

Girls Basketball

Sweet Home learns lesson, picks up key road win

Sweet Home cleaned up its mistakes from a 65-51 road loss at Kenmore East last Tuesday to register a huge 50-41 road win at Orchard Park on Thursday.

Tied at 33, Sweet Home outscored the Lady Quakers, 17-8, in the final five minutes, including nine free throws, to improve to 2-1 in ECIC Division I.

"This was an important win for us against a good Orchard Park team on the road," said Sweet Home coach Matt LaRoach. "Going into this game, we knew what we had to work on from Tuesday night's game and the key to our success would be playing four strong quarters of basketball... Ultimately, I thought that we did a nice job of playing a complete game on both ends of the court. Our defense was better and on the offensive end, we were able to finish more shots."

Sweet Home led OP 12-10 after the first quarter, 21-18 at halftime and 33-28 after the third quarter.

Ellie Allen led all scorers with 19 points. She also pulled down 12 rebounds and dished out five assists. Forward Kiaya Burks scored seven of her 15 points in the fourth quarter. She also grabbed 11 rebounds. Burks, along with Nadia Durno (six points) and Coretta Davis (four



Ellie Allen (11) led all scorers with 19 points as Sweet Home won at Orchard Park, 50-41, on Thursday.

Photo by John Normile

points) played strong inside, said LaRoach.

OP was led by Mandy Sahhar's 13

points and Elizabeth Holly's 11.

Allen's 20 points was not enough to defeat Kenmore East, a Ni-

gara-Frontier League powerhouse.

Tied at 11-11 after the first quarter, Sweet Home went into an

offensive lull in the second and third quarter and were outscored 41-21 to trail 52-32 by the end of the third.

"We needed to play four strong quarters of basketball, especially against a good team like Ken East," said LaRoach. "I was happy with how we started and finished the game. Unfortunately, we didn't play a complete game."

Burks (13 points) and Davis (12 points) helped Allen on the offensive end.

"I really thought Kiaya Burks did a nice job for us in the fourth, scoring six of her 13 in that quarter," said LaRoach. "Ellie Allen continues to play very consistent basketball for us. Also, Coretta Davis is starting to put consistent games together."

Kenmore East was led by Meaghan Freund and Kacie Mills' 17 points each. Jazmine Broas added 14.

Sweet Home, 2-4 overall, hosted Clarence Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Williamsville North at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

"I am noticing our progress and am excited about where we need to go to close out a very challenging December schedule," said LaRoach.

Seniors, Wallden big in East league wins

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville East's seniors plus junior Brian Wallden were the keys in the Flames' ECIC Division II league wins at Hamburg, 71-63, on Tuesday, Dec. 12 and at home over Iroquois, 66-32, on Friday.

Wallden, 6-foot-6, overpowered 6-foot-9 Blake McLimans of Hamburg, scoring 24 points, 20 rebounds, and five blocks.

Wallden was double and triple-teamed early in the first half but the Flames made them pay with three-pointers by junior Mark Guenther and senior Rick Silvestri in the first quarter and two straight by senior Adam Kausch at the beginning of the second quarter. When Hamburg switched to a man-to-man defense, Wallden scored 12 points in the second quarter.

"He was the key to this game," said East coach Dennis Belote. "He was 6-for-6 from the foul line and 9-for-11 from the field and blocked three or four of McLimans' shots."

Senior Andy Heim chipped in an all-around game with 14 points, eight rebounds, six assists, and five steals. Silvestri scored six of his 14 in the fourth, including a crucial three to put East ahead by 11 with a minute left. He also grabbed eight rebounds and dished four assists.

Kausch scored seven. Mike Ferguson, another senior, scored all five of his points in the fourth. Senior Nick Kanutsu added four.

"It was a well-played game," said Belote. "We shot well from the field, were 13-for-14 from the foul line and hit six threes. Our senior kids came through."

Hamburg was up 18-14 after the first quarter but East led the rest of the way, taking a 36-28 halftime lead and 53-38 after the third quarter. They were up by as many as 16 in the fourth before Hamburg went on a mini-run at the end.

East's great week continued against Iroquois. The Flames were ahead 16-2 after the first quarter, 31-16 at halftime and 49-25 after the third quarter.

"We played good defense and we ran (the floor)," said Belote. "I played nine guys in the first quarter so we always kept fresh legs in the game."

Heim led with 14 points and seven assists in 20 minutes. Wallden tossed in a double-double (12 points, 20 rebounds) and four blocks in 16 minutes. Andy's younger brother, Pete, a sophomore, was called up from JV and scored nine points.

Belote also lauded the work of Justin Andreozzi (six points), Guenther, Aaron Tichenor and Mike Rath (five points). Kanutsu tossed in eight.

Division-leading East (5-1, 3-0) hosts Lake Shore at 7:30 p.m. Thursday before playing Riverside at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27 in the Clarence Tournament. The consolation and finals are Dec. 28. Clarence and Niagara-Wheatfield are also involved.

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Sacred Heart improves to 6-0

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Sacred Heart (6-0) remained undefeated in varsity girls basketball after defeating St. Francis Prep of New York City, 66-49, at Canisius High School on Friday as part of the inaugural Tom Keenan Memorial Tournament.

The event was named after the former St. Francis Prep and Canisius High coach who died at age 51 of cancer exactly three years ago to the date of the Sharks' game.

"He was an outstanding man," said Sacred Heart coach Sister Maria Pares, a friend of the Keenan family. "It was a thrill for us to play."

The Sharks opened a 32-24 halftime lead against St. Francis Prep, who plays in the same New York City league with powerhouse Christ The King.

Katie Keller led all scorers with 23 points and hit three three-pointers running the point. Krystal Watson dominated inside with 13 points and 12 rebounds in place of Liz Subjeck, who severely sprained an ankle in gym class earlier in the day.

"She went to physical therapy and there's no ligament damage," said Pares. "We hope to have her back in January."

Alycia Pontello chipped in 13 points for the Sharks.

"It was probably the best offensive game we played as a team," said Pares. "Different kids contributed. Our press worked well. We played good defense. Thank goodness the offense started to come together."

Sacred Heart opened the week with a 56-25 non-league win on Monday, Dec. 18 over Hutch-Tech.

Sacred Heart led 21-7 at halftime. Pontello and Watson had 10 points each.

"They're going to be pretty good



Krystal Watson (45) had 13 points and 12 rebounds in Sacred Heart's 66-49 win over St. Francis Prep from New York City in the Tom Keenan Memorial Tournament on Friday at Canisius High School.

Photo by John Rusac

in the city league," said Pares. "They were a pretty solid team and quick. I thought our offense really came of age against them."

Sacred Heart returns to action on Dec. 27 against Holy Angels in the first round of the Fredonia Tournament. Consolation and fi-

nals are Dec. 29 against Fredonia or Frontier.

"I'm pleased with our progress," said Pares. "I'm happy because we have a great bunch of kids. The more we play, the better we'll get."

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