

Sports

The
Bristol Observer

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Our Athletes

Lancers fall 63-60 to battle-tested Indians

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

On paper, the Manchester boys basketball team defeating Bristol Eastern in the opening round of the CCC Tournament looked like a tremendous upset.

Boys basketball

But the No. 16 ranked Indians were a battle-tested team from an extremely tough CCC North division and even though the top-ranked Lancers made a huge comeback in the final seconds of the game, Manchester managed to hold on to win it by a 63-60 score from the Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium in Bristol.

Andrew Isaacs led the Indians (12-9) with 17 points while Manchester had double-figure scoring efforts from Kayohn Townsend (11 points) and Enrique Lugo (10).

Xavier Wade led the Lancers (18-3) with 14 points and three assists while Chris Colon posted 14 points and four rebounds.

Tom Tarantino was a workhorse on the offensive glass picking up six offensive rebounds, nine overall, to go along with 12 points.

Manchester grabbed a sizable lead early in the game and contested every run Eastern made until time simply ran out on the Lancers.

"They were a smart team. They were a very balanced team," said Eastern coach Mike Giovinazzo of Manchester. "When they spread the floor, they started driving and they either scored or they got put-backs because our big men had to keep leaving their man to help on the drive and left their man to go to the glass."

Eastern led 5-2 via a three-point by Tarantino to open the first frame before the Indians used a 16-5 spurt to end the period ahead 18-10 after eight minutes of play.

Manchester took its first double-digit advantage off the first shot of the second quarter as a three-pointer by Joe Reiser made it 21-10 with 7:40 left before

CCC DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT, FIRST ROUND

No. 16 MANCHESTER 63, No. 1 BRISTOL EASTERN 60
at Thomas M. Monahan Gymnasium, Bristol

Manchester (12-9) 18 19 12 14 - 63
Bristol Eastern (18-3) 10 16 15 19 - 60

MANCHESTER (63): Kayohn Townsend 3-4-11, Joe Reiser 1-1-4, Kyle Thompson 3-2-8, Andrew Isaacs 7-3-17, Chris Walker 1-2-5, Kweku Aidoo 3-2-8, Enrique Lugo 3-2-10. TOTALS: 21-16-63.

BRISTOL EASTERN (60): Tyrell Holmes 1-7-9, Christian Pierce 3-0-9, Xavier Wade 6-2-14, Chris Colon 4-6-14, Tom Tarantino 1-9-12, Ryan Darmand 0-0-0, Andre Brooks 0-0-0, Ray Ortiz 0-2-2. TOTALS: 15-26-60.

Three-point goals: Manchester 4 (Townsend, Reiser, Lugo 2), Bristol Eastern 4 (Pierce 3, Tarantino).

the half.

"When we packed it in, they kicked it out and hit three-pointers," said Giovinazzo. "They were disciplined, they were patient and when they didn't make a shot, they flew to the glass with some pretty athletic people. We got caught standing still. We were flat-footed on the boards."

"We didn't do a good job of blocking out (and) we did not do a good job going to the ball."

Eastern went on an 8-0 run as two free throws by Tarantino and three consecutive lay-ups by Wade got the Lancers within three at 21-18 with 4:37 left in the second stanza.

"He kept us alive at many points when things were going bad," said Giovinazzo of Wade. "Our offense was not fluid at all tonight. When we got down, we started rushing and we took some bad shots. We made some ill-advised passes and, let's face it, we panicked."

Manchester responded with a 9-0 run of its own as the Indians attacked the paint, got the Lancer defense to commit and made second passes in the lane to find players under the hoop for uncontested lay-ups.

Off another dump-in by Isaacs, Manchester grabbed a 30-18 push with 3:09 left in the half.

"Everything comes off penetration," said Giovinazzo. "And if you can't stop the dribbler, then all hell breaks loose because all kinds of people are leaving their men to guard other men and (Manchester went in for lay-ups)."

The Lancers couldn't dig much into the lead and trailed 37-26 at intermission.

Manchester grabbed a 43-30 tilt with 5:10 left in the third period but Eastern

didn't quit and off two free throws by Tyrell Holmes (nine points, seven-of-seven free throws), the Lancers had the deficit trimmed to 48-41 late in the frame.

Eastern trailed 49-41 going into the final period but off a jumper by Colon, made it a two possession game early.

Manchester tried to stall but came out empty off its first possession, which gave Eastern a little lift.

Down eight, Christian Pierce hit his first of three three-pointers and off an 11-5 run, Eastern had the lead trimmed to 56-54 with 1:30 remaining in the game.

The Lancers could have done more damage off Manchester missed possessions and turnovers but two consecutive offensive fouls late in the game against Eastern kept the Indians in front.

