

Hoops
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against a one-man gang is to gang up on him.

Coach Roosevelt Barnes said that tactic Friday in Bedford Bishop Borge's 55-48 victory over Birmingham Brother Rice.

Tom Mars, the Warriors' star 6-foot-6 center, had scored 18 points in the first half on high-percentage shots like layups, dunks and short bankers.

Enough was enough, Barnes said at halftime. He junked his straight-up defense and assigned 6-5 junior Sam Hoskin, Durand Hyrum and Benson Calloway to surround Mars whenever the ball went inside.

It worked. Mars scored just three points in the final two periods.

Bishop Borge led 32-31 at halftime and outscored Brother Rice 13-8 and 11-6 in the final two quarters.

"We shut the big fella down in the second half," Barnes said. "We started feeding it inside, and our big fellas came through."

"He was a one-man show in the first half. We spread the ball around. Hoskin had 10 points in the first half."

The 6-6 sophomore Hoskin ended with 14 points while the 6-4 Calloway had 13 as the Spartans improved to 7-3 overall and 3-1 in the Catholic League Central Division. The Warriors are also 3-1 in the division.

Trojans win with pressure defense

BY BRAD EMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville's diamond press proved to be a gem Friday in its Metro Conference boys basketball encounter with Lutheran High Westland.

The host Trojans came out sparkling in the second half en route to a 65-55 victory over the Warriors.

Playing with reckless abandon and loads of enthusiasm, Clarenceville improved to 5-3 overall and 2-0 in the Metro. It was also the Trojans' first victory over Lutheran Westland since the 93-94 season.

"We use that diamond press now and then when we think we're quicker at the guards," said Clarenceville coach Rick Larson, whose team forced the Warriors into 27 turnovers. "It was in our game plan, but we didn't want to go with it from the start."

"We wanted to see how we'd do first in a man-to-man defense."

Lutheran Westland led 27-25

at intermission, but the Trojans came out for the final 16 minutes in a different frame of mind.

They outscored the Warriors 19-12 in the third period to take a 44-39 advantage, and led by as many 11 midway through the fourth quarter on a basket by Jason Merritt.

But Lutheran Westland would not quit, going on an 11-0 run capped by Kevin Wade's three-pointer to make it 52-all with 3:38 remaining.

Ironically, a diamond press used by the Warriors proved to be the key as the Trojans turned the ball over five times in succession.

Clarenceville then regrouped and outscored the Warriors 13-3 down the stretch, including nine of 13 from the free-throw line.

Merritt, a springy 6-foot-2 junior forward, put an exclamation point on the victory with a breakaway dunk with only 16 seconds remaining.

Merritt led the Trojans with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Scott Barnhard, a 6-1 senior forward, chipped in with 16 points.

Both players took turns blocking out Lutheran West-

land's top inside scoring threat, Joe Pruchnik, who finished with 16 points. But the 6-4 junior forward earned only eight rebounds, which was well below his average.

"We told our kids that every rebound Pruchnik gets over 10, they're going to do a single suicide (sprint) drill in practice," Larson said. "Merritt and Scott had some kind of personal thing going because Pruchnik is a very capable player. If you don't know his strengths, he'll eat you alive."

"We had to do two things — don't allow the ball on the block, and don't allow him second shots."

There were other standouts for Clarenceville as well.

Freshman point guard Albert Djelasevic, who displays ball-handling and shooting skills well beyond his years, chipped in with 10 points, while senior off guard Joe Hernandez contributed nine.

"Albert has a good mind; he's learning on the job," Larson said. "He plays with a lot of enthusiasm and he loves the game. Albert wants the ball. He wants to be a point guard."

"He made the switch with Joe a couple of games back because Joe does a better job of scoring without the ball."

Ryan Donaldson, a senior transfer from Livonia Stevenson, led Lutheran Westland in scoring with 16 points. He and Pruchnik were the only players to score in double figures.

The loss leaves Lutheran Westland at 4-4 overall and 1-2 in the Metro.

"We panicked against that diamond press, for a better lack of a word," Lutheran Westland coach Scott Wiener said. "We didn't execute our press offense correctly. Then they just got frustrated."

"And it's been two games in a row where we didn't play good half-court defense in the fourth quarter."

The Warriors certainly had their chances.

"I just told our guys they (Clarenceville) wanted the game more," Wiener said. "They showed more hustle and more emotion. There were several loose balls they came up with."

"Give Clarenceville credit. They did a job on us."

Mats
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seesaw contest when he decided the issue.

"I didn't know if (Lawrence) would be able to finish the match," Beyer said, adding his wrestler had an upset stomach. "I thought he could win; that's why I moved him up (from 171). It took a lot longer to happen than I thought it would."

Brien White did real nice job. He was getting in trouble, and the kid was coming back. He caught fire at the last, took him down and pinned him.

"Adam did a nice job, too. He was just patient. There were no takedowns in the first period; he didn't try to force anything."

Farmington is 1-2 in the Lakes Division and 6-4 overall.

"They're a tough team; we know that," Beyer said, adding he thought the Falcons had a chance to win. "They had a pretty good JV following with the good team they had last year."

"We wrestled pretty well with the veterans and young kids we have in the lineup."

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