

The Floyd Central boys' basketball team went toe-to-toe for one quarter with New Albany in the first game of the Class 4A Sectional 15 at Seymour last week.

The Bulldogs, however, used an 11-2 run to take control of the game and never looked back in a 67-57 win.

New Albany led 23-13 when freshman Jeffrey Byrne drilled a three.

The Bulldog lead continued to grow and was 14, 30-16 at intermission.

Most of the damage in the first half was done by New Albany junior Jermaine Parrish. He ended up with 20 points and proved hard to handle with his dribble penetration.

FC Head Coach Randy Giafagna said he felt like his team never recovered from the slow second quarter. He also laid blame to the loss on missed free throws and below average shooting from beyond the arc.

“. . . the game was lost in the second quarter when we only scored 5 points,” said FC Head Coach Randy Giafagna. “In the future we have to become better free throw shooters and better from behind the three-point line. Those two areas hurt us all year.”

The Highlanders regrouped in the second half and made a few runs at the Dogs.

Two baskets and an and-one opportunity from Quinton Miller trimmed the NAHS lead to 10, 35-25.

New Albany answered but FC continued to apply pressure.

Connor Schellenberg hit one of two free throws and Miller converted an and one that pulled FC to within eight, 37-29.

The basket forced a Bulldog timeout and the stoppage in play stopped the Highlanders' momentum.

FC had the ball looking to cut into the deficit even more, but New Albany's Aaron Schmidt came up with a steal, drove to the basket for two and converted an and-one, putting his team back on top by 11, 40-29.

On The Dogs next possession Schmidt drilled a three, which made the lead 14, 43-29.

Forced to be aggressive on the defensive end, Floyd Central fouled and sent the NAHS players to the free throw line.

During a stretch in the fourth quarter the Bulldogs had hit eight out of eight and built their lead to 17 points, 57-40.

Floyd Central out-scored New Albany 17-10 during the final 3:30, but at that point the lead was too big.

In the opening quarter, FC came to play.

Jordan Thompson gave the Highlanders a lead, 3-2, when he hit one of two free throws and two free throws by Miller, but FC up, 7-6.

Floyd's last lead, 9-8, came when Thompson scored a basket off a pass from Miller.

Parrish answered for the Bulldogs with a two, and then scored two more at the charity stripe after he got a steal with 27 seconds remaining in the first quarter.

With the loss Floyd Central dropped to 10-13 on the season and currently has a 10 game losing streak against New Albany dating back to the 2002-03 season.