

J&C HOOPS CLASSIC: THIRD-PLACE GAME

Raiders weather storm, edge Twin Lakes, 49-46

Jacobsen, Johnson come up big late

By Clyde Hughes
For the Journal & Courier

Courtney Jacobsen's two free throws with 32.3 seconds remaining allowed Harrison to weather a Twin Lakes comeback for a 49-46 victory in the third-place game of the J&C Hoops Classic at Harrison's May Gymnasium.

Saturday night's victory improves Harrison to 3-1, its best start since the 2003-04 season when the Raiders went 13-9 under current West Lafayette coach Jane Schott.

The win also helps soothe, somewhat, the pain of the Raiders' 72-69 overtime loss to Central Catholic in the semifinals.

"It feels great to win, but we expected more, and that's all right," said Jacobsen, who scored 12 points. "Tonight, we just played as a team. Everyone was just working very well together. Even though it wasn't what we wanted, we did very well tonight."

Harrison seemed in position to win the game going away, taking a 44-35 lead after a Claire Muller free throw with 3:15 left in the game.

But Twin Lakes (1-3) started to chip away. Kassie Hunt, who had a school-record 22 rebounds in Friday's loss to Benton Central, had a three-point play on the Indians' next possession to start the rally. Hunt finished with 11 points.



Harrison's Courtney Jacobsen battles Courtney Bowsman for a loose ball Saturday. MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

Laurhen Pickett, who led Twin Lakes with 21 points, scored on a driving layup and then a steal and basket to get the Indians within one possession, 45-42, at the 2:05 mark.

"I'm so proud of our girls with the way they fought back and didn't quit," Twin Lakes coach Brad Bowsman said. "We were able to come back and have an opportunity at the end of the game."

The biggest play of the game came with 52.8 seconds left and Harrison clinging to a 45-43 lead. Autumn Ringen, who led the Raiders with 16 points, made her first free throw but missed her second.

Forward Shailen Johnson swooped into the lane to get the rebound and was fouled by Elizabeth Propes, her fifth.

Johnson made one of two free throws, giving Harrison a four-point lead and putting Twin Lakes in a position where it had to foul once it scored.

After Twin Lakes

point guard Courtney Bowsman converted a three-point play with 40.2 seconds left, the Indians were forced to foul Jacobsen.

"We have an experienced team, so that helped us," Ringen said about the game's ending. "Sometimes we get a little nervous, but we just have to calm down and keep our composure. That's one of our main goals."

Brad Bowsman said he saw several positives Twin Lakes could take from the J&C Classic despite going 1-2.

"We've made a lot of progress from our first game, but it's just a matter that we have to keep improving," Bowsman said. "We didn't execute on offense as well as we needed to."

Both teams struggled offensively, with Harrison shooting 28.9 percent from the field (13 for 49) compared to Twin Lakes' 30.5 percent (18 for 59). The Raiders made up for it, though, with a 48-39 rebounding edge.

J&C HOOPS CLASSIC: FIFTH-PLACE GAME

West Side stymies Mavs

Defense carries Red Devils to 47-30 win

By Sam King
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West Lafayette's young squad is starting to figure things out.

After three losses, the Red Devils have put together consecutive victories.

On Thursday night, West Lafayette's offense started knocking down open shots. On Saturday, the Red Devils executed their defensive plan to near perfection in a 47-30 victory over McCutcheon in the fifth-place game of the J&C Hoops Classic.

"Everyone really came together tonight, and there was so much energy and we were doing what we needed to and executed the offense," said junior Lorelei Turner, who scored 19 points.

Turner averaged 16.7

points and 6.3 rebounds in leading WL (2-3) to a 2-1 record in the J&C Hoops Classic and earning one of five spots on the all-tournament team.

For McCutcheon, it was a forgettable performance coming off of Thursday's victory over Frankfort.

West Side forced Mavericks junior standout guard Kerstyn Lowery into early foul trouble and frustrated her defensively. She shot 4 of 14 from the field and scored 11 points before fouling out.

Overall, McCutcheon was just 11 for 44 and did not make a field goal in the fourth quarter.

"(West Lafayette coach) Jane Schott has always done a great job with defense," McCutcheon coach Jeff Knoy said. "They were physical. I tried to tell them, 'You know what you've got coming.'" But from warmups to

the final seconds of the game, Knoy saw a lack of effort from his team as West Lafayette defeated the Mavericks for the third straight time.

