

Wallden's 1,000 point plateau highlights rough week for East



Brian Wallden became the fifth boys basketball player at Williamsville East to score over 1,000 point in a career.

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Brian Wallden put himself into some elite company at Lancaster last Friday.

The Williamsville East senior hit two free throws with under 30 seconds remaining to go over 1,000 points for his career.

Wallden is fifth all-time at the school in scoring. The next closest player with over 1,000 points at East is Dave Wert (1,054).

"I knew I had a pretty good shot based on how I was scoring over the past few games," said Wallden. "It was pretty intense and stressful before I finally got it but it worked out well."

Wallden likes the accolades but is more concerned with how the team is playing. East lost to Lancaster, 66-57, and capped off a week which also saw them lose to Iroquois, 57-55.

"We're in a slump," said Wallden, who has started since his sophomore year. "Hopefully, we can get out of this and get back to the kind of teams we've had over the past few years."

"It's a good feat for someone who has only played varsity for three years," said East coach Dennis Belote. "He really works hard in practice."

Wallden will attend Penn State University in the fall but only play intramurals or at the club level for the Nittany Lions. He plans on majoring in some type of engineering.

Wallden finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and two blocks against Lancaster.

East's biggest problem against the Redskins, and versus other teams, has been holding onto a lead. The Flames led Lancaster, 18-17, after the first

quarter, trailed 30-27, at halftime, and 44-40, after the third quarter.

East went up by four with four minutes to play but another Achilles heel of theirs, unnecessary turnovers, gave Lancaster back the lead. The Flames had 27 turnovers against the Redskins.

"We stepped out of bounds, traveled, and threw cross court passes out of bounds," said Belote. "We seem to turn the ball over more when we have the lead. We're not making the right passes at the right time. I'm kind of baffled why we turn over the ball so much."

Peter Heim added 12 points against Lancaster. Chris Schiumo had nine points and five assists.

East had almost as many turnovers against Iroquois, committing 25.

Trailing 28-26 at halftime, East battled back to take a 47-44 advantage after the third quarter. Belote said Iroquois took the lead back with 30 seconds to play in the game but threw the ball away and had to foul.

Wallden, tripled teamed all night, had 15 points, 15 rebounds and two blocks. Heim led all scor-

ers with 21. East limited its turnovers to 14 and it resulted in a 79-66 win last Thursday over West Seneca East. The Flames trailed, 21-14, after the first quarter and, 36-34, at halftime before taking a 57-47 advantage after the third quarter.

Wallden had 24 points, 20 rebounds, seven steals and five blocks. Schiumo poured in a career-high 20 points, including six threes. Mark Guenther added 11 points and seven rebounds.

East (8-5, 4-3) doesn't play until 7:30 p.m. on Monday at Sweet Home.

“It was pretty intense and stressful before I finally got it but it worked out well.”

— Brian Wallden,
Williamsville East

Tigers hold on for home win

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

The Amherst Central boys basketball team learned a valuable lesson last week — how to hold on to a lead.

The Tigers led Maryvale, 41-31, after three quarters but was outscored 25-9 in the fourth and lost 56-50. On Thursday, Amherst trailed Starpoint, 22-18, at halftime, but went ahead 37-31 after three quarters and won 47-44.

"After losing the lead and struggling in the first half (against Starpoint), it was nice to be able to come back," said Amherst coach Mike Chatelle. "We could have had some carry over from the Maryvale game but that didn't happen."

The Tigers overcame a 6 for 23 (21 percent) shooting performance against Starpoint in the first half to shoot 11 for 25 (44 percent) in the second half.

Senior Kurt Ebsary and sophomore Nico McLean led the Tigers' second half charge. Ebsary scored nine of his 17 in the third quarter while McLean had eight of his 11 in the third.

Ebsary and McLean were keys for the Tigers' offense at the end

of the game. Ebsary hit a three-pointer with 1:45 remaining in the game to extend Amherst's lead to 46-41. After Starpoint answered with a three, McLean made the front end of a one-and-one with 1.9 seconds to play. He missed the back end of the one-and-one and Starpoint threw up a three-quarter of the court shot that fell short as the regulation buzzer sounded.

While the offense played well in the second half, Chatelle also thought his team's second half half court man-to-man defense was good.

Against Maryvale, Chatelle said his team did not bring the same energy as it did in the first half and was one of the big reasons why the Flyers dominated them in the fourth. Maryvale point guard Brooks Estarfaa and his brother, Blair, each hit a three and scored eight points. Brooks Estarfaa finished with 14. Blair Estarfaa had nine.

