

An Independent Newspaper Founded in 1885

The Laurens County Advertiser

South Carolina's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

SPORTS



Photo by Nick Herman

DENIED — Shamare Dendy has a shot blocked in Tuesday's loss to J.L. Mann in Greenville.

Laurens' trip to J.L. Mann a rough one

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders' varsity basketball teams had a rough trip to Greenville Tuesday night, with both the girls' and boys' teams suffering defeats against the J.L. Mann Patriots.

Laurens' boys rallied from down 15 points in the second quarter and closed within three late in the third quarter, but could not come all the way back and eventually suffered a 57-48 loss to the Patriots. The Raiders fell to 9-12 overall, 4-5 in Region 1-5A, with the loss.

The Laurens' girls also had a rough go of it against the Patriots, struggling to find their offense for much of the night as they lost 53-27 in the first game of the doubleheader. The Raiders are now 5-14 overall, 1-8 in the region.

Each team was back on its home court Friday night when Easley came to town for a varsity doubleheader.

Mann 57, Laurens Boys 48: Laurens did all it could to rally back from down 28-13 with 2 minutes, 55 seconds left in the first half, and found plenty of success during a nearly seven-minute stretch in which the Raiders cut deficit from 10 to four early in the fourth quarter, but the Raiders could not hit enough shots down the stretch to finish the rally off - allowing the Patriots to hold on.

"Some nights the ball doesn't go in," Laurens Head Coach Ryan Walker said. "I thought we played alright, could've played better in spots, but that happens."

Laurens got a basket from Dee Foster with about six minutes to go that cut Mann's lead to 45-41, capping off a 17-11 stretch that gave the Raiders renewed hope for a comeback. In the final six minutes, however, the shooters went cold - hitting 3 of 12 field goals and missing 6 of 7 free throws. Laurens' missed free throws were even more damaging than the missed field goals, though, as Laurens missed five straight when the margin was down to six.

J'Von Harris did make a field goal that cut the margin to 47-43, but after that the Patriots scored the

next six straight points to effectively put the game out of reach.

Mann's biggest blow in the game was delivered toward the end of the first quarter and throughout much of the second. Cooper Fowler started the run for the Patriots with a layup off an inbound pass in the final minute of the quarter that tied the score at 13-all. Mann then took the lead on a breakaway dunk from Shomari Miller early in the second quarter, sparking what eventually became a 17-0 run and build a 28-13 lead.

"They made some shots and went on a run because they're a good team," Walker said.

Laurens could've been blown out in that moment, but the Raiders rallied with an 11-2 run that lasted until the very start of the second half. Dravious Copeland started the run with a 3-pointer, then tacked on two free throws before Leonard Williams went 2-for-2 at the line and Harris went 1-for-2 from the stripe as well. The run gave Laurens a little more confidence entering the fourth quarter, and Christian Anderson hit 3 of 3 free throws after being fouled 12 seconds into the half. Laurens trailed by six, 30-24, but the Patriots managed to continually keep the Raiders just enough at bay to prevent the visitors from pulling out a huge comeback victory.

Anderson, who did not play Monday after being injured Friday, and having to go through the concussion protocol, had 19 points in the loss.

"He played well. I thought he got a little fatigued cause we do rely on him a lot," Walker said.

Foster added 11 points for Laurens.

Mann 53, Laurens Girls 27: The Raider girls were beaten by a better-moving, more athletic Patriots squad Tuesday night that never allowed Laurens to disrupt its offensive flow.

It didn't help matters that Laurens, in head coach Yonoko Allen's eyes, took a step backward mentally. Too many times the coaches had to tell the players when to shoot, and when many of the shots went up they were rushed.

They were signs of a team that was never truly in the game from the very start.

"We were not plugged in at all," Allen said. "We did some decent things, but we made a lot of errors."

Laurens was within 6-4 past the midway point of the first quarter before the Patriots took over, closing the first quarter with a 9-1 run to go up by nine. They then responded to a Qua Fortson free throw with six straight points and 10 of the next 13 overall, grabbing a 24-9 lead with less than 3 minutes to go in the first half. The margin held at 14 at the half before Mann put the game well out of reach in the third quarter, outscoring Laurens 12-5, to go up 21.

