

The Borden boys' basketball team entered Saturday's game against visiting Henryville with a chance to either win the Southern Athletic Conference outright, or possibly share it with Lanesville.

The Braves were not in a sharing mood, using a relentless 1-2-2 zone defense on their way to a 43-25 win over the Hornets.

Borden Head Coach Doc Nash said he was proud of the way his kids responded after losing to Christian Academy 51-22 Friday night.

He said they showed a lot of heart in bouncing back and by winning the SAC out-right, they accomplished something, some very good teams at Borden have been unable to do.

"(Winning the SAC) was one of our goals," Nash said. "We challenged our kids to win the championship out-right and they did it. We've had some really good teams play here who couldn't get it done out-right, so for this team to come in here and do it, it means a lot.

"We put ourselves in a position throughout the season to have this opportunity and now we are getting the fruits of our labor. I am extremely proud of how we responded after an embarrassing outing against Christian Academy. Bouncing back to play like this, it says a lot about our character."

It was clear from the start that Saturday's contest was going to be a low scoring affair from the tip as Borden carried a three-point, 21-18 lead into the final eight minutes.

Sophomore Nathan Bachman opened the fourth by converting an and-one opportunity,

stretching the margin to six, 24-18.

The Braves Caleb Hart hit one of two free throws and Bachman returned to the charity stripe for two more of his game-high 15 points giving them their biggest lead of nine points, 27-18.

Henryville was determined to stick around, however, as they went to the free throw line over the next few possessions and sank four, pulling them back to within five, 27-22.

Hart answered with a three with 4:34 remaining in the game that extended the lead back to eight, 30-22.

The Hornets hit a free throw and Elijah Franklin answered with a basket for Borden, which put them back up nine, 32-23 with 3:48 remaining.

Two more free throws by Caleb Hart, who finished the game with 13 points, extended the lead to double digits for the Braves.

Henryville never threatened again.

While Borden entered the contest off a disappointing loss, Henryville was riding high after beating Providence 41-38 Friday night.

That game and their 7-7 record got the attention of Nash.

“This was a win over a solid team,” Nash said. “They have won some games. Obviously they are doing some good things over there. They are young and have a bright future. We have some good battles on the horizon coming over the next few years.”

Most will credit the win over Henryville to the 22-point offensive output in the fourth quarter, but at the end of the day the game was won on the defensive end.

Franklin was the point man of the 1-2-2 and it caused Henryville problems throughout the game.

“Give our defense credit, it was pretty sticky tonight,” Nash said. “Franklin is like a squirrel going after a nut. He is all over the place. He has a ton of heart. I am proud of the kid and all our kids. One of our assistants always says, ‘If you’re happy, I’m ecstatic!’ Well tonight, I am ecstatic! We played extremely hard. I can’t say enough about the way they came out and competed.”

Borden improved to 10-5 on the season and has a pair of tough games coming this week.

The Braves travel to Orleans Friday night, before returning home Saturday for a game against Charlestown.

The Bulldogs hold a 22-11 advantage over the Borden over the past 30 years including last year’s 50-32 win.

Saturday’s contest will be the first time the Braves have played Charlestown since Jan. 25, 2000. The Pirates won that game 60-55 in over time.

Scoring

Borden: Arnett 3, Bachman 15, Thompson 1, Franklin 4, Noah Hart 7, Caleb Hart 13.

3-point baskets: Caleb Hart 1.

Henryville: Weeks 4, Janek 4, Walker 8, Robertson 2, Perigo 2, Dieterien 3, Green 2.

3-point baskets: Weeks 1, Walker 2.