"It would have been a quality win but we couldn't seal the deal," said Chatelle.

Maryvale also was more aggressive to the hoop, making 15 of 26 attempts in the game to Amherst's 7 of 12.

Ebsary led Amherst with 12 points. Viron Hale added a double-double, 10 points and 12 rebounds. Geoff Gallson added eight points.

Amherst (4-6, 3-4) hosted Kenmore West but the result was unavailable before The Bee went to press. They play Tonawanda at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

Panthers rout St. Joe's at MLK Classic

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

The Sweet Home boys basketball team looked like its old self against St. Joe's last Saturday at Hutch-Tech.

The Panthers ran off the first 10 points of the game en route to a convincing 74-53 win over the Marauders as part of the MLK Classic. St. Joe's was ranked fifth in Western New York large schools; Sweet Home was unranked.

"It was our best effort of the year," said Sweet Home coach Paul Schintzius. "It felt like we were playing Sweet Home ball again. You couldn't have scripted it any better."

Schintzius could tell his team was ready by the way they were playing in warm-ups.

"They all came back to the bench with a sweat going," said Schintzius. "They looked focused and ready to go. I could tell by their body language that they weren't just there to compete. They wanted to win."

Senior Ali Ramadan paced the Panthers in the first quarter, scoring 11 points on a combination

of jump shots, layups and bank shots. Ramadan finished with 21. Sweet Home was ahead, 18-11, at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, it was Jamel Werts' turn to churn out the points. The senior guard scored 13 of his 22 in the quarter, including three three-pointers, to extend the Panthers' advantage to 39-25.

St. Joe's Matt Spittler (24 points) hit a couple of deep threes to help cut its deficit to 55-45 after the third quarter but Schintzius said his team never allowed the lead to get under double digits.

Sweet Home's also got good contributions from Donny Watkins (13 points), Marcus Johnson (eight points, held St. Joe's Phil Scaffidi to eight) and Brian Pappagallo (six points).

It was the Panthers' first game in eight days. Its scheduled game at Hamburg last Tuesday was postponed because of snow to Tuesday. The result was unavailable before The Bee went to press.

Win or lose Sweet Home (8-4, 5-0) travels to Williamsville South for a 7:30 p.m. tip-off on Friday.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

Lady Tigers' six-game win streak snapped

The Amherst Central girls basketball team (9-5, 5-4) almost overcame a poor shooting first half at Cheektowaga last Friday, falling, 47-46.

The loss snapped Amherst's six-game win streak.

Amherst trailed Cheektowaga, 31-18, at halftime.

Lady Tigers coach JoAnna Fildes said her team changed a few things defensively in the third quarter and her team started to make baskets, outscoring Cheektowaga, 18-4, to take a 36-35 lead.

The fourth quarter went back and forth with Amherst tying the game at 46-46 with 1:03 remaining. With 12 seconds to play, Amherst inbounded the ball and Casey McGuire got a great shot off with about seven seconds to go and was fouled. McGuire could not make the ensuing free throw, Cheektowaga rebounded and went down the court to get fouled with .5 seconds to go. Charnaye Sanders made her first free throw to seal the win.

"It was a great game on both sides," said Fildes. "I commend our kids for keeping their composure

and being able to battle back to gain a lead after being 13 points down."

Jequana Roberts paced Amherst with 14 points. Eva Lankes added eight points. Elana Korn and Amy Simon had seven points each.

Amherst opened its week with a 51-47 overtime win last Wednesday at Springville.

Springville led, 22-21, at halftime but Amherst came out strong in the third quarter, outscoring Springville, 16-8, to gain the lead. Springville's Rachael Stedman tied the game with five seconds remaining on a three-pointer.

In overtime, Jenny Newhouse and Korn scored to get the win. Amherst put a couple of strong defensive series together to make Springville come up with no points in overtime.

Simon led four Lady Tigers in double figures with 14 points. Korn, Newhouse and Lankes each had 10 points.

Amherst hosts Williamsville South in a non-league game at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

STATE AIR HEATING, COOLING & FIREPLACES
SINCE 1954

EXPERIENCED & PROFESSIONAL
DUCT CLEANING
SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS
FREE ESTIMATES

WE WILL SHOW YOU LIVE
WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR DUCT WORK!

523-3890
FINANCING AVAILABLE