The only bright spot in the game for Laurens was Fortson, who finished with 15 points for the Raiders. The freshman point guard had all of her team's points in the third quarter and added three field goals in the fourth quarter.

McCall buzzer-beater boosts Crusaders

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Trailing by one with 5.9 seconds to go, the Laurens Academy Crusaders boys' basketball team got just the pick-me-up it needed, and earned a big victory in the process.

Charlton McCall hit a driving layup in the final seconds of regulation Tuesday, giving the Crusaders a 62-61 victory over New Covenant in Laurens. The victory moved the Crusaders to 12-7.

McCall scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter to help the Crusaders post 33 points in the final quarter - four more than they scored in the first three quarters. The outburst helped LA erase what was a 19-point deficit through three quarters.

Dawson Foster had 18 points to lead the Crusaders, Noah Moore had 13 and Diamonte Grant added 10. Thomas Lowry wrapped the scoring with nine points.

LA hosted a doubleheader with Richard Winn Thursday and host another doubleheader against King Friday.

LA girls: The Crusaders improved to 17-3 overall with a 60-23 victory over New Covenant.

Two Crusader players scored in double figures in the victory, with Ruthie Moore tallying 22 points and Blair Quarles adding 12.

LA put the game away in the third quarter when it outscored New Covenant 22-4.

Clinton: The Clinton Red Devils picked up a home sweep of Union County Tuesday.

Clinton's girls picked up a 28-24 victory, despite not scoring a single point in the first quarter. The Red Devils were held to eight points in the first half, but rallied from nine points down

after three quarters by outscoring the Yellow Jackets, 15-2, to win the game.

Savanna Campbell had seven points to lead CHS (15-3 overall, 3-3 Region 3-3A), while Terriauna Bennett and Taneal Evans each scored six points.

"An ugly game," CHS Head Coach John Gardner said. "We kept fighting and playing great defense. We gave ourselves a chance at the end and got a huge win."

The Clinton boys also picked up a home victory over the Yellow Jackets, winning 69-50. The victory moved CHS to 6-11 overall, but also evened the team's region mark at 3-3.

Ahmari Bates had 24 points to lead Clinton, while P.J. Bluford had 11 points.

Clinton visited Mid-Carolina Friday.

J.L. Mann 18, Laurens JV girls 16 (Wednesday): The visiting Patriots were held to four points in the second half - all in the fourth quarter - but the Raiders could not rally from a seven-point halftime deficit and suffered the loss.

Angel Johnson had eight points to lead the Raiders.

COLLEGE

Women's basketball Radford 59, Presbyterian 49 (Tuesday): Salina Virola had 11 points to lead the Blue Hose in Virginia, but PC was held to three points in the first quarter and could not fully recover in a loss to the Highlanders.

Kacie Hall added 10 points for the Blue Hose, who were held to 31 percent shooting from the field (18 of 58).

Three Highlanders scored in double figures, led by both Destinee Walker and Lydia Rivers. Both players scored 17 points and pulled down 10 boards, while Khiana Johnson added 16 points.

Lacrosse

Roarick honored: Presbyterian lacrosse player Hudson Roarick was named to the All-Big South Preseason Team, which was released Tuesday.

Roarick, a senior, was named to the All-Big South team last year, picking up 30 ground ball while forcing a team-best 19 turnovers.

PC, in the team vote, was selected to finish seven place in the Big South, garnering nine points. High Point earned six first-place votes and 48 points to take first, while Campbell earned the last first-place vote and gained 41 points.

High Point also swept the pre-season individual awards, with sophomore Abby Hormes being named Offensive Player of the Year and senior Samantha Herman selected as Defensive Player of the Year.

Men's tennis

Benson honored: Presbyterian College's Max Benson was named the Big South Freshman of the Week Wednesday.

Benson picked up a victory in the team's opening match against Charlotte on Jan. 12, winning 6-2, 6-3 at No. 3 singles.

PC plays both Chattanooga and Coastal Georgia Sunday.

Softball

Big South rankings: Presbyterian was selected to finish ninth in the Big South pre-season poll, which was released Wednesday.

Presbyterian's highest ranking came with one fourth-place vote, with one vote for eighth place and seven votes for ninth place.

Longwood was voted first in the pre-season poll, getting six first-place votes and 78 points. USC Upstate had two first-place votes and 70 total points to take second, and Radford was third (63 points).

