

Eagles Hold Off Washington To Notch 52-50 League Win

By MO KROCHMAL
Special to the
West Craven Highlights
Washington head coach Dave Smith tossed out a few "what-ifs" Friday night after his Pam Pack cagers fell to Coastal Conference host West Craven 52-50. The loss snapped a two-game win streak and averted a Pack triple-header sweep as the girls triumphed 39-32 and the junior varsity held on for a 68-63 win. "I don't know if one second would have made a difference," said Smith.

The second Smith noted came at the last of the game when Washington had an inbounds opportunity under its basket.

Smith felt the clock had not been stopped quickly enough when the Pack gained possession. "I thought we had two seconds," Smith said.

With just one tick showing, Washington attempted an inbounds play that was blocked out-of-bounds by West Craven. The scoreboard clock reflected no time remaining as Washington reset its inbounds play. But the pass hit a Pack player's hand just as the buzzer terminated the contest and ignited an Eagle celebration.

Washington went into the contest without the services of standout guard Joe Daniels, who was disqualified from playing due to academic ineligibility.

"I know Daniels meant more to us than two points," Smith said. Daniels had averaged 14.6 points a game in 14 games this season.

But it wasn't guard play that was the culprit against West Craven. It was a 15-4 scoring run at the start of the second period that cost the Pam Pack dearly.

On that run, the Eagles chopped 27-16 halftime deficit to a 33-31 lead with 2:27 to play in the third period. From there, West Craven went on to lead by as much as 13 points before the Pam Pack made a fourth-quarter rally.

Trailing 50-37 with 3:24 to play, guard Nico Hines canned back-to-back three-pointers, cleared the boards and went to the floor for a loose ball as Washington closed the margin to 50-43 with 2:21 remaining.

West Craven ballooned its margin to 51-43 as guard Willie Manley hit the back end of a two-shot free-throw opportunity.

But another Hines' bucket, on an assist from freshman Jason Smith after a flurry of offensive rebounds, narrowed the margin to 51-45.

Washington closed the gap to 51-47 as Donnell Albritton scored on a follow with 40 seconds remaining.

West Craven added a free-throw by Manley to improve its lead to 52-47 with 22 seconds remaining.

The Pack then tried a three-point which was off-target and

recovered by West Craven. The Pack fouled and regained possession after the free-throw rattled off the rim.

Hines canned a three-pointer from the left side with approximately three seconds left. However, the clock ticked down and the Pack recovered possession with the scoreboard listing one second remaining.

Hines finished as the only Washington player in double-figures scoring with 25 points. Manley finished as the only Eagle in double figures with 21 points while Keith Roundtree, a 6-7 senior, added nine.

The Eagles dominated the boards in the second half after Washington controlled the first half. Both teams finished with 29 rebounds.

Ryan Dixon led the Pack with 12 grabs.

Smith credited his team's comeback and cited West Craven's play early in the second half.

"They (West Craven) did a pretty decent job on the boards in the second half," he said. "They got on a roll; Roundtree got loose early and scored some easy buckets and they hit some timely three-pointers."

"We did a good job in coming back."

In the girls' game, the Pam Pack rolled to its 11th consecutive win behind a 17-point, 10-rebound effort from six-footer Tonya Holley in a game slowed by numerous and sometimes questionable calls.

"I think the officials knew this game was for first place (in the conference standings)," said Lady Pack coach Donald Gibbs in trying to rationalize the numerous calls. "There were some big bodies out there and a lot of 'bodying-up'."

The numerous calls slowed the game to crawl the first three quarters.

Washington, after trailing 21-18 at the half, took the lead with 2:20 to play in the third quarter as Holley notched a three-point play on a drive, pushing the Pack to a 27-24 advantage.

However, with approximately six minutes to play, the Lady Pack's DeeAnna Davis exited the game after taking a blow to the chin that opened a cut requiring a trip to the hospital for stitches.

Washington stiffened defensively in the final three minutes while Sonya Reddick scored four points and Holley added one. The Lady Pack defense limited West Craven to two points on a pair of free throws in the final two minutes.

Gibbs said a change in the Lady Pack's defense at the half was pivotal.

"We went from a triangle-and-one with a chaser to a box-and-one with the defender on Chundra Croell," said Gibbs.

