

Spartans rout Chargers; 2 wins ahead of last year

By RICHARD L. SHOOK
STAFF WRITER

Tim Newman should think about taking a technical foul more often. Or should he?

Livonia Stevenson rattled off the first 17 points of the game Thursday night and cruised on to an easy 78-52 victory over Livonia Churchill.

This despite head coach Newman of Stevenson sitting out a mandatory one-game suspension for getting tagged with two technical fouls in his previous game.

"The kids played hard," said acting coach Scot Shaw. "Things go well when you play that hard."

They didn't go well for Churchill, 2-2 after the Western Lakes Activities Association crossover game. Stevenson is also 2-2, which is two wins better than it was last year.

The Chargers relied on a one-move, one shot offense the first part of the game and it cost them. The Spartans also slipped their press rather easily.

"We broke it and we were patient," Shaw said. "We hit the open cutter and didn't panic. We made a lot of shots off the press break."

"Tim did a good job with this."

BASKETBALL

He pretty much told me what to do. He put it in, we made it happen."

Stevenson was ahead, 21-6, after one quarter, 34-19 at the half and 58-31 after three periods. Eight Chargers scored, in part because the deep end of the bench got a lot of opportunities.

"Give Stevenson credit," Coach Rick Austin of Churchill said. "They played very hard. They played with confidence. That's a pretty good basketball team."

"They got very good guard play. We couldn't handle their quickness."

Austin pulled his scoreless starters with 3:47 left in the first quarter and the next five minutes Churchill's first points on a bucket by Brad Bescoe with 2:30 showing on the clock.

The Chargers' starters couldn't get much closer through the first half of the second quarter, when it was 32-18, and got only one more point the rest of the half to muffle their last chance to make it a contest.

Nine Spartans scored, five reaching double figures. Harland

Beverly led the way with 16, most from the left wing or on drives. Brett Koch scored 13, Marty Kennedy and Paul Bowens had 11 each and Dave Stand scored 10, all in the second half.

Mike Lenardon had eight, Keshay McChristian and John Van Buren four each while Maher Salah scored two.

"It was a big help having Harland hitting those shots off the press break," Shaw said.

Stevenson moved the ball well and played very well defensively. It only glaring deficiencies were to occasionally take an ill-advised shot (that went in) or not drain the final 60 seconds of a period.

The Spartans denied the passing lanes to the Chargers early in the game and played tight man-to-man the rest of the way.

Churchill got 17 points from John Bennett, who made three and 14 from Randall Boboige, who made two threes.

It was a very good night for Shaw, who coached the Stevenson junior varsity team to a big win over Churchill, too.

"Two-and-one," he said, "pretty good for a night's work."

Pioneers trounce Chiefs, 71-57

The scouts who came to see LaVell Blanchard got what they wanted, and more.

Blanchard, smooth as creamery butter, scored 29 points Thursday night to pace Ann Arbor Pioneer to a 71-57 victory over stubborn Plymouth Canton.

Those who had seen Pioneer before know Blanchard isn't all the Pioneers are about. There's a young giant of a sophomore, James Bridgewater, who scored 15 points and is a presence in the middle.

"He's tough and a great worker, too," Canton coach Dan Young said of Bridgewater.

Canton got 21 points from forward Jason Waidman plus 10

apiece from guards Joe Cortellini and Mike Major.

"We hung in there pretty well for a while," Young said, "but they're pretty athletic."

"We played well at times. But we were inconsistent with both our passing and our catching. They broke down our team defense, which is a credit to Ann Arbor Pioneer."

"They have two very good players. There were stretches where we couldn't get any easy scores."

The Pioneers led by four after the end of the first period, 17-13, and tacked another three points on for a 29-22 halftime lead.

Ann Arbor put up a 22-13 third quarter to decide the outcome.

Something else that hurt Canton, as it does most teams these days, was an inability to hit free throws.

"We only made 10 of 24 of our free throws," Young said. "That's not very good. Those things made it difficult for us to have a chance."

"LaVell is a great player. They played good team basketball and pretty good defense. We had a hard time scoring."

The loss left the Chiefs 1-2 while the Pioneers raised their mark to 3-1.

Going to the hoop: Junior forward Matt Loridas of Farmington Hills scored 12 points Friday in Catholic Central's 59-56 victory over Orchard Lake St. Mary's.

Shamrocks from page D1

second half. Senior guard Dan Jess scored nine points in the first half, all on triples, and bruising center Anthony Toney had a season-high six, all in the first half.

Even Toney was surprised with his output. He scored the Shamrocks' first four points and maybe it was contagious. Before the end of the quarter, senior guard Dan Jess made two long range triples to give the Shamrocks a 16-9 lead heading into the second.

"I'm not a scorer, I'm a rebounder," Toney said, shaking his head.

"Anthony will give you everything he's got," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "You can never get upset with Anthony."

Moore appreciates the effort of CC's frontline, which also includes 6-foot-6 center Chuck Cash.

"Anthony's a big body for us underneath and Cash is also playing good," Moore said.

Larry Batista led St. Mary's with 16 points and teammate

Maurice Senright added 14. Mason had eight and Jonte Jones seven.

With a quicker lineup, St. Mary's game plan was simple.

"We had to transition the ball and push it and, hopefully, we'd get quality shots - but we didn't," St. Mary's coach George Porritt said. "I thought our defense was good. Some of (CC's triples) were long bombs, great shots."

CC might need more of the offense Moore provided in the third quarter when it opens a tournament at U-D Jesuit against Cincinnati Hughes after Christmas.

There is a 45 on the court this year, but it's being worn by Loridas and not Chris Young, an all-state center last year who now plays at Michigan. While Loridas wears the number well, he's not as big a presence as Young, standing only 6-foot-4.

"Nick's got to realize Young's gone," Coratti said. "Once he got rid of the ball (tonight), St. Mary's didn't want him to get it

back and he wasn't going to get it. I told him he's got to and (the third quarter) is how he's capable of playing."

W.L. WESTERN 68, LAKELAND 51: Ben Dewar's hot start sparked Walled Lake Western to its third straight victory of the young season Thursday.

Dewar scored nine of his game-high 22 points in the first quarter as Western stormed to a 25-7 lead.

Dewar dumped in six more in the second quarter as Western took a 41-24 lead at halftime. The Warriors outscored the Eagles 15-13 in the third quarter.

Junior guard Jenero Dawood added 14 points for the Warriors, and senior forward Jeff Mitchell had 12 points and nine rebounds. Lakeland senior Dan Bahr scored 13 points and senior Jason Mayes 11.

The Warriors return to the court Monday when they meet Royal Oak Kimball in the opening round of the Walled Lake Western Holiday Invitational.

FLINT CENTRAL 60, RICE 47: Flint Central squandered an only 11-point lead Friday before holding off host Brother Rice.

Leon McDonald and Chris Agwuwa paced Rice (1-3) with 11 points apiece, while Brandt's Leverette had a game-high 21 points for Flint Central.



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