AMHERST 67, BROOKSIDE 55



STEVE MANHEIM / CHRONICLE

Amherst's Adam Srnis takes it up strong against Brookside's Nathan Jasko during Tuesday's game.

Comets not short on determination

Mike Perry The Chronicle-Telegram

AMHERST — Amherst's bigs sure are little, but their littles sure play big.

The Comets' frontcourt starters Rees Rua (5-foot-9), Casey McConihe (5-11) and Adam Srnis (5-10) dominated the paint, combining to score all but 17 Amherst points in a 67-55 non-conference victory over Brookside at Amherst High School.

Rua scored a game-high 28 points and grabbed eight rebounds, Srnis scored 19 points and snared a team-high nine rebounds, while McConihe pulled down eight rebounds and blocked a career-high five shots as the Comets took a big early lead and withstood a hotsecond half.

dinals 12-10 in the first quarter, "He's made that adjustment," then used a 14-2 run in the second quarter to take control. The Comets (4-6) led 34-18 at halftime, but Brookside wasn't finished.

Behind 12 third-quarter points by senior Cameron Drew, the Cardinals (2-10) kept the game close, but could not break down the Comets' large lead.

Drew connected on a 3-pointer at the 5:52 mark of the third quarter to pull Brookside within 36-26, but Amherst answered with a 13-5 run to

pull awav. "That's how we've been all year," Brookside coach Brent Schrempf said. "We'll play hard for some stretches, then get some lulls and give up some easy looks and turnovers. Then we'll call a timeout, get after them a little bit, then they'll come out and play hard again."

The Cardinals trimmed the Comets' lead to eight points twice in the fourth quarter, but could get no closer.

"I thought we had control of the game the whole time," Rua said. "Coach was stressing that if we didn't start playing defense they were going to make a run and come back. It wasn't great but we were able to buckle

down and hold them.' Comets coach John Srnis wasn't thrilled with how his

said. "We just did not have the energy tonight for whatever reason. There are no students at practice either, and we play harder in practice. We have to make our own energy because we're kind of used to what the crowd's going to be like."

Drew ended with 19 points and eight rebounds for Brookside while Brandon Hercula added 11.

"He's a great kid and does everything we ask him to," Schrempf said of Drew. "It's tough for him to score and rebound when he brings the ball up for us most of the time. We try to find him some spots here and there. I wish all our (other) kids were more aggressive for an entire game."

Srnis, who usually scores shooting Cardinals team in the most of his points from behind the 3-point arc, scored six of Amherst outscored the Car- his nine field goals in the paint.

John Srnis said of Adam, his son. "He was a spot-up shooter when we had (former point guard) Garrett (Klekota), and they beat him up from the outside. He finally figured out that he has to take the ball to the basket. It was surprising that he took it that many times and didn't get to the foul line. He's getting more twos than threes now, which is a big advantage for us."

As for the empty stands, Srnis said his team does not discuss it.

"We never talk about it much," he said. "It would be nice if the stands were filled up, and I think that this group deserves to be supported because it's a great bunch of kids. They work hard and it's a very enjoyable group to be around.

"Hopefully we can string a few more wins together and people will come out. We have to do our part and win games ... put a good product on the floor.'

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Amherst 67, Brookside 55

BROOKSIDE (55): Cameron Drew 7-2-19,
Dudley Taw 2-6-10, Christian Carrion 1-0-2,
Christian Gray 4-1-9, Nathan Jasko 1-0-2,
Chrizmen Nimene 1-0-2, Brandon Hercula 3-3-11, Travis Fortney 0-0-0. Totals 19-12-55.
AMHERST (67): Adam Srnis 8-0-19, Rees
Rua 10-8-28, Antonio Serrano 1-3-5, Casey
McConihe 1-0-3, Matt Kneisel 2-4-8, Dylan
Johnson 1-2-4, Rocky Melendez 0-0-0,
John Woolridge 0-0-0. Totals 23-17-67.
Brookside 10 8 22 15 — 55

Brookside 10 8 22 15 - 55 Amherst 12 22 20 13 - 67 Three-point goals: Brookside 5-14 (Drew 3, team performed in what was an almost-empty gym. The Amherst student section was virtually empty.

"We have to defend better than we did tonight," Srnis

Three-point goals: Brookside 5-14 (Drew 3, Harcula 2), Amherst 4-19 (Srnis 3, McConihe). Field goals: Brookside 19-47 (40.4 percent), Amherst 23-52 (44.2 percent), Amherst 17-24 (70.8 percent), Amherst 17-24 (70.8 percent), Amherst 39 (Srnis 9, Rua 8, McConihe 8). Turnovers: Brookside 16, Amherst 13.

