4:08, down 38-26.

Beam and Wagoner then connected on a three and a deuce (respectively) to close out the 3rd stanza, with their team up 43-26. Borden then started the final period with a 12-8 flurry, and enlarged their lead to 55-34. New Washington called a full time out with 4:43 left in the game, but Borden's defense kept the Mustangs from getting anything started late in the game.

Borden coach Doc Nash was glad to have the school's second ever sectional championship in as many seasons.

"It feels great. These seniors work hard every day. You couldn't ask for anything more. They're a great group of kids and they deserve every thing they've got," said Nash.

Like the game against Lanesville on Friday night, Borden was able to speed up the best players of New Washington, and get them to have to do things they ordinarily wouldn't.

New Washington Coach Jonathan May gave credit to Borden for making it difficult for his team.

"They've put five guys on the court that can break you down on the dribble, or post you up. They're tough to guard when they're like that," said May. "I felt if we could handle their trap, and get (the ball) to the half court, we'd be okay."

The Mustangs hit only 6 of 16 in the paint (lane) in the game. As May looks at it, if they hit just half of those missed lane shots, the game would have been in the single digits, and winnable.

Borden senior Chance Clark was glad to get the second sectional title.

As he put it, "I'm just so excited. This year, we worked really hard. We played great in all of the sectional games. I'm glad to be in it with these guys. It feels great."

### **Semi Finals-**

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### **New Washington 48, Christian Academy Indiana (CAI) 32 -**

Despite the final outcome Friday between New Washington and Christian Academy Indiana (CAI) being a bit in blow out territory, the game was actually in the favor of CAI's favor throughout the first half. New Washington ended up winning the semi final game by a comfortable 16 point margin.

New Washington led by a brief 14-13 score after a quarter of play, but in the 2nd quarter, the Warriors (7-15) outscored the Mustangs 8-2, and led 21-16 at the half.

New Washington started to turn things around in the 3rd quarter, when they used an 11-7 scoring advantage to pull within 28-27 by the end of the period.

What happened in the 4th quarter was probably a surprise to even the most ardent New Washington fans.

New Washington embarked on a devastating stretch that left CAI reeling, and never really in contention in the game afterwards.

Devin Freels scored a three (6:48), giving the Mustangs a 30-28 lead, and team mate Drake Krohn hit back to back treys (at 6:09 and 5:18) to raise the New Washington lead to a commanding 36-28.

Alex Hayes briefly gave CAI a respite when he hit a bucket with 5:01 left, but CAI still needed to call a full time out a second later to set up late game strategies.

Vincent Minton hit a pair of free throws (4:46) to give the mustangs a 38-30 lead, and CAI missed on their next possession. Freels then connected off of a move in the lane, and CAI then proceeded to miss on their next possession. Krohn then connected with a three for New Washington (2:43), and the lead was 43-30 in the Mustangs' favor.

New Washington then went into a stall for about a minute, before Minton was fouled while making a basket. He sank the lone free throw, and the lead was up to 16 (46-30).

CAI missed another scoring opportunity with an errant shot attempt about 40 seconds later, but they finally connected on a basket with 33 seconds in the game (46-32).

The Mustangs' Dustin Bowman hit a pair of charity tosses with 15.3 seconds for the final margin.

New Washington coach Jonathan May wasn't sure that his team did anything different to get to the point where the three point shots started falling in the final quarter.

"I don't know if we did a whole lot different, except we weren't being passive with it," May said. ""You've always got to be threat when you're on the court."

CAI played a triangle and two defense against New Washington, with the two man to man players guarding Minton and Freels.

"We were not ready for that," May admitted. "I'll take the majority of the blame."

### **Borden 60, Lanesville 40 -**

The outcome in the second semi final game of the Class 1A Sectional at Henryville Friday was a shock to many who saw it, but the tone was set early in the contest.

The score was tied at 5-5 late in the 1st quarter, but Borden went on an amazing 21-0 run which extended about three minutes into the 2nd period.

"To me, the tone was set in the first eight minutes," said Borden Coach Doc Nash.

Borden went into the locker room sporting a 26-9 lead at the half.

The Braves jumped out on top of the Eagles partly by speeding the game up, and making it hard for Lanesville to get good shots off.

"They took some rushed shots they're not used to taking," explained Nash.

Conversely, Nash added, his team hit several shots during the flurry of offense.

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Lanesville (16-6) had defeated Borden 58-54 in the second game of the season, but Nash realized it would be necessary to remind his team of the loss, since it was early in the season.

“When somebody kicks your tail on your home court early in the season, you have a hard time remembering it, but I thought our kids took that to heart.”

Despite being down by such a large margin at the intermission, Lanesville outscored Borden 8-5 at the start of the 3rd quarter.

Borden’s Drake Potts scored first for the Braves, though. He hit on a traditional three point play (7:43), giving the Braves 29-9 lead.

