? After finally a chance to see your team in action against someone other than itself, what Charlestown coach Tony Hall saw on Saturday was pleasing for the most part, as the Pirates turned back Crawford County 62-58 at Bill Dunn Sports Arena.

Charlestown (1-0) showed a bit of everything. They opened a large lead, let that slip away and then came back with timely free throw shooting and defense.

“We didn’t win this game with any big offensive flurry at the end,” Hall said. “We won it with defense and it takes guts to play defense. We had a couple of girls, Brittany Bennison and Morgan Allen, really show some guts down the stretch tonight.”

After leading by as many as 15 points in the first half and by seven, 36-29, at halftime, Charlestown trailed 52-45 after Crawford County’s Chelsea Benham drilled a three pointers with 5:10 left.

Charlestown then went on a 9-0 run, tying the game at 52 when Amanda Miller hit one of two free throws, then taking the lead when Miller scored after the Pirates controlled the rebound.

Shauncae Bigham of the Wolfpack and Chelsea Johns then traded baskets before Kim Holzbog hit one of two at the line to pull the Wolfpack to within one at 56-55 with 1:27 left. Crawford County then sent the Pirates to the Line, a strategy that backfired when they couldn’t convert at the offensive end.

Trailing 60-55, Crawford County had one last gasp, as Chelsea Jellison hit a three with nine seconds left. But Miller answered with two free throws to put the game out of reach and give her a game-high 29 points.

“Amanda has a lot of weight on her shoulders this season and she answered the first bell with 29 points,” Hall said. “We put the ball in her hands as much as possible. She also had nine assists for us.”

Hall acknowledged that his team has a lot of things to work on, such as 29 turnovers, but was pleased with the clutch foul shooting down the stretch, something that hasn’t been a strength of past Pirate teams.

“You take a player like Chelsea Johns, she’s been in our program for four years,” Hall said. “She hit two big free throws down the stretch for us tonight. She’s never been in that situation before, but she’s practiced it many times and it paid off tonight.”

Benham and Bigham led Crawford County with 15 points each. Jellison added 11 points.

Charlestown will open its Mid Southern Conference slate this Friday with a trip to Corydon.

“We’ve got a week to get ready,” Hall said. “We’re pleased with the win tonight, but we know we have some things to work on. The girls were talking about that after the game. That’s encouraging. Corydon is a very difficult place to play.”