"(Playing from behind) is a difficult thing to do especially against a team that can spread the floor and handle the ball the way they did," said Giovinazzo. "And Manchester made their foul shots."

"We knew we had our work cut out for us but to our guy's credit, they really made a run at Manchester and we had it down to the last possession but unfortunately, it didn't work out that way."

Off two fouls shots by Holmes, Eastern trailed 58-56 with 41.4 seconds left but a one-of-two showing from the free throw by Reiser made it 59-56 and the clocking showing just over 40 seconds remaining.

Colon tried to tie the contest with a three-pointer with 23 seconds left but his miss led to two charity tosses by Townsend as the Indians were up 61-56 with 20.2 seconds left.

On the ensuing play, Colon was fouled shooting

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They are undefeated



SUBMITTED

The Chippens Hills Middle School Boys Blue Basketball team went undefeated, 10-0, this season. They are, in the front row from the left, Bobby Roberge, Zack Aldieri, Joey DeFillipi, Jasiak Jenkins, Jackson Hines, and Jason Serevino; back row from the left, Nate Hamm, Brenden Plasczynski, Shawn Caron, Ryan Gallagher, Daija Fitzpatrick, Aaron Aryee, and Coach Bob Kalat. Absent from photo, Leslie Johnson.

St. Paul probably wants to forget this one

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

WATERBURY— Senior night for the Kennedy boys basketball team is certainly a time the Eagles will likely not forget.

On the other hand, visiting St. Paul would probably like to forget about the contest entirely as the Falcons posted a 78-37 loss to the Eagles in a Naugatuck Valley League game played in Waterbury last Wednesday night.

Boys basketball

St. Paul (12-8) took early advantage off a hoop by David Shaw (three points) but the edge was quickly erased as a barrage of three-pointers by Kennedy – and an injury to Bryon Jones (five points) – took the wind right from the Falcons' sails as the Eagles ran all over the visitors.

Late in the first period, Jones left the game with a broken finger and did not return.

"It wasn't a good mixture tonight," said St. Paul coach Steve Phelps. "Kennedy was very good and we were not. Even before Byron got hurt, I

KENNEDY 78, ST. PAUL 37

at John F. Kennedy High School, Waterbury

St. Paul (11-8) 14 5 8 10 - 37
Kennedy (14-6) 21 21 18 18 - 78

ST. PAUL (37): Chris Borea 4-1-11, Bryon Jones 2-1-5, Travis Thomas 2-0-4, Justin Gonzalez 1-2-4, Pat Donahue 0-0-0, Dan Borea 0-0-0, Pat Maguire 1-0-2, Jacob Jacquo 1-0-2, David Shaw 1-1-3, Josh Davidson 0-0-0, Joe Villani 2-1-5, Brandon Shaw 0-0-0, Matt Lewis 0-1-1. TOTALS: 14-7-37.

KENNEDY (78): Travis Johnson 1-0-2, Jordan Bayon 3-4-10, Trevon Seymore 4-0-11, Heath Sanchez 1-0-2, Devon Petty 0-1-1, Conrad Booker 5-0-14, Devonte Reddick 4-0-8, Markel Evans 0-0-0, Jeff Germosen 4-0-9, Denzel Sanders 6-1-13, Cody Fitzgerald 3-0-7, Brian Overton 0-1-1. TOTALS: 31-7-78.
Three-point goals: St. Paul 2 (Chris Borea 2), Kennedy 9 (Seymore 3, Booker 4, Germosen, Fitzgerald).

couldn't feel our normal intensity. It just wasn't a good mixture. Kennedy's too good."

Three-pointers by Kennedy's Jeff Germosen (nine points) and three straight long range bombs by Conrad Booker (game-high 14 points) turned a manageable 5-4 St. Paul deficit into a 15-7 hole with 4:06 left to play in the first half.

Hoops by Jones, Travis Thomas (four points, four rebounds) and Chris Borea (team-high 11 points) kept the Falcons hanging around but the Eagles nabbed a 21-14 cushion after one period of play.

St. Paul did not score again until the 1:51 mark of the second stanza when a Borea three-pointer broke a 14-0 Eagles' spurt as Kennedy seized a 35-17 tilt.

Offensive rebound put-backs by Devonte Reddick (nine points) and Germosen kept St. Paul at bay but one last hoop by Thomas still saw the visitors trail 42-19 at the half.

"On those occasions where they did miss early, we weren't in position to rebound the ball," said Phelps. "It was a multitude of letdowns on a lot of different fronts."

Kennedy big-man Denzel Sanders (13 points) triggered most of the fast-breaks for the Eagles and the lefty's opening hoop of the third frame kept their momentum intact at 44-19.

Put-backs by Justin Gonzalez (four points) and Borea couldn't keep the Falcons in the game as a three-point play by Sanders

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