Total fouls: Brookside 16, Amherst 18.

JV: Amherst, 72-41

LAKE RIDGE 49, HERITAGE CHRISTIAN 41

Strong close lifts Royals

James Brady The Chronicle-Telegram

NORTH RIDGEVILLE - Chriss and Waldock sounds like a law firm and Tuesday they proved they know their way around a court.

It just happened to be a court of basketball and not a court of law.

Sam Waldock and Scott Chriss combined to score the final 15 points as Lake Ridge Academy turned a three-point lead into a 49-41 win over Heritage Christian.

The duo, along with a solid defensive effort which held the Patriots to just two points over the first 7:41 of the fourth, led the way as Lake Ridge improved to 5-8. Waldock scored the final two points of

the third quarter and three in the fourth on his way to a game-high 20 points to go with eight rebounds. Chriss scored the first six and the final four points of the fourth to finish with 15.

"Heritage got us in an up-tempo style and we didn't respond well to their pressure," Royals coach Brian Ansberry said.

advantage.'

Heritage Christian's defense gave Lake Ridge problems throughout the first three quarters, forcing 15 turnovers and turning them into 13 points. Still, the Royals led 36-33 after the third quarter.

The Royals flipped the script to open the fourth quarter as Chris Miller and Josh Scofield came up with steals that were turned into four points by Chriss on a driving basket and a pair of free throws.

After a basket by the Patriots' Brandon Keller (nine points), Chriss drove baseline and came up and under the basket for a reverse layup and a 42-35 lead with 4:38 left in regulation.

"We talked on the bench about driving and kicking the ball out until we could get a layup," Chriss said. "They (Patriots) started guarding outside and that gave us a chance to get to the basket. If we couldn't get a bucket inside, we were getting to the free throw line."

Heritage Christian (6-5) connected "They created some chaos — and that's only once in its first eight attempts from what we usually do. Once we were able to the floor in the final quarter. Before the

slow things down in the fourth we had the Patriots could score again, Waldock split a pair of free throws and scored on a wideopen layin for a 45-35 lead with 60 seconds left in the game.

> "We weren't hitting our jump shots especially our threes - so we changed things up and started driving to the basket instead of kicking the ball back out," Waldock said. "We didn't know how to handle the pressure at first, but we regrouped and took control."

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Lake Ridge 49, Heritage Christian 41

HERITAGE (41): Mark Brown 3-0-6, Brandon Keller 3-3-9, James Liwosz 4-0-10, Jacob Ockunzzi 1-2-4, Brent Konieczynski 5-0-12. Totals 16-5-41. LAKE RIDGE (49): Scott Chriss 4-6-15, Josh Scofield 4-1-9,

0-0. Totals 19-8-49. Heritage Christian 9 13 11 8 - 41

Three-point goals: Heritage 4-16 (25 percent, Liwosz 2, Konieczynski 2), Lake Ridge 3-10 (30 percent, Chriss, Waldock, Lucioni). **Field goals:** Heritage 16-44 (36 percent), Lake Ridge 19-42 (45 percent). **Free throws:** Heritage 5-11 (45 percent), Lake Ridge 8-10 (80 percent). **Rebounds:** Heritage 23, Lake Ridge 32. **Turnovers:** Heritage 13, Lake Ridge 18. **Total fouls:** Heritage 12, Lake

Sam Waldock 9-1-20, Jayson Lucioni 2-0-5, Chris Miller 0-

NORTH RIDGEVILLE 53, ROCKY RIVER 42



AMANDA K. RUNDLE / CHRONICLE

North Ridgeville's Demario McCall drives around Rocky River's Patrick Connors.

Rangers feel good, keep wins coming

Dan Gilles The Chronicle-Telegram

NORTH RIDGEVILLE — After winning only six games last season and 10 over the last two seasons, the North Ridgeville Rangers cer-

tainly aren't taking winning for granted. While it wasn't the prettiest performance of the season Tuesday night, the Rangers put away Rocky River 53-42 in West Shore Conference play to improve to 8-4, 4-2 in the league.

"We're thrilled to be where we are after 12 games," Rangers coach Bryan Morgan said. "I told a lot of people at the beginning of the season that this is a lot of pressure for me because I can no longer say. 'We don't have the guys.'

"Well, we've got the guys now, and it's our job to put them in the right spot. We would have loved to have been able to pull off that win over Elyria (last month), but we've been playing some pretty good basketball teams. To be 8-4 at this point, we're pretty happy with that.'

Rocky River (4-7, 1-5) rallied from a 16-4 deficit early in the second quarter to get within 23-21 at the half. Then the Pirates survived a tough third quarter to trail 32-30 before the Rangers' Jordan Montgomery hit a 3-pointer just before the buzzer.