It was West Lafayette's varsity newcomers who helped shoulder the load while senior Shelby Mann finished with seven assists.

Freshman Kaia Harris pulled down a game-high six rebounds and sophomore Maggie Wodicka scored seven of her nine points during WL's 9-0 run that ended the first half.

"Somebody said before the game that this is a lot of games for us early on, but as a coach, it's good for our young kids because they just need to get on the floor and play," Schott said. "Kaia was big on the boards for us and Maggie is getting more and more comfortable, and they are starting to figure out their role. If everybody does that, we'll be pretty good."

J&C HOOPS CLASSIC: SEVENTH-PLACE GAME

Frankfort defeats Lafayette Jeff

By Ken Thompson
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With just one senior among its top nine players, Frankfort's girls basketball team would appear to be at a disadvantage against a senior-laden Lafayette Jeff squad in the seventh-place game of the J&C Hoops Classic.

But five of those nine are juniors with up to three years of varsity experience for the Hot Dogs, and that on-court maturity paid off with a 55-47 victory.

Frankfort (1-3) withstood several charges by Lafayette Jeff in the second half after a first half that saw several lead changes until Cassidy Dubree's steal and basket gave the Hot Dogs a 24-22 halftime advantage.

"I thought we had kids step up and show a lot of guts and a lot of heart," Frankfort coach Andy Ross said. "We were not going to be denied today. We came in with a mindset we were going to get a win, and they did whatever it took to do that, whether it be diving on the floor, getting a big re-

bound or hitting a free throw."

There were several examples of Frankfort doing what it took to win:

"Dubree, all 5-foot-5 of her, pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds to go with eight points.

"I go get the ball," Dubree said. "I act like they're not bigger than me, like I'm the biggest person out there. I feel like I want it more than the other girls."

"Sophomore Jacinda Perry, one of the two youngest players on the court Saturday, scored 19 points and was 7 of 7 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter.

"Junior guard Taylor Kirby, a three-year starter, overcame early foul trouble to score 14 points and took control of the ball when turnovers were coming in bunches for both teams.

"Samantha Henderson, the Hot Dogs' only senior starter, struggled offensively but grabbed nine rebounds and blocked three shots.

"It was a good victory for us in the respect that it showed our inner charac-

ter and our determination," Ross said.

Sophomore Rylie Pittard matched Perry with 19 points for Lafayette Jeff (0-4).

BISON

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points and 12 rebounds. For the tournament, Coffman averaged 18 points and eight rebounds, earning Most Valuable Player honors.

"We told our outside shooters that we have to dish it more to the post because we have a major height advantage," Coffman said. "Luckily, it helped."

Central Catholic, with some players still fatigued from a state finals run in volleyball, came off Friday night's emotional 72-69 overtime victory. On Saturday, CC took an early 18-16 lead, but Maddie Tolen responded with a 3-pointer on the other end and the Bison never trailed again.

The Knights (2-1) shot 16 for 63 (25.4 percent).

"Our whole team is dead. That game (against Harrison) killed us," Denhart said. "This is our first week back, and I think it showed towards the end of the week that we are not totally in basketball shape yet."

Denhart's 3-pointer with five seconds left in the third quarter cut the BC lead to 33-32 and provided hope before Brouillette's bomb.

Central Catholic was trying to win the tournament for the first time and become the fifth different team to win the



Benton Central's Katie Shields puts up a shot over Angela Tharp of Central Catholic. MICHAEL HEINZ/J&C

girls J&C Hoops Classic. The Knights lost to McCutcheon in 2009 in their only previous trip to the championship.

On Saturday night, the bigger Bison were dominant in the paint, with Coffman leading the way. Junior Evonnie Payne had 16 rebounds and six points and joined Coffman on the all-tournament team. Katie Shields provided 10 points and six rebounds.

"They just worked so hard and they want to keep the tradition alive," BC coach David Baxter said of his team, which lost three starters from last year's 22-4 squad. "They put in a lot of work this summer. I am proud

of their effort."

The Bison missed crucial free throws that could have sealed the game down the stretch before Tolen, a freshman who inherits the No. 12 jersey worn the last four years by her sister, the school's all-time scoring leader, sealed the game with two foul shots with seven seconds remaining. Tolen finished with nine points.

Denhart led Central Catholic with a double-double, providing 18 points and 12 rebounds. Denhart averaged 16.3 points and 10.3 rebounds in the tournament. Cameron Onken scored 20 points but did so on 4-of-25 shooting.

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