SPORTS

Byrnes sweeps by LDHS

By Nick Herman

Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders' varsity basketball teams hit the road Raiders as both the girls and

Laurens' girls gave up 12 straight points in the first quarter and were never able to get their game going, falling 72-37 to the Rebels in the first game of the doubleheader. The boys followed with a spirited fourth-quarter comeback that saw them trim an with the help of two players. Rebels held off the rally and of his 13 points in the quarter, ended up winning 74-64.

Friday when it hosted Emerald.

Byrnes 74, Laurens boys 64: slipping away in the fourth quarter, Byrnes star forward Josh Moore came through with a 10 of his 17 points in the final 2 minutes, 52 seconds to help the Rebels hold off the Raiders' comeback hopes.

man who can handle the ball at the top of the key and create his own shot off the dribble. His combination of size and hands basketball," Walker said. "He's were too tough to stop in the hard to guard. He can handle the game for the Raiders.

"Josh is a proven basketball player. He's all-region. He's been within 36-33 in the third quarter, Laurens Head Coach Yoneko

Ryan Walker said. "He's obviously their best player. Their best player made plays, and we couldn't get a stop.'

Moore had a pair of three-Tuesday night for a return trip to point plays in the fourth quarter Byrnes, but the terrain proved to to help Byrnes after Laurens had be a little too rough for the run off 12 straight points in a little more than 3 minutes to close boys suffered defeats in Duncan. within 60-54 - including one that came off an inbound pass where Moore snuck behind the defense on the baseline and got an open layup and the foul.

Laurens, which fell behind 23-10 in the opening quarter, scrambled back in the second quarter 18-point lead to six, but the Christian Anderson scored eight while teammate Carson Todd Laurens was back on the court had seven of his nine in the second quarter as Laurens closed within 32-29 at the half.

Asked what the difference was With his team's 18-point lead that helped Laurens get back into the game in the second quarter, Walker said he wished he knew because he'd hit the button at the start of the game.

As for Anderson, Walker noted his guard has to get on what he described as a more even playing Moore is a fleet-footed big level. But when he plays his best, as he did in the second quarter, Anderson is very effective.

> "Christian can really shoot the ball."

> Byrnes, after Laurens closed

Mack

Photo Courtesy Jy Grubb/LCS

TOPS IN THEIR CLASSES - Laurens County Speedway season champions Ray Storay, Mason Mack, Chris Patterson, Casey Lawson, Larry Teal and Billy Rushton all pose with their championship trophies during last Saturday's season-ending banquet at The Ridge at Laurens. The 2018 racing season will begin on March 24.

to go back up by 13. The Byrnes lead eventually reached 18 early in the fourth quarter before Laurens attempted its comeback.

Josh Greene had 12 points to follow up Anderson's performance, while Dee Foster scored

Laurens 13 16 13 22 — 64 Byrnes 23 9 24 18 — 74

Byrnes 72, Laurens girls 37: through it," Laurens Head Coach appeared to put the game away Allen was direct in her descrip-

when it ran off 10-straight points tion of her team's performance against the Rebels, using such terms as "in a fog," "lackluster" and "not focused."

> Or, to put it more succinctly, the Raiders were put in position minutes, and eventually led 22-8 to have some success and didn't take it.

"It's frustrating because they know what to do; they've been taught what to do," Allen said. "It's frustrating when we don't execute. And it's frustrating when we don't give the effort. That I will not tolerate."

basket from Kenaja Burnside, but from there the bottom slowly fell out. Byrnes ran off the next 12 straight points, in about 2 after the first quarter. The momentum kept rolling into the second quarter, too, as Byrnes eventually led by as much as 39-14 before Ashanti Conway hit a late 3-pointer to finish off the scoring before halftime.

Laurens problems in the game were the basics, missing 9 of 17

Laurens got the early lead on a free throws and missing countless layups where they players routinely were rushing their shots. Turnovers, which have been a typical bugaboo for the Raiders, were not as bad against the Rebels as Laurens gave the ball up 23 times - but Byrnes turned those giveaways into 18 points.

Cali Heisey led the Raiders with 11 points, including a pair of 3-pointers and was the lone Raider to reach double figures.

Laurens 8 9 7 13 — 37 Byrnes 22 17 16 17 — 72

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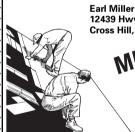
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