Richards Service Center Inc.
Local • Honest • Dependable • Experienced • Certified • Insured
100 Laurens St., Clinton, SC 29325
(Inside Home Sweet Home Interiors)
Email: rsci.richards@gmail.com

Appliance Installation & Service Furniture Repair
Jeff Richards, Owner
864-923-2312

DRIVEWAYS
ASPHALT PAVING, CONCRETE, GRAVEL
ALL TYPES OF GRADING AND
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
PROVIDED

ROBINSON GRADING
864-871-2647

Richard's Service Center Inc.
Local • Honest • Dependable • Experienced • Certified • Insured
100 Laurens St., Clinton, SC 29325
(Inside Home Sweet Home Interiors)
Email: rsci.richards@gmail.com

Appliance Installation & Service Furniture Repair
Jeff Richards, Owner
864-923-2312

DRIVEWAYS
ASPHALT PAVING, CONCRETE, GRAVEL
ALL TYPES OF GRADING AND
CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
PROVIDED

ROBINSON GRADING
864-871-2647

Dale Byers Detailing
Car & Truck Accessories
Wash, Wax & Detailing
Window Tinting
"Paintless Dent Repair"
Financing Available

Tonneau Covers • Tool Boxes
Step Bars • Vent Shades
Brush Guards • Spray-In Bed
Linners • B&W Hitches
WeatherTech • Vehicle
Lettering • And More!
2485 Hwy. 221 S., Laurens
864-681-1656

ATWOOD'S
-Gravel Hauling
-Backhoe Service
-Bobcat Service
-Septic Tank Repair
864-8085
984-0173

PREMIER PORTABLE BUILDINGS
Buy or Rent to Own New & Used

• New & Used Cabins & Storage Buildings
• 1 & 2 Car Metal Carports & Garages
Lowest Prices in Town • Free Delivery
Financing Available
No Credit Check

Call Eddie Hall 684-1210
2 Locations to Serve You:
Little River Trading Co., 211 Hillcrest Dr., Laurens • Hwy 221 S., Cold Point
WWW.PREMIERBUILDINGS.US

Bathroom & Kitchen Remodels
Flooring: Hardwood & Tile
Porches • Decks
Additions • Sheds

864-993-9842
cdembisky@centurylink.net
Chuck Dembisky • SC Lic. #49864

Nordquist Cleaning Services
Cleaning Laurens County
One Place at a Time

Debbie Nordquist
Owner
debbienordquist@yahoo.com

(864) 683-1411
(864) 444-3421
Cleaning Houses,
Churches, Offices,
Apartments

PATCO TREE SERVICE
A Cut Above The Rest!

Tree & Stump Removal • Tree Trimming • Bushhogging
Brush Mulching • Clearing & Grading

1552 Patterson Plant Rd. • Enoree, SC 29335
TIM- 864-303-8299 • ALEXIS- 864-612-5837

POOLE'S TREE EXPERTS
Since 1955 • NO MONEY UP FRONT!

WILL BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICES!
ALL JOBS GUARANTEED!
All Types of Tree Care
Removal, Stump Grinding
(864) 876-1518 or 266-5484
LICENSED, INSURED, BONDED
We Now Accept All Major Credit Cards & Pay Pal

NORTHSIDE TOWING
WE ALSO OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

- Tire Changes
- Lockout Assistance
- Winch Outs
- Jump Offs

*Free if child is locked in vehicle

23 1/2 HOUR

CALL 864-681-4869

Gwinn's Siding Co.
A Trusted Name for 39 Years

Professional Roofing Service
General & Residential Contractor
18 Different Colors of Metal Roofing
FREE upgrade to 30 year architectural shingles
FREE ROOF INSPECTIONS
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
2785 HWY. 221S • LAURENS • 682-3824

Call for SPECIAL OFFERS
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

SOUTHERN TREE EXPERTS

969-6480
871-0272
CALL ANYTIME
★Free Estimates★

J&B BRICK, STONE & BLOCK MASONRY
Brick veneer, mobile home underpinning, foundations, small concrete jobs. Any kind of brick or block work.

864-993-9346
Junior Grant
864-547-3027
Bruce Grant
FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed & Bonded