John Kissel then hit back to back baskets to get Lanesville within 29-13, but Dalton Wagoner answered for Borden. Lanesville’s Jarrett Beach then scored a basket and a pair of free throws to get the Eagles to within 31-17.

Borden then went on a 5-2 run that prompted a full time out by Lanesville (3:12), with the Braves ahead 36-19.

The game was even the rest of the 3rd quarter, with both teams scoring seven points each the rest of the 3rd.

John Kissel and Chris Beam each scored a three for their respective teams in the 4th period, but it was free throws which created the final margin.

Lanesville was 3 of 5 from the line in the final period, but they missed the front end of a bonus, so they could have shot six free throws total in the period. Borden hit 8 of 12 free throws in the 4th quarter, with Lee Kirchgessner hitting all four he attempted.

They got off to a much better start than we did,” said Lanesville Coach Mikel Miller. “Our kids didn’t give up; we couldn’t get shots to fall. You’re going to have to make some shots.”

With Lanesville graduating a total of 7 out of 12 roster players, they will be missed, said Miller.

“Very much so,” said Miller. “They’ve allowed me to be a part of their lives. I’m a better person for having been around them. They showed a lot of dedication.”

### **First Round -**

#### **Borden 76, Rock Creek Academy 44 -**

Borden ran away with a win over Rock Creek Academy Wednesday night in the second night of first round action in the Class 1A boys’ basketball sectional.

The Braves won an impressive 76-44 win over the Lions.

Borden led by a more modest 44-31 at the half time, but they went on a 9-2 tear at the start of the 3rd quarter, and went ahead by 20 at 53-33. Drake Potts scored twice in the run for the Braves.

By the midway part of the 3rd, Rock Creek had closed within 16 at 43-37, but Borden scored enough at the end of the 3rd to go up 59-41 by the end of the period.

The Braves slammed the door completely on any chance that the Lions might claw their way back into the game, when they outscored the Lions in the 4th quarter with a 17-3 run.

The game wasn’t without its weak spots, even for Borden. Borden Coach Doc Nash thought his team had too many turnovers.

Nash was delighted with the play of Lee Kirchgessner, who scored 20 points in the game. “Lee Kirchgessner shot the lights out,” Nash said.

That was with first game jitters on the part of Kirchgessner, according to Nash.

“He (Kirchgessner) told me, he thought first game jitters were thought,” Nash quipped. “We found a way to win.”

Rock Creek Coach Chris Brown said, “Borden didn’t miss a shot. They’re basketball players;

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I've got athletes who can sometimes play basketball."

Brown said that his team was "a step late; a step behind. We did a horrible job of stopping them."

### **Lanesville 61, South Central 31 -**

For the Lanesville Eagles, the start of the game with South Central was a comment on the game itself.

The Eagles jumped out to a 4-0 advantage, when Jeff Hammond hit the first two baskets of the game. Neither team scored for a while. The Rebels called a full time out with 4:01 in the 1st, still down 4-0.

South Central then tied the game at 4-4, and went ahead briefly at 6-4. Lanesville then tied it up at 6-6.

Neither team could gain an advantage in the 2nd quarter, when the lead changed hands several times, but the Eagles gained the lead at 16-15 right before the half ended. It was to be a lead they would not give up the rest of the game.

Lanesville Eagles Coach Mikel Miller wasn't thrilled with his team's effort in the first half.

"In the first half, I saw a team I didn't recognize," Miller said. "Things were there in the first half; they just didn't take advantage of them,"

The Eagles raced to a 23-17 lead in the early stages of the second half, prompting a full time out at the 6:24 mark in the 3rd quarter.

A technical foul on South Central nearly three minutes into the 3rd quarter gave the Eagles a huge advantage after they hit both free throws and then canned three baskets in succession by Bryant Conder. This run gave the Eagles a 36-19 lead, and Lanesville led by a 2 to 1 margin at the end of the 3rd period (46-23).

Lanesville kept their margin up in the 4th quarter when they outscored South Central 15-8. The Eagles got six points (and 4 for 4 free throw shooting) from Cody Schultz, and five points from Brandon Mullens in the 4th quarter.

Miller didn't see why anyone was going to give his team an easy game, least of all Harrison County rival South Central.

"They're not going to hand it to you. You're going to have to earn it," Miller said.

South Central Coach rob Murawski wasn't so happy with the way the game went in the first half.

"We played well in the first half, we just couldn't sustain it," Murawski said. "We struggled shooting the ball; we struggled to hit lay ups."

South Central won the battle of the boards for the game, out rebounding Lanesville 24-20. They had an advantage of 12-10 on the boards in the first half.

Lanesville committed far fewer turnovers in the game. The Eagles had just nine to 19 for South Central.

Jeffrey Hammond had 12 points, 10 rebounds, and 4 assists for the Eagles in the effort. Join St. Mary of the Knobs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style! Their 4th Annual Reverse Raffle is set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. Only 100 tickets sold in increments of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Total cash prizes of \$5,500 – even losers have a second chance to win!