

Boys basketball | No. 1 VASJ 81, No. 3 Central Catholic 65



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Central Catholic's Antwon Lillard, left, is fouled by VASJ's Derrek Pardon during Fridays' game.

Resilient Vikings bounce back from first loss, flatten Ironmen

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Coming off of its first loss of the season, Villa Angela-St. Joseph boys basketball showed no ill effects as the Vikings picked up an 81-65 home win over Central Catholic.

Led by 25 points from seniors Carlton Bragg and Brian Parker, the Vikings (10-1, 4-0), who are ranked No. 1 in the Cleveland.com Top 25, won Friday's showdown between the two remaining teams with undefeated conference records in the North Coast League White Division.

"It feels really good coming off a hard loss," Parker said. "I appreciate coming back to our Village and getting a victory with our crowd behind us."

The Vikings were able to give themselves some early distance, as they closed the half on a 15-2 run to hit the break up, 26-14, on No. 3 Central Catholic (10-2, 3-1). Parker was on his game from the start and had 14 points at the break.

What it means

Beating one of the top teams in the area by 16 points shows that Villa Angela-St. Joseph is at another level right now. The Vikings' combination of dominating interior and smart guards means that it will take the best possible effort from a team in Ohio to even think about beating them.

"The only thing important to me is to be the last guy standing in March," said Villa Angela-St.

Joseph coach Babe Kwasiak. "I have one goal, and that is to get the school the sixth state championship."

The game also showed a glimpse of how dominant Bragg, who scored 21 points in the second half, can be.

For Central Catholic, the loss shows that there is still a gap between the Ironmen and the elite. The team has talent, but the intensity and focus was lacking at times.

Play of the game

With Central Catholic trailing, 57-50, in the fourth quarter, the Ironmen were called for an intentional foul, which gave the Vikings two free throws and the ball.

Parker hit both free throws, and then Mo Johnson scored, got fouled and hit a free throw to give the Vikings a 62-50 lead.

Crucial run

After Central Catholic held a brief 22-21 lead in the second quarter, the Vikings responded in a big way with a 15-2 run to close the half. Parker scored eight of the 15 points due to some nice interior moves.

Who stood out for Central Catholic

Tervell Beck: The Ironmen junior finished strong to lead his team with 16 points. He took awhile to get confident, but once he was, he took it to the Vikings' interior players.

Antwon Lillard: As one of the few Ironmen who looked ready to go early, Lillard scored nine of his 14 points in the first half. How-

ever, once the defense adjusted, he struggled to get his shot off.

Kameron Locklear: One of the reasons that Central Catholic was able to hang around in the game was the contribution from Locklear. The senior came off the bench to score 16 points.

Who stood out for VASJ

Bragg: With 21 points in the second half, Bragg was the closer his team needed. He showed some range, as he hit two 3-pointers.

Johnson: The senior point guard controlled the tempo of the game. Despite only scoring five points, he did exactly what his team needed.

Parker: The senior made a living battling around the basket with bigger players to finish with 25 points. He also did a nice job defensively on Lillard.

Coach Jeremy Holmes on why his team lost: "I thought our communication was bad. When you don't communicate against a good offense, it creates easy scoring opportunities, and that's what happened."

VASJ sound bite

Kwasiak on Johnson: "Coach Holmes was his AAU coach, and I think they were trying to pressure him a little bit. I think Mo was the difference. I think Mo made big plays down the stretch. I've said this so many times that maybe he's not the best point guard in the state, but he's the best point guard for us."

High school scoreboard

Table containing various high school sports scores, including Boys Basketball, Portage Trail Conference, Senate Athletic League, and various regional leagues like Blue Division and West Shore Conference.

Table containing various high school sports scores, including Girls Basketball, Soccer, and various regional leagues like North Coast League and West Shore Conference.

Vertical sidebar containing additional sports scores, schedules, and news snippets, including mentions of games like 'Central Catholic's Antwon Lillard...' and 'Boys basketball | No. 1 VASJ...'.

Boys basketball | No. 9 Lorain 63, No. 10 Bedford 62

Bohannon's late shot a winner

Devon Andrews keeps Titans unbeaten with 20

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Nazihar Bohannon's left-handed shot off the glass with three seconds left kept No. 9 Lorain undefeated as it beat visiting Bedford, 63-62, on Friday.

Bohannon had eight of his 14 points in the fourth quarter for the Titans (14-0, 7-0 Lake Erie League).