That 3-pointer kick-started a spurt of eight unanswered points, which turned into a 14-2 run that moved North Ridgeville comfortably ahead 46-32 with 4:26 remaining.

Three-pointers paid off big in that gamechanging run for the Rangers, who sank four of their seven during that stretch. And they spread the wealth as Montgomery, Isa Abdel-Alim, Collin Sullinger and Tyler Arnold hit them.

"Rocky River kept coming back at us," Morgan said. "If we can finish a bit more, I'd be happier, but I thought we got some stops when we needed to on the defensive end, which was big."

Arnold had 13 points and five rebounds, while Abdel-Alim had 11 points and five rebounds to pace a balanced scoring effort for the Rangers. Montgomery added nine, while Sullinger and Cory Draft finished with six each.

'We knew their record wasn't that good, but we also knew they weren't going to be an easy game," Abdel-Alim said. "We knew that, if they played their game, they could have a chance to beat us. We just had to make sure we played our best."

The Rangers forced Rocky River into 19 turnovers and outrebounded the Pirates 34-23. Neither team shot particularly well, but the rebounding edge led to many one-shot possessions and some second-chance points.

"That's huge for us," Morgan said.

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North Ridgeville 53, Rocky River 42

ROCKY RIVER (42): Eric Jones 4-5-13, Patrick Connors 5-0-11, Jimmy Kinsley 2-3-7, Sutton Klodnick 1-0-2, Eric Nugent 1-0-2, Jack Corrigan 1-0-3, Zach Waite 1-0-2, Nate Seffernick 1-0-2,

Corey Zucker 0-0-0. Totals 16-8-42.

NORTH RIDGEVILLE (53): Tyler Arnold 5-0-13, Isa Abdel-Alim 4-2-11, Jordan Montgomery 3-2-9, Greg Draft 3-0-6, Demario McCall 1-0-2, Collin Sullinger 2-0-6, Tyler Rowe 1-2-4, Darius Dancy 1-

1-0-2, Collin Sullinger 2-0-6, Tyler Rowe 1-2-4, Darius Dancy 1-0-2, Jack Lesniak 0-0-0. Totals 20-6-53.

Rocky River 4 17 9 12 — 42

North Ridgeville 14 9 11 18 — 53

Three-point goals: Rocky River 2-8 (Connors, Corrigan), North Ridgeville 7-23 (Arnold 3, Sullinger 2, Montgomery, Abdel-Alim).

Field goals: Rocky River 16-34 (47 percent), North Ridgeville 20-54 (37 percent). Free throws: Rocky River 8-14 (57 percent), North Ridgeville 6-9 (66 percent). Rebounds: Rocky River 23 (Jones 5, Waite 5), North Ridgeville 34 (Draft 8); Turnovers: Rocky River 19, North Ridgeville 17. Fouls: Rocky River 14, North Ridgeville 12. Fouled out: Klodnick.

JY: North Ridgeville 12. Fouled out: Klodnick. JV: North Ridgeville, 61-59

HORIZON SCIENCE 89. FIRST BAPTIST 62

Depth denies **Sabres**

Jerry Rombach The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — Twin brothers Chase and Chad Parker put up some pretty impressive numbers for First Baptist Christian School on Tuesday night against Cleveland Horizon Science.

Chase poured in 30 points and Chad 19, but unfortunately for the Sabres (5-8), basketball is played with five players not two and Horizon Science romped to an 89-62 victory in a Lake Effect Conference game.

Horizon (9-1, 6-0) had 11 of 14 players score, three in double figures, while the Sabres' other seven players scored just 13.

Chase Parker hit seven 3point goals, one of them nearly at the half-court line, and Chad

"This was my third straight game of scoring over 20 points," said Chase, who averages 20 a game. "Early in the game I wasn't shooting well but later on after I hit two in a row I got into a zone. I practice 3-pointers a lot. Both my brother and I come in to practice shooting lots on our own without the team.'

The 30 points was his season

While the game was onesided from the get-go, First Baptist actually outscored the Dragons 37-36 in the second half.

"I liked the way they continued to play hard the whole game no matter how much they trailed," First Baptist coach Darren Snelling said. "Horizon is really quick and good."

"We are really fast," Horizon coach Dan Buryanek agreed. "When we move upcourt fast we can score in three or four seconds. We run, run, run. And I like that our effort is always there.'

