

Freeman shows up, nets career high against South

Wood eclipses 1,000 points against Timon

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Cordell Freeman made sure he didn't miss Amherst Central's home game with Williamsville South last Thursday.

Freeman scored a career-high 44 points, hit a school-record seven three-pointers, grabbed nine rebounds and made four steals in the Tigers' 68-58 victory.

The win puts Amherst in sole first place of ECIC Division II at 6-1. South fell to 6-2.

Freeman opened and closed the game by stealing the ball from South point guard Mark Coppola and slamming it home with right-handed dunks. Freeman scored the first 10 points of the game and had 21 by halftime.

"The last time they beat us I missed the bus (and couldn't play)," said Freeman. "It was a big game and I wanted to come out and do what I had to do to pull our team to victory."

"I think (missing the bus) was part of the motivation but these teams know each other so well," said Amherst coach Mike Chatelle. "I think he really wanted it bad."

"He had a great game," said South coach Al Monaco. "You have to give him credit. He was outstanding. No matter what we tried he beat us. I thought we contested a lot of his shots that he put in. He's just a great player."

The 44 points ranks Freeman only behind Chris Gadley's 50 from the 2004-05 season for most points scored in a game for an Amherst player.

"I told the kids it's nice when someone scores like that but other kids are getting him the ball," added Chatelle. "It's a great accomplishment but really is a team win."

With Freeman and a zone defense, Amherst jumped out to a 26-14 first quarter lead. Monaco switched his team's defense to a zone in the second quarter to

change up the tempo and it worked. Amherst didn't score until 3:02 left in the half, were outscored, 11-5, but still led, 31-25, at halftime.

South continued its zone defense in the third, holding Amherst scoreless for almost four minutes and took a 33-31 lead after Adrian Wood was fouled by Andre Hakeem. Wood missed the ensuing free throw, tied it at 35-35, but the Billies never recovered.

"After we took the lead, I guarantee for the rest of the quarter we had more turnovers than shots," said Monaco. "We self-destructed in a lot of ways, many times from turnovers they made. They're a good team and took advantage of that."

"We also did not advantage of them not scoring for the first four minutes," Monaco continued. "That was our opportunity. We took a lead and did nothing to create space between us and them. Once we gave up that opportunity, that was it."

South finished with 25 turnovers.

Chatelle told his team at halftime to show the defensive intensity from the first quarter in the second half.

"Their defense should not have forced us to play defense any less," said Chatelle. "I think they took that to heart."

Five other Tigers scored besides Freeman but the highest was six by Chris France. Hale (five points, nine rebounds), Mike Yannity and Troy Martin (three points each) and Hakeem (two points) also chipped in on offense. Will Gowen grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked two shots. Chatelle also liked the minutes from Pete Caffarelli and Matt Krajna.

Wood finished with 16 points but was 1-of-6 from three-point range and 4-of-12 from two-pointers. Frank Pieri added 12 points on 6-of-14 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds. Scott Steimer chipped in 10 points.

Amherst, 8-4 overall, played at West Seneca East on Tuesday and travel to Maryvale for a non-league game at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

"The league is pretty competitive so we wanted to control our own destiny," said Chatelle. "It's up to us to practice hard and play hard so hopefully good things will come."

South closed out the week with



Williamsville South's Adrian Wood lays in two of his 16 points against Amherst. Wood would score 20 against Bishop Timon-St. Jude on Friday to give him 1,012 for his career. He is the fourth Billie to go over 1,000 points. Also pictured is Amherst's Pete Caffarelli.

Photo by Joe Eberle
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a 61-47 home loss against Bishop Timon-St. Jude on Friday.

The only good that came from it was Wood scored 20, giving him 1,012 career points. Mike Mitchell ('92, 1,321), Dave Niland ('85, 1,169) and Tony Jones ('97, 1,104) are the only South players ahead of him. He also hit three three's to give him 49 career treys, placing him 13th all-time.

