



Amherst Central's Chris France (12) gets off a shot during the Tigers' 76-74 overtime road win at Hamburg on Jan. 9. France finished with 23 points. Amherst, 4-1, in ECIC Division II, also won at Lake Shore, 64-49, on Friday. Also pictured is Viron Hale.

Photo by John Normile

Freeman keys Amherst road league wins

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Cordell Freeman was huge in Amherst Central's recent road league wins.

Freeman finished with 23 points and scored the game-winning basket to beat Hamburg, 76-74, in overtime last Tuesday then had a career-high 34 points in the Tigers' 64-49 road win at Lake Shore on Friday.

Freeman also played big on the boards, grabbing 11 against Hamburg and 14 versus Lake Shore. He also had eight assists against Hamburg.

The Tigers led Hamburg, 21-12, after the first quarter and, 36-35, at halftime, but trailed, 54-47, after the third quarter.

Amherst would take a 69-66 advantage with 8.7 seconds left in regulation but the Bulldogs' Chris Mims (30 points) hit a running jumper from the top of the key, which was first signaled as a two-point basket but later overturned for a three, to send the game into overtime.

Down 74-72 in the extra session, Amherst's trap defense forced a Hamburg dribbler out of bounds. On the ensuing possession, Chris France (23 points, three three's, three rebounds, three steals) tied the game with a short jumper.

Hamburg immediately inbounded the ball and initially got past Freeman. But to Freeman's cred-

it, he back-tipped the ball to Troy Martin on a great hustle play to set up a two-on-one with three seconds left. As the Hamburg defender jumped towards France, he sent a bounce pass to Freeman, who laid it in at the buzzer.

Amherst coach Mike Chatelle lauded the rebounding of Freeman, Will Gowen (13 points, three three's nine rebounds) and Viron Hale (seven points, 10 rebounds).

"Cordell, Viron and Will did a great job limiting them to one shot throughout the game," said Chatelle.

Matt Krajna added four points and did a good job of keeping Hamburg off the boards, Chatelle added.

Amherst trailed Lake Shore, 11-5, after the first quarter, but used a strong second, 17-5, and third, 24-12, quarter to claim another road win. Freeman scored 24 of his 34 points in the second and third.

"He took control," said Chatelle. "When he caught the ball, he drove to the basket and created some mismatch problems."

France (11 points), Martin (eight points) and Gowen (eight points) also chipped in on offense for the Tigers.

Amherst (4-1, 6-4) played at Williamsville East on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press.

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Scary injury suspends OP-North boys hoops game

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North's home basketball game with Orchard Park from last Thursday will conclude at 12:30 p.m. this Saturday because of injuries to two Quaker players.

Tied at 35-35 with 1:49 remaining in the third quarter, OP point guard Andy Buyea and shooting guard Jim Brewer collided while attempting to grab an offensive rebound.

North coach Chuck Swierski said Buyea went over Brewer in an attempt to grab the rebound. As Buyea was going over, he accidentally hit Brewer in the back of the neck. Buyea hit his chin on the floor, fell unconscious, and had a seizure.

"I immediately asked the guy working at the scorer's table to call 911 and get an ambulance right away," Swierski said. "Luckily, one of our proctors was the school nurse, Elaine Herberger."

Buyea and Brewer were each taken to Erie County Medical Center where they were treated for concussions. Swierski said Brewer was cleared to

practice on Monday.

Swierski said he, assistant coach Bill Gorman and seniors Alex Calderon, Zach Boron and John Ticco visited Buyea and Brewer later that night.

"It was a lot scarier looking than it actually turned out to be," said Swierski.

Swierski made the decision to suspend the game. "Continuing the game was the wrong thing to do," said Swierski.

Until the injury, it was a game of runs. North jumped out to a 12-2 first quarter lead and were ahead, 14-8, at the end of the quarter. Up 20-10 in the second quarter, OP answered with 11 straight points. North scored the next six to take a 29-26 halftime lead.

Alex Barth was leading the Spartans with 10 points.

Besides the OP makeup, the Spartans host Jamestown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. They played at Lancaster on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press.

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South responds with defensive road win

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Coming off its worst effort of the season in a 61-52 non-league game at Clarence last Tuesday, Williamsville South clamped down defensively at Iroquois on Thursday to remain alone atop ECIC Division II.

South shot 40 percent (6-of-15) from three-point range and held Iroquois to two fourth quarter points and 25 overall in a 51-25 road win.

