

Lancers pick up 8th victory, topping Bulkeley

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

When the Bristol Eastern girls basketball team crashes the boards as a unit, the Lancers can easily get into its highly successful transition attack.

Girls basketball

And against the Bulkeley, that transition game paid out handsomely as Eastern won its eighth game of the season and posted a 65-27 win against the Bulldogs in a CCC South contest played at the Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium in Bristol last Friday afternoon.

When Eastern (8-7) was able to run a little bit, point-guard Shianne Walker kept the offense moving as she racked up an impressive 17 points, seven rebounds, eight assists and three

steals.

But everyone got into action, which included slick shooting Taylor Darby as the senior guard collected 17 points – off 7-of-10 shooting from the field – while Breeann Redman (six points, four rebounds), Katie DeSimone (six points, six rebounds), Karissa Smith (five points, 10 rebounds) and even Christina Tramontanis (four points, two rebounds) made contributions in the victory.

“I thought the kids did a really nice job,” said Eastern coach Tony Floyd. “It was a little slow in the beginning, being an afternoon game, but they did a good job getting into transition, running the break, filling lanes and also playing some good defense and executing.”

Mallory Kloss (three points, eight rebounds) was in foul trouble for most of the afternoon but still had a big rebounding afternoon.

“We were rebounding

BRISTOL EASTERN 65, BULKELEY 27

at Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium, Bristol

Bulkeley (0-15, 0-9) – 27	6	8	10	3
Bristol Eastern (8-7, 7-2) – 65	13	23	18	11

BULKELEY (27): Shelby Williams 0-0-0, Manuelita Avila 1-0-2, Merrilliz Nixon 5-1-12, Amber Nixon 2-2-6, Brittney Melvin 1-0-2, Yaritza Flores 2-0-5, Kim Serrano 0-0-0, Whitney Vitale 0-0-0. TOTALS: 11-3-27.

BRISTOL EASTERN (65): Shianne Walker 6-5-17, Breeann Redman 3-0-6, Taylor Darby 7-0-17, Mallory Kloss 1-1-3, Kate DeSimone 3-0-6, Kirby Madden-Hennessey 0-1-1, Kadijah Shoultz 1-1-3, Jessica DeLucia 1-1-3, Leah Aakjar 0-0-0, Karissa Smith 2-1-5, Christina Tramontanis 2-0-4. TOTALS: 26-10-65.

Three-point goals: Bulkeley 2 (M. Nixon, Flores); Bristol Eastern 3 (Darby).

the ball a little bit and getting some put-backs,” said Floyd. “The most important thing now is that we’re hitting the boards better and we’re doing some scoring inside. The players are starting to get a feel for that.”

Eastern forced turnovers early and often (26 in the game) and after a DeSimone hoop off a solid feed from Jessica DeLucia, the Lancers grabbed a 13-3 push with just 43 second left in the first quarter.

Off a hoop by Kadijah Shoultz, Eastern was in front by nine in the second

period before a lay-up by Bulkeley’s Amber Nixon cut the score to 17-10 with 6:00 left before the half.

From there, Eastern blasted off 14 straight points and used a 19-4 run overall to end the half as a three-pointer by Darby and a lay-up by DeLucia made it 36-14.

Darby came out firing after the break in the transition game as she was wide open on the base-line for quick hoops. Scoring seven of the team’s first eight points in the third frame, Darby helped post Eastern

to a 46-12 edge with 5:24 left.

“She did a good job today,” said Floyd of Darby. “She ran the floor better and she got herself into position and Shianne (Walker) got the ball to her where she could score.”

An offensive rebound and put-back by Smith extended the Lancers’ lead to 34 points before settling on a 54-24 push after three stanzas of play.

“I thought their intensity level was a lot better,” said Floyd. “We didn’t have an intensity level last Monday night (at Wethersfield). They showed me (intensity) and that they’re understanding what we’re trying to do. They were more focused today.”

Walker found Redman

and Darby for hoops to start the fourth and final quarter as the Lancers went up 60-24 before subs finished the game as Eastern seized a 38-point victory.

“We played a good half-game today,” said Floyd. “We had two good quarters where we played really well in the second and third (periods). We really came out and played and that’s what I want to see them do.”

Eastern qualified for the state tournament for the 14th straight season under Floyd. The Lancers have qualified for a post-season berth every season since 1980-81 except for the 1995-96 campaign.

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