"Something told us we were going to win this game," Bohannon said. "Coach [John Rositano] always preached all year that at Lorain, we're going to find a way to win. It's our new culture."

Lorain trailed, 59-52, with 1:15 left after No. 10 Bedford (9-3, 5-1) went on an 18-2 run.

Devon Andrews had a game-high 20 for Lorain. Nazihar Bohannon's left-handed shot off the glass with three seconds left kept No. 9 Lorain undefeated as it beat visiting Bedford, 63-62, on Friday.

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Crucial run

Lorain closed the game on an 11-3 run. The fourth quarter featured a pair of strong runs by both teams.

Lorain had a 50-41 lead with 5:42 to go on a layup by Devon Andrews. Bedford responded with an 18-2 run highlighted by two 3-pointers from Armond Perry. Rhodes had a strong dunk off a great pass from Cam Brandon to give Bedford a 59-52 lead with 1:15 remaining.

Lorain scored seven straight points, including five from Daviere Andrews and a steal and layup from Eddie Williamson's tie the game at 59 with 42 seconds left.

Rashod Berry had a dunk to cut a 3-point Bedford lead to one with 10 seconds left before the Bearcats turned it over on the inbounds play following a timeout. Bohannon's layup capped the 11-3 run in the final 1:05 and gave the Titans the win.

Devon Andrews: The Kent State recruit was the most impactful player on the floor for the Titans, leading the way with a game-high 20. He had six points in the fourth quarter.

Daviere Andrews: The junior guard had 11 points, but had back-to-back field goals, including a 3-pointer, to cut Bedford's 7-point lead down to two with

less than a minute left in the fourth.

Who stood out for Bedford

Perry: The junior had all 11 of his points in the second half. Perry had a 3-pointer to start Bedford's 18-2 run in the fourth and another to give his team a 53-52 lead with 2:13 to play.

Myron Prewitt: He had eight of his 11 points in the first quarter to get the Bearcats going. He was a presence in the lane, collecting eight rebounds.

Sound bites for Lorain

Bohannon: "The ball was originally supposed to go to Devon, but they stopped the play. So I cut back and I saw them give it to me, and I couldn't go up. I wanted to go up for two. I said if I wouldn't make the shot, I'd get fouled. And once I turned around I saw the ball go in, I realized there was enough time for them to get the ball out and go."

Rositano: "You pretty much knew that it was coming down to the last couple of minutes. Just fortunate we made the last shot there. And what a way to win it."

Bedford coach Pete Priola: "It's getting to be a broken record. You can only have so many moral [victories]. And it's about time we get over that hump and finish games."

What's next

Lorain vs. Clearview, at 7:30 p.m. today. Bedford at Twinsburg, at 3 p.m. today.

Ice hockey

Today Auron vs. Mayfield, Gilmour Academy, 4 Avon Lake at Garfield Heights, 3:30 Bay vs. Normandy, Michael A Rios Ice Rink, 8:30 Bedford Broadview Heights at Strongsville, 1:30 Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy at North Olmsted, 3:15 Gilmour Academy at Normandy, 12:30 Harvee at Cardinal, 6:30 Hawken at Richmond Heights, 6:30 Highland at Green, 2:30 Hudson at Solon, 7:30 Lorain at Shaw, 2:30 Lorain vs. Oberlin, 1:30 Maple Heights at Cleveland Heights, 2 Max Hayes at Conneaut, 1 Mayfield at Brunswick, 7:30 Medina at Elyria, 7:30 Mogadore at Streetsboro, 2:30 North Olmsted at Beachwood, 12 Northondia at Copley, 2:30 North Royalton at Strongsville, 2:30 Northeast Ohio League Preparatory at Whitney Young, 1 Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin at Lake Catholic, 7:30 Lorain at Huron, 6:30 Padua at Beaumont, 2:30 Parma at Brush, 7:30 Perry at Kenston, 2:30 Reynoldsburg at Madison, 2:30 Riverside at Ledgestone, 7 Shaker Heights at Mentor, 2:30 St. Vincent-St. Mary at Kenmore, 2:30 Tallmadge at Revere, 1 TBA vs. Western Reserve Academy, Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy, 4 Kent Roosevelt vs. Westlake, North Olmsted Recreation Center, 5:30 Lakewood vs. Parma, Quicken Loans Arena, 7:30 Lorain vs. Canfield, Boardman, 