He also cited the reserve play of freshmen Keisha Riddick and Allison Bron.

"Keisha came in for Katherine Occhipinti, who got in foul trouble and Allison took over when Davis got hurt," Gibbs said. "They did a good job."

Gibbs was pleased with the Lady Pack's week.

"We beat Havelock, which was ranked No. 1 and then beat West Carteret, which was ranked No. 3. Then we beat West Craven, which was ranked No. 6," he noted. "This was a great week for us. We dedicated ourselves and worked hard."

West Craven was led by Croell's 13 points while Evelyn Bimmer chipped in with 10.

In the junior varsity game, the junior Pack held off a furious fourth-quarter West Craven rally with free throws.

Washington's Mike Moore, a six-footer, hit 9-of-10 charity attempts in the fourth quarter and finished 14-of-17 from the line. Rod Gorham, a 5-11 performer, added a 4-for-4 effort from the line in the final frame en route to a game-high and season-high 22-point outing as the junior Pack improved to 10-3 overall and 3-1 in the conference.

West Craven trailed 48-34 at the end of the third quarter but sizled from the three-point line, hitting five in the fourth quarter and finishing with eight.

West Craven's Billy Dail bucketed a wild throw that clanked off the back of the rim and in to cut the margin to 66-63 with 21 seconds remaining. However, Moore iced the contest with a pair of free tosses as West Craven exited 5-8 overall and 1-3 in the conference.

Washington jayvee coach Sam Leggett praised his players for "staying with it."

"They just kept going," he said.

In addition to the scoring spree by Gorham and Moore, Walter Rasby added 17 points. Moore led the Pack with 10 rebounds while Gorham dealt out five assists.

West Craven was led by Dail's 13 pints while Nathan Rouse added 12 and Johnny Gatling, who hit two three pointers, had nine points.

The Lady Pack solidified its hold on first place in the conference standings with a 5-0 loop record and a 12-1 overall worksheet while West Craven fell to 9-6 overall and 3-2 in the conference.

The Pam Pack boys exited with a 3-2 Coastal worksheet and a 12-3 overall record while West Craven improved to 4-1 in the conference and 10-5 overall.



Vanceboro Where?

The members of the Vanceboro Fire Department have been discussing the Vanceboro Fire Department. That's not unusual, you might say. But they are not talking about the fire department you think they are talking about. The local fire department was contacted a few months ago by one of the members of the Vanceboro Fire Department in Maine. Like its sister city in the south, Maine's version of Vanceboro is also a small town. The town is located on the U.S.-Canadian border.

The firemen are also volunteers (top photo) and have corresponded and traded fire department patches with local firemen. The southern firemen have presented their northern counterparts with a certificate of honorary membership. The northern firemen are asking anyone from the Vanceboro, N.C. area traveling in their area to "drop by and say hello and enjoy the hospitality from the folks in Vanceboro, — Maine, that is." The bottom photo shows a dam and the U.S. Customs office.

Down East Cooking

By REBA W. MITCHELL
There are many kinds of soups and stews that make a hearty meal or give a great boost to a cold winter day. Vegetable soup made with a good meaty stock is a favorite with many, but yet there are those always searching for a new recipe with a different twist. If you have to be away from home all day, soups are very good cooked in a crock pot. It is wonderful to come home and find a steaming pot of soup ready to eat on a cold winter evening

Split Pea Soup
1 1/2 cups dried split green peas
4 1/2 cups cold water
1 large sliced onion
1 cup diced celery
1/2 diced cooked ham
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
3 cups milk
Combine peas and water in medium dutch oven. Cover and let soak overnight.
Place dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion, ham, salt, celery and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cover. Simmer for three hours, stirring occasionally.
Add milk and heat just to boiling. Stir occasionally.
Serve hot. Yields 2 quarts.

German Beef Noodle Soup
1 3-lb. boneless chuck roast
1 medium sliced onion
1 tbs. vegetable oil
2 qts. water
2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
4 medium chopped tomatoes
Homemade noodles
Brown roast and onion in oil in a large dutch oven. Add water, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer about 3 1/2 hours. Cut roast in bite-size bits. Stir in half of noodles and all of tomatoes. Reserve remaining noodles for use in other

recipes. Cover and simmer 30 minutes until noodles are tender. Serve at once.
Noodle recipe in next week's column.

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