

Boys hoop: Eastern, Central square off

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action against the Rams.

"You talk all the time about working hard in practice and being prepared for big situations," said Giovinazzo of Farber, Angeles and Ungaro. "Coach Ray was in my ear all night (to) get those guys in there and finally, I gave in. It was a great call."

Mike Scalia and Dan Siemiatkoski each scored nine points and gave the Lancers fits all night long while Daquan Rice added seven and Nick Prentiss aided the cause with two big three-pointers.

While the Rams didn't get much out of the pivot, Central moved the ball around the horn with precision and used Sinclair Lewis and Zach Signore as solid middle men to help direct traffic.

"We did a good job in terms of getting the ball into the middle," said Barrette. "We're lacking a post player to play in the middle. I'm asking a couple of guys to

play out of position and it's been tough for them."

"Kris Fuller did a great job controlling the middle tonight."

Scalia scored six straight points for Central to start the game as the Rams led 6-2 early.

Rodriguez netted all seven of Eastern's first period points but off a hoop by Siemiatkoski, Central led 9-7 eight minutes into things.

Three lead changes and two ties highlighted a busy second frame but off two free throws by Fuller, Eastern led 19-14 with 1:38 left before the half.

An offensive rebound and put-back by Lewis cut the deficit to 19-16 at the half and the contest was certainly still up for grabs.

"In these types of games, everything is a grind no matter what," said Barrette. "But we did what we wanted to defensively."

The third period was a grind as well as both teams went back and forth against each other.

Ungaro hit two free

BRISTOL EASTERN 43, BRISTOL CENTRAL 36

from Bristol Central High School

Bristol Eastern (7-3) 7 12 8 16 - 43

Bristol Central (3-8) 9 7 10 10 - 36

BRISTOL EASTERN (43): Greg Taylor 0-2-2, Jeff Farber 3-0-7, Eli Rodriguez 5-2-13, Joel Angeles 1-0-2, Ryan Chiasson 0-0-0, Gabe Ungaro 0-2-2, Jose Antonetty 2-1-6, Kris Fuller 3-5-11, Juan Gonzalez 0-0-0. **Totals: 14-12-43.**

BRISTOL CENTRAL (36): Nick Prentiss 2-0-6, Joey DeFillippi 0-0-0, Sinclair Lewis 1-0-2, Mike Scalia 2-3-9, Dan Siemiatkoski 4-0-9, Daquan Rice 3-0-7, Zach Signore 0-0-0, Mike Taft 1-1-3. **Totals: 13-4-36.**

Three-pointers: Bristol Eastern 3-13 (Antonetty 1-5, Taylor 0-2, Rodriguez 1-3, Angeles 0-1, Farber 1-2); Bristol Central 6-23 (Prentiss 2, Scalia 2, Siemiatkoski, Rice).

Rebounds: Bristol Eastern 32 (Chiasson 10); Bristol Central 24.

Assists: Bristol Eastern 10 (Fuller 4); Bristol Central 10.

Blocks: Bristol Eastern 5 (Fuller 5); Bristol Central 2.

Steals: Bristol Eastern 5 (Rodriguez 3); Bristol Central 8.

Turnovers: Bristol Eastern 13; Bristol Central 9.

Records: Bristol Eastern 8-3 overall, 5-2 CCC South; Bristol Central 3-8 overall.

Stat of the Game: Tied at 29-all, Eastern goes on an 11-2 run to secure a 40-31 edge with 38.9 seconds to play which sealed the game.

throws late but off a three-pointer by Prentiss, the Rams led 26-25 with 1:42 remaining in the stanza.

To end the period, Farber missed a long shot but off his own miss, he put in a quick hoop and at the end of three completed frames, Eastern led 27-26 with one quarter remaining.

Scalia drilled a huge three-pointer to open the final stanza as Central led

29-27 with 6:34 left to play.

From there, Chiasson and Farber worked with Fuller and assisted on two straight lay-ups by the Eastern big man as the Lancers led 31-29 with 4:57 remaining.

The Lancers never trailed from that point again.

"We started rolling him down," said Giovinazzo of Fuller. "We said when the

ball goes in the corner, Kris (needs to) roll down because they aren't going to be able to stop him. He got two huge hoops there."

Rodriguez followed up with two free throws and Farber ended all the suspense with a blistering three-pointer with 4:05 left to play as the Lancers surged in front 36-29.

"They hit a couple shots down in the end," said Barrette of Eastern. "Farber hit a big three in the corner and that really sealed the deal for them."

Central continued to work and Siemiatkoski hit a short shot as the Rams cut it to five at 36-31 with 2:35 remaining.

"We moved the ball better than I've seen in a high school game in a long time," said Barrette. "We had a couple of possessions where we snapped the ball around and moved the ball around faster than the defense could rotate. We just missed a couple open shots when we had good ball rotation."

From there, Rodriguez nailed a lay-up while Greg Taylor blasted in two free throws as Eastern led 40-31 with 38.9 left and by that time, the game was out of reach.

Even with a 3-8 ledger, the Rams still have a good chance to earn a shot at the state tournament.

"We talked about how we're right on the cusp" of making the state tournament said Barrette. "We need a break to go our way. If we can get one of those breaks, we can be a dangerous team over the last month of the season."

For the Lancers, win number eight against the Rams meant state tournament qualification but there's still a lot of hoop left to be played.

"We're in the tournament but it's out of the pan and into the fire," said Giovinazzo. "We've got (tough) East Hartford on Monday."

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