"I considered Iroquois a must win game," said South coach Al Monaco.

The 25 points allowed breaks a six-year school record for least points allowed (26 in 2000-01 against Pioneer). The Billies have held an opponent to two points in one quarter four other times, the last versus Lackawanna during the 1996-97 season.

Thank goodness South played terrific defense throughout the Iroquois game because its offense did not score in the game's opening three minutes. Iroquois led, 10-8, at the end of the first quarter.

But in the second and third quarters, Adrian Wood made sure the Billies' offense came alive, scoring 10 points in the second quarter and another 10 in the third quarter as South built a 23-15 halftime and 39-23 third quarter lead. Wood finished with 25 points, including a career-high four three's.

Frank Pieri only scored seven points but was a difference inside with 12 rebounds. Mark Coppola (three points, eight assists) and Scott Steimer and P.J. Coppola (five points each) also contributed.

Against Clarence, Monaco doesn't know whether it was because his team was still on an emotional high from beating Williamsville East in a huge ECIC II league the week prior or playing on the road, but the Billies were flat.

"I called my first timeout 22 seconds into the game and we were already down 6-0," said Monaco. "With 50 seconds gone,

I called my second timeout and we were down 10-0."

South trailed, 25-9, at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, Monaco switched to a zone defense to change the tempo of the game and it worked briefly. South trailed, 28-20, with two minutes left in the first half. But the Red Devils ran off the last 10 points to lead 38-20 by halftime.

South trailed, 48-35, after the third quarter.

Pieri led South with 10 points. Spencer McIntyre and P.J. Coppola scored nine points each. Wood finished with only seven points on 3-of-13 shooting. Mark Coppola added eight points.

South only shot 30 percent (13-of-31) from two-point range and 18-of-57 overall.

Greg Stevens (22 points), Drew Bielawski (11 points), Tim Karl (10 points) and Chris Skubis (10 points) paced Clarence's offense.

South (6-6, 5-1) travels to Hamburg at 7:30 p.m. on Friday. Hamburg is the only team to have beaten South in ECIC II this season.

Williamsville East

By the time the Flames figured out how to handle St. Joe's, the outcome was already decided.

Trailing 63-35 after the third quarter, East switched to a

straight man to man pressure defense and outscored St. Joe's, 25-12, in the fourth to cut the final deficit to 75-60.

"We played a passive man to man half court defense early because we wanted to make sure they don't get fastbreak layups but we gave them too much room to maneuver and they did what they wanted," said East coach Dennis Belote. "In the third, we went to a full court press but left them too much room and they found the open man and hit three three's. They seemed to collapse when we pressured them in the fourth which was surprising."

St. Joe's led, 19-12, at the end of the first quarter and 39-25 by halftime.

East's Brian Wallden led all scorers with 25 points. He also grabbed 15 rebounds and blocked six shots. Andy Heim added 11 points. Chris Schiumo scored eight fourth quarter points (two three's, two free throws) and held St. Joe's Domonic Cook (18 points) scoreless in the three minutes he guarded him.

East (6-5, 3-2) hosted Amherst on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They travel to West Seneca East at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

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Sweet Home

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came out on fire. It seemed everything that they threw up was going in and every ball seemed to fall in their hands. At the half, we talked about our defense and we made some adjustments and played a much better second half."

Allen led Sweet Home with 14 points and six assists. Coretta Davis scored 14 points. Cannizzo scored 11. Clarence was led by Brianna Nemmer's 21 points.

Sweet Home (4-4, 5-8) hosts Jamestown at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

LaRoach said his team needs to get back to basics. "We need to get back to some of our basics and fundamentals and reinforce what we are good at which is our intensity, defense, and fundamentals," he said. "We have a lot of practice time over the next two weeks and we need it right now as we prepare for some upcoming league games. I believe in this team. We have a lot of potential. It is now a matter of playing consistent basketball for four full quarters on a nightly basis. The girls need to understand that everyone has a role on the team and that every one of them needs to excel at their individual role to help the team succeed."

Sports brief

Allison Boehm finished with 14 points, seven rebounds, four assists and four steals in the St. John Fisher College women's basketball team's 52-51 win over host Keuka College in the opening round of the JPMorgan Chase Scholarship Tournament on Jan. 9. Boehm is a Sacred Heart Academy graduate and Cheektowaga resident.