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Horizon Science 89, First Baptist 62

HORIZON SCIENCE (89): Marlan Lopez 10-2-23, Dionte Pearl 7-2-19, Ernie Maxwell 6-1-13, Dezmond Wade 3-1-7, Tylan Adams 2-2-6, Greg Rollins 2-2-6, Greg Bostick 2-1-5, Ronte Richmond 2-0-4, Denziel Jones 1-1-3, Tyson Woodfolk 0-2-2, Saquan Tuerson 0-1-1, Tamin Stephans 0-0-0, Donavan Fareran 0-0-0, Lamar Harris 0-0-0. Totals 5-15-89. FIRST BAPTIST (62): Chase Parker 10-3-30, Chad Parker 8-1-19, Matt Plog 3-0-7, Matt Kuolo 0-2-2, Carey Williams 1-0-2, Judones 1-0-2, Brett Snelling 0-0-0, Bradley Quizk 0-0-0, James Bores 0-0-0. Totals 23-6-62. Horizon Science 24 29 21 15 – 89

Horizon Science 24 29 21 15 — 89
First Baptist 12 13 21 16 — 62
Three point goals: Horizon Science 4 (Pearl
3, Lopez), First Baptist 10 (Chase Parker 7,
Chad Parker 2, Plog). Free throws: Horizon
Science 15-25 (60 percent), First Baptist 610 (60 percent). Fouls: Horizon Science 14,
First Baptist 19. Fouled out: Jones (FB).

Elyria Catholic (6-4, 3-3 WSC) led by 22 at halftime and extended its lead to as many as 33 points in the second half. Junior Colden Schemmel grabbed the long rebound off of a missed Lakewood shot near midcourt and drove to the rim for a layup that put the Panthers into triple digits with 51.3 seconds left in the game.

"We are really excited right now because this is what we envisioned out of our team at the start of the season," Elyria Catholic coach Phil team in the West Shore Conference Argento said the loss of Porter had a and we came out with a good vibe and good energy tonight. We want our guys to share the ball and not worry about who gets the credit. When we do that, this is what we're capable of

Elyria Catholic had five players score in double figures. Junior Jacob Kuchta had 16, Schemmel and Brian Duffield each had 13 and Darin Guice

had 12. The Rangers (7-3, 4-3) were without injured senior guard Nick Porter, who came into the game second in scoring

Kuchta said. "Lakewood is the best in the WSC. Lakewood coach Phil pair of tough conference losses last wood with 15 points. ripple effect across the rest of the starting lineup.

"We looked affected and our players played like they were affected mentally (by Porter's absence) and I didn't feel like the effort was there tonight," Argento said. "Injuries are part of basketball. It's a team. If somebody goes down, someone else needs

Panthers' 3-pointers, said the team was determined to come out strong against Lakewood after suffering a

"We knew Lakewood is a tough team, but we've been really focused in practice and we thought we could come out and play a game like we did tonight," he said. "When we got the 35-14 lead, we didn't let up. We kept playing with confidence, or ever a bit of a swagger, that we weren't going to allow them back into the game.

"We wanted to get to 100. The first Jacob Kuchta, who had four of the game of the year against Clearview we almost did it and its been a goal of ours ever since."

Senior Malik Leisinger led Lake-

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Elyria Catholic 103, Lakewood 73

ELYRIA CATHOLIC (103): D.J. Graham 3-1-7, Kevin Kelley 3-0-9, Ceevan Shelton 9-2-23, Darin Guice 5-2-12, Colden Schemmel 5-1-13, Cole Virgin 2-1-5, Jacob Kuchta 6-0-16, James Tirbaso 1-1-3, Brian Duffield 5-0-13, Doug Taylor 1-0-2. Totals 40-8-103. LAKEWOOD (73): Joe Malone 4-5-13, Trevon Rogers 1-1-3, Justin McDonald 1-4-6, Wes Gerhardt 4-1-11, Malik Leisinger 4-7-15, Desmond Rollins 1-1-3, Darius Rogers 0-1-1, Logan Swift 5-5-15, Jack Witri 2-0-6. Totals 22-25-73. ELYRIA CATHOLIC (103): D.J. Graham 3-1-7, Kevin

35 19 21 28 - 103 Elyria Catholic

Eiyria Catholic

35 19 21 28 — 103

Lakewood

14 18 19 22 — 73

Three-point goals: Lakewood (Gerhardt 2, Witri 2),
Elyria Catholic (Kuchta 4, Duffield 3, Kelley 3, Shelton
3, Schemmel 2). Field goals: Lakewood 22-49 (45
percent), Elyria Catholic 40-66 (61 percent). Free
throws: Lakewood 25-35 (71 percent), Elyria Catholic
8-14 (57 percent). Rebounds: Lakewood 34, Elyria
Catholic 36. Turnovers: Lakewood 18, Elyria Catholic
10. Total fouls: Lakewood 12, Elyria Catholic
22. Junior varsity: Elyria Catholic, 57-55.