

The Eastern High School boys' basketball team and Salem hooked up for a county rival/Mid Southern Conference clash Saturday in Pekin. The Musketeers, led by Alex Doebler lead big early then had to hang on to seal the 75-63 win.

The Lions trailed by as many as 17 in the second half, but made a furious charge and even took a brief lead.

Eastern's Grant Newcomb drained a three to put his team back in front and Doebler collected steals on back-to-back possessions and scored 10 of his 18 points.

The Musketeers win over Salem came one night after they were blown out at Lanesville.

"Friday night was horrible for us," Newcomb said. "We didn't play with any energy and they came out and took it at us right from the start and we didn't respond at all.

"I was proud of the way they respinded though Saturday. They came out and worked hard."

On Saturday, even though Newcomb's team was up by double digits, he said he knew Salem would make a run.

"When we had the big lead I knew Salem was going to make a run," Newcomb said. "Salem made a run and I am glad we respondes when they took the lead. Sometimes we go into panic mode and take bad shots and try to do things we aren't capable of doing.

"Overall, it was a really good team win."

Salem was able to stay in the game thanks primarily to the play of freshman Seth Hobson,who scored 19 points.

Newcomb said he wasn't surprised by Hobson because of advanced scouting.

"Really (Hobson) seems to be getting better with every game," Newcomb said. "He just does a nice job of playing within himself and he doesn't try to do too much.

"Unfortunatly for us, he is just a freshman and we are going to get tired of playing himn for the next three years.

Grant Newcomb also scored

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Steal . . .

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20 points for the Musketeers, who will be back in action this weekend with two home contests.

They will host Corydon Central Friday and Christian Academy Saturday.

Salem will host Silver Creek Friday and Seymour Saturday.

Salem

14 16 18 15 -  
63

Eastern

22 19 9 25 -  
75

Salem (2-10) - Couch 11, Zink 3, Baker 12, Hobson 20, Nice 5, Z. Jackson 6, Jerrell 4, Kinslow 2.

Eastern Pekin (4-9) - Olesh 14, Murphy 2, Newcomb 20, Snider 5, Hayes 4, Dak. Jackson 2, Timmons 8, Dal. Jackson 2, Doebler 18.