

Black & Gold



JOSIAH HORTIN DRIVES around Drake McDonald and looks skyward toward the basket in the game with Shelbyville on Friday night. Hortin missed scoring in double figures by one point, finishing with nine points. *Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.*



JAMES PARSLEY, a Tuscola senior, dribbles with his right hand and keeps the ball away from Shelbyville junior Ethan Wells. Looking on are Jalen Quinn (3) and an unidentified Shelbyville player. *Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.*

Tuscola tops Shelbyville Rams 49-38

By Daniel L. Chamness
On Friday night, the Tuscola Warriors had a three-point band that played all night long against the Shelbyville Rams.

Of the 49 points scored by the Warriors, against the 38 points scored by the Rams, 27 of them came from beyond the arc. It was a plan to thwart the plans of the Rams, who clogged up the middle and prevented the Warriors from driving the paint and into the lane.

"They had a great game plan," said Tuscola senior post player Haven Hatfield. "We came out a little flat tonight. We could see them in the conference tournament and the Rams can light it up from three-point line. They knew we liked to get to the basket and they prevented that tonight. We played some quality non-conference teams and they will help us in the long run, even though we might have lost. You learn something when you play better teams."

A total of seven Warriors, including every starter, struck at least once from beyond the arc. Jordan Quinn and James Parsley, who each had eight points, each had two treys each. Jalen Quinn led all scorers with 12 points. The senior Warrior had one from beyond the arc.

"I had a talk with Coach (Justin) Bozarth and he just encouraged me to shoot the ball," said Parsley. "It felt good to hit those long range shots."

While Shelbyville showed they were game, they never had the lead in the final three quarters and were constantly a step behind the Warriors. In the final two minutes of the opening quarter, the Warriors got a bucket from sophomore Josiah Hortin and a three-ball from the right wing by Jordan Quinn to not only take the lead for good, but take a 14-10 lead at the first break.

Hortin helped the hometown squad increase the lead to double digits at the 2:32 mark of the second quarter,

hitting another regulation bucket. The Warriors would boast a 26-15 lead at halftime.

A third period run by the Rams allowed them to cut the Tuscola lead to just two at 36-34, but the Warriors had a late third quarter flurry to keep the lead. Drake McDonald hit an old fashioned three pointer and a turn-around-jumper during the Ram run. Max Beyers and Ethan Clark also contributed and when Clark hit a free throw with a 1:14 to play in the third quarter, the Rams trailed by only two points.

The Warriors would score five points in the final minute of the stanza with the Quinn brothers each scoring. Jordan

Quinn would hit another three pointer and with only 31 seconds to play, Jalen Quinn hit a regulation bucket.

Easton Cunningham and James Parsley each struck from three point land in the fourth quarter. With 5:02 left in the game, Cunningham nailed one from the left wing. After a Tuscola time out and less than a minute later, Parsley would hit from the right wing.

"I was happy to knock down a three-pointer," said Cunningham. "I had been struggling from beyond the arc. Jalen takes so much pressure off of the other players. He makes some really incredible passes and finds the open players."

Other than the afore mentioned players, Hortin had nine points. Haven Hatfield, who had one three pointer and one regulation bucket, finished with five points. Preston Brown (four points) and Cunningham (three) rounded out the Warrior scoring.

"We did not play well," said Bozarth. "Shelbyville had some athletes out. I think their best player was not even on the floor tonight. Our defense needs to lead to our offense. Once we got settled

down in our half court offense, we did well. We need to force some turnovers and that

will lead to some buckets. We just did not have enough of that tonight."

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