

Sports



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Our Athletes

St. Paul on fire

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Without a shadow of a doubt, when the St. Paul girls team lost a close 54-47 decision to Torrington, it fueled a fire under the Falcons.

Girls basketball

And though that game back on Dec. 14 could have gone either way in the end, the resulting loss has paved the way to a 12-game winning streak as a spectacular defensive effort resulted in a 63-20 demolition of Seymour in a Nutmeg Valley League Brass division game played at St. Paul last Friday night.

After that Torrington defeat, St. Paul coach Joe Mone had his players look at the film and saw all the things he'd been telling them during practice and games.

The players saw those mistakes and have made the necessary improvements. And the 43-point victory will attest to those improvements.

It was also a milestone night for Mone as he picked up with 200th victory and shared a celebratory cake with his team at the conclusion of the game.

Needless to say, Seymour didn't stick around for any of that cake.

At 14-1, the Falcons have been crushing the competition with a stingy defensive effort that has

only allowed opponents 29.3 points-per-game over its last eight games.

And that defense leads to offense as the Falcons opened the game on a 43-4 run as whatever the Wildcats were doing on the offensive end was quickly squashed by a pressing, relentless, suffocating attack.

St. Paul quickly went up 10-0 over the first 3:21 of the game. Chelsea Mone (six points, six rebounds, eight assists) not only drilled two three-pointers during the run, but also dished off two assists that led to the other two baskets during the spurt.

After the game, Joe Mone said that Chelsea Mone is one of those players that "doesn't have to score" to make her presence felt on the court.

In all, Chelsea Mone racked up seven assists over the first eight minutes of the game as Adele Ruel (13 points, six rebounds), Claire Consonni (four points), Amber Litwinko (10 points, four rebounds) and Rebecca Ferland (10 points, four rebounds) all hit high percentage shots in the frame as the lead quickly ballooned to 22-4 with 1:27 left.

A steal and lay-up by Emily Camden closed out the first period with St. Paul leading 24-4.

While the Falcons made 10-of-17 field goals in the first quarter, the percentage dropped off slight in the second frame. But it didn't mat-

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MIKE CHAIKEN

Bristol Central's Justin Dionne, left, takes on Platt's Julian Melendez in the 171 pound weight class last Wednesday, Dionne was pinned by his opponent from Platt.

BC's depth pays off against Platt

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, when a top team isn't on its "A-game," the consequences could be a little more than severe.

But with the depth and talent of the Bristol Central wrestling team, mistakes and losses can be absorbed as the Rams defeated Platt 42-22 in a CCC South contest from Bristol last Wednesday night.

Wrestling

Central, rated among the top five teams in most state polls at 15-1, ran into trouble to open the meet as Joe Hoxha (152 pounds) was trailing 12-1 in the second period of his match.

But to his credit, Hoxha never gave in, made a big reversal in the final seconds of the second period and scooped up a pin of Jeff Stanley with two seconds to

spare.

"At this time of the season, if those guys who haven't been in the varsity line-up or regular season, they've been at practice every day and they're still making mistakes that need to be fixed," said Bristol Central coach Brian Archibald. "Joe (Hoxha) got lucky and came through with a pin."

Central's Austin Darley (160) won via forfeit but Justin Dionne (171) was pinned at the 3:55 mark of his match against Julian Melendez.

Platt's Juan Velazquez snuck out a 10-8 decision at 189 pounds on Jason Andrews while Central's Andrew Lane (215) came from behind to just hang on to an 8-6 decision against Jon Melendez as the Rams were up 15-9.

From that point on, it was business as usual for Central.

BRISTOL CENTRAL 42, PLATT 22
From Bristol Central High School

152 – Joe Hoxha (BC) pin Jeff Stanley, 3:58; 160 – Austin Darley (BC) forfeit; 171 – Julian Melendez (P) pin Chris Dionne, 3:55; 189 – Juan Velazquez (P) dec Jason Andrews, 10-8; 215 – Andrew Lane (BC) dec Jon Melendez, 8-6; 285 – D.J. Sanderson (BC) pin Nick Demanche, 0:30; 103 – Tyler Ribierio (P) dec Zach Mastromarino 10-8 (OT); 112 – Mike Pokorny (BC) pin Jose Alvarez, 0:32; 119 – Joe Galvin (BC) pin Randy Nailand, 0:32; 125 – Eric Francks (P) major dec Colin Lombardi, 12-3; 130 – Nick Cyr (BC) pin Brian Jankowski, 0:54; 135 – Seth Vose (BC) dec Louis Rios, 8-5; 140 – Isaiah Melendez (P) dec Dale Valcourt, 4-1; 145 – Kristin Neysmith (P) dec Zach Coppola, 3-1 (OT).
Records: Bristol Central 16-1 overall (5-0 CCC South); Platt 7-8 (0-4)

"This was a poor of showing as we've had so far," said Archibald. "We still won real big but I think there's little things right now that aren't happening and there's things automatically that should be happening for everybody. It's just not happening."

Central's heavyweight D.J. Sanderson needed only 30 seconds to pin Nick Demanche while Zach Mastromarino (103) came out on fire and led 7-2 before falling in overtime to Tyler Ribierio 10-8.

Central's Mike Pokorny (112) picked up a pin in 45

seconds, Joe Galvin (119) made a pin in just 32 seconds, Nick Cyr (130) was a pin-fall winner in 54 seconds while an 8-5 decision by Seth Vose (1350) propelled the Rams to a 42-16 cushion.

"Usually, we've got those four guys in a row and Zach Mastromarino at 103 pounds did a nice job but he just ran out of gas," said Archibald of Pokorny, Galvin, Cyr and Vose. "I thought that was as good as (Mastromarino) has wrestled until he ran out of gas."

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ST. PAUL 63, SEYMOUR 20
at Maltby Street Gymnasium, Bristol
Seymour (2-13) 4 0 8 8-20
St. Paul (14-1) 24 13 15 11-63
SEYMOUR (20): Amber Martinez 1-0-2, Christina Cretella 4-4-13, Alison Gorman 1-0-2, Hannah Saffo 1-0-3, Meg Cabrera 0-0-0, Ali Ciocea 0-0-0, Mary-Kate Durette 0-0-0, Danielle Lemachko 0-0-0, Ashley Black 0-0-0, Jill Ruchin 0-0-0, Steph Orts 0-0-0. TOTALS: 7-4-20.
ST. PAUL (63): Sylvia Cavero 1-0-2, Adele Ruel 5-3-13, Amber Litwinko 4-0-8, Nohemi Torres 1-0-2, Rebecca Ferland 5-0-10, Missy Zommer 1-0-3, Gabby Camden 0-0-0, Gabby Perleche 1-0-2, Mary Joyle 0-0-0, Courtney Lobo 2-0-4, Emily Camden 3-0-7, Chelsea Mone 2-0-6, Claire Consonni 3-0-6, Ashley Sulewski 0-0-0. TOTALS: 28-3-63.
Three-point goals: Seymour 2 (Saffo, Cretella); St. Paul 4 (E. Camden, Mone 2, Zommer).



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