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SPORTS

CHS girls bounce back, boys fall in 3OT

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Clinton Red Devils' varsity basketball teams were back on their home court Tuesday night for a doubleheader against Mid-Carolina, and the results were a mixed bag of success and bitter disappointment.

Clinton's girls started the night off strong, picking up a 51-42 victory that moved the team to 13-1 on the season. Head Coach John Gardner said he was proud of the way his team responded with better intensity and focus coming off their first loss of the season last week against Union County. The Red Devils are now 1-1 in the Region 3-3A standings.

De'Shanti Watts led three Clinton players in double figures with 15 points - all coming in the first three quarters. Terriauna Bennett and Tinique Austin each added 10 points for the Red Devils.

The boys' game was far more difficult to handle as Clinton lost despite an 11-point halftime lead before eventually falling to 3-10 on the season, 0-2 in the region with a 72-71 loss in triple overtime. J.D. Payne and Amari Bates continued their strong scoring performances for Clinton, with Payne tallying 33 points and Bates adding 26, but the rest of the team hit five total field goals and shot 1-for-5 from the foul line before eventually succumbing to Mid-Carolina.

Four Rebels scored in double figures to help key the victory.

Clinton visited Newberry for a doubleheader Friday night.

Laurens split: The Laurens Raiders also went 1-1 in their doubleheader Tuesday night against Woodmont, with the girls losing their game and the boys coming out on top.

In the girls' game, a 59-38 loss to the No. 6-ranked team in Class

5A, Laurens was held to 11 total points in the first half and trailed by 21 at the break. Qua Fortson finished with 13 points and was the team's lone player to score in double figures. Raniya Jackson was second on the team in scoring with nine points.

Laurens' girls fell to 5-10 overall, 1-4 in the region standings.

The boys had a better night as the led by six at the half and got 22 points from Dee Foster to spark the team's effort. Christian Anderson added 12 points as Laurens evened its overall record at 8-8 and improved to 3-2 in the region.

Laurens hosted Greenwood Friday night.

LA: Laurens Academy went on the road to take on W.W. King Tuesday, and both teams came away victorious.

The girls picked up a 48-31 victory in their game, with two players scoring in double figures. Ruthie Moore had 21 points to lead the Crusaders, while teammate Jennifer Wu had 15 points. The Crusaders held an eight-point lead at the half before pulling away in the second half.

In the boys' game, a 57-23 victory over LA, Noah Moore had 15 points and hit three 3-pointers, Dawson Foster had 14 points and Charlton McCall added 10 points, including three 3-pointers as well. LA won the game in the middle two quarters by outscoring King 34-9 to break open what had been a five-point game after the first quarter.

LA traveled to Newberry Academy Friday.

Sanders Boys 39, EMS 34: In Monday's contest TyQuavious Johnson had 20 and Gemier Darden had 10 to lead Sanders.

Woodmont 30, Laurens JV Girls 16: On Monday the Raiders got 7 points from Angel Johnson to



Photo by Nick Herman

NOT DENIED — Christian Anderson had 12 points as the Laurens boys' basketball team followed up last Friday's loss to Wade Hampton with a victory over Woodmont Tuesday.

lead the team, but Woodmont outscored Laurens 19-7 in the second half to pick up the victory.

Scores
LA Middle School Boys 22, W.W. King 19
EMS 22, Sanders Girls 18

Football honored: Laurens Academy quarterback Thomas Lowry was named to the HSSR-SCISA 8-Man All-State team.

Lowry threw for 1,938 yards and 23 touchdowns this past season with the Crusaders, while also rushing for 1,027 yards and 12 TDs.

COLLEGE Tennis

Big South announces preseason polls: The Big South Conference announced its preseason tennis rankings Wednesday, and both the Presbyterian men's and women's tennis teams were picked for fifth place.

The men's team tied for fifth place with UNC Asheville, getting 45 points each in the poll. PC's top ranking was a pair of third-place votes. The highest number of votes came in at fifth place for PC, where four voters tabbed the Blue Hose to finish.

Defending tournament champion Campbell earned two first-place votes and finished one point ahead of Winthrop (five first-place votes) with 72 points. Gardner Webb, which had one first-place vote, finished third. Radford, despite finishing eighth in the voting, earned the last first-place vote cast.

The PC women had 56 points to finish in fifth place. Winthrop was a unanimous first-place selection as it earned all 10 top votes. This marks the 16th straight year Winthrop has been selected first.

Campbell finished second with 86 points, 14 points behind Winthrop, and Charleston Southern was third at 81 points.

Defense, 3s boost PC

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Back on its home floor Tuesday evening, the Presbyterian College women's basketball team was trying to get the taste of a disappointing loss to Campbell three days earlier out of its system.

Judging by the way things went at the Templeton Center against Longwood, the Blue Hose did what they set out to do.

Freshman Shamani Stafford had 21 points, including six of PC's season-high tying 16 made 3-point baskets, and the Blue Hose never trailed as they pulled out an 81-66 victory over the visiting Lancers. The victory, which moved PC to 3-10 overall and an even 1-1 in the Big South, also marked the team's highest-scoring game of the season.

"I was really proud of how we shot the ball with confidence. We really haven't shot the ball well in our last two games," PC Head Coach Alaura Sharp said. "The approach going into this game was we'd throw it here, here, here, and we'd knock the shot down."

PC's offense had gone colder over the last five games, failing to shoot better than 40 percent once and going 1-4 in the process - with the only victory coming against College of Charleston. Tuesday night, PC shot 51.9 percent from the field - also a season-best - and went 16-for-26 from 3-point range.

Out of the 28 total field goals PC made in the game, the team assisted on 21 of them. Freshman guard Trinity Johnson led a group off the bench, scoring 10 points and dishing out nine assists in 32 minutes - her second game of at least 30 minutes played this season.

PC was able to limit Longwood's 3-point shooting, holding the Lancers to 3-of-12 shooting from long range, while forcing Longwood into 26

turnovers - which PC turned into 33 points.

If there was one area the defense was not able to do all it wanted it came in defending Dayna Rouse, a 6-foot junior forward. Rouse entered the game shooting 55.6 percent from the field, second-best in the Big South, and turned in an efficient 7-for-9 night from the field for 16 points to go with four rebounds before fouling with 2:35 to go in the game.

As for PC's offense, it also had trouble with turnovers, giving the ball up 25 times. Longwood utilized a 2-2-1 full-court press that, at times, appeared to have PC rattled. But the Blue Hose limited the damage from the turnovers, giving up just 19 points to Longwood. Also, once the Blue Hose were able to get past the press and into their half-court offense, success soon followed.

Presbyterian jumped out of the blocks strong, scoring the first 10 points before Mallory Odell hit a layup with 4 minutes, 58 seconds to break the scoring run. From there the margin remained between 8-12 points, eventually ending the quarter with PC up 19-8 after Riley Hemm hit a 3-pointer with 28 seconds to go in the quarter.

And after Stafford hit a 3-pointer early in the second quarter the Blue Hose never held a lead of less than 10 points the remainder of the night.

"When they started making their run, I thought she stepped up and drained some really big 3s for us," Sharp said of Stafford's overall night. "She plays really fearless for a freshman, and I hope she never loses that."

PC was on the road Thursday night as part of a doubleheader with High Point, but will be back at Templeton Center Saturday afternoon to take on USC Upstate. Saturday's game starts at 2 p.m.



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