Wood scored point number 1,001 on a fastbreak layup from Coppola in the first quarter. The game was stopped and Wood was given a gold-painted basketball signed by the entire team.

Wood finished the quarter with nine points as South trailed, 18-11. He added another nine in the second quarter to cut Timon's lead to two, 31-29, by halftime.

The Billies followed with its worst quarter of the season. Timon outscored South, 18-2, before

P.J. Coppola (10 points) hit a three at the end of the third.

"That may be the worst, unemotional stretch of basketball we've played all year," said Monaco. "We were just there. That's about it."

Pieri was held to six shots and only scored four points. He also hauled in eight rebounds. Mark Coppola had four points and seven assists, six coming in the first half. Most of his assists were to Wood.

Timon's Steve Bryant hit 6-of-7 three's to finish with 20 points.

South (7-8) played at Lake Shore on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host West Seneca West at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

"If we come out and play hard, everything should work out," said Monaco.

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Amherst Central's Cordell Freeman drives past Williamsville South's Mark Coppola during first half action last Thursday at Amherst. Freeman scored a career-high 44 points in the Tigers' 68-58 win. The victory also put Amherst in sole possession of first place in ECIC Division II.

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Amherst's Devlin takes second again at tourney

Amherst Central's Steve Devlin placed second in another tournament, this time at the Lew-Port Lancer's Pete Rao Memorial Invitational this past weekend.

Devlin, 21-5, has placed second in each tournament he has wrestled in this year.

Devlin lost in the 135-pound Lew-Port finals to Fredonia's Kenny Betts. Devlin pinned Justin Monroe from Franklinville in the first round, then defeated Nic Smith from Maryvale, 9-5.

Amherst coach Dennis Bauer said Devlin continues to be ranked in the top six in his weight in Western New York.

At the Lew-Port JV meet, freshman Nick Celano finished 4-1 to finish third at 119. Freshman Steve Graser placed fourth at 103. Sophomores Nick Hernandez (152) and Corey Damon (171) also won multiple matches.

Williamsville South

The Billies had three place finishers at the Lew-Port JV meet.

Justin St. George (103) and John Willet (140) each took third. Luke Falzone was fourth at 96. Willet had to beat teammate Mike Ehrenreich for third. Nicholas Green won 7-2 at 125 for his first victory.

The South varsity team lost a 44-27 dual with Canisius on Monday.

Falzone and Tom Darnley won exhibition matches at 96 and 275, respectively. Falzone won by technical fall, Darnley by pinfall.

Senior captain Bill Truesdell had a late pinfall in the third period. Elliott Frank pinned at 215.

South wrestles at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at Starpoint and hosts Williamsville North at 6 p.m. on Friday.

U-12 soccer

Wave shuts out Rovers

The Akron Wave defeated the Amherst Rovers, 3-0, in a U-12 indoor Amherst Soccer Association, Buffalo Western New York Junior Soccer League travel game held on Friday.

Akron scored two early goals but the Amherst Rovers remained undaunted, playing hard throughout and dominating during several stretches. Despite numerous close calls they just couldn't find the net.

Akron would add one more goal late to make the final 3-0.

Offensively, Rover Julia Newton nearly scored a couple times, including a shot that went through the goalies' legs, but a defenseman dove in to stop it just in time. Teammate Julia Struble was in good position to nearly score when a corner kick came to her in front of the net.

Courtney Sugarman blasted one off the Akron goalie and shot another one wide after she stole it from the defense deep in Akron's end. Maria Laforayra was relentless on offense, pressuring defenders at every turn and setting up several scoring chances.

Defensively, the Rovers' Jade Brooks owned the midfield and made several plays as the last defense back. Colleen Stelley had some big blasts that got the ball from deep in Amherst's end up to midfield and beyond. Emily Saint knocked a ball out of bounds of the Akron player on a two on one and made several other good defensive plays in front of Amherst's net. Kali James held the line in Amherst's end, repeatedly turning back Lockport players trying to get in deep. Joy Thompson's goaltending kept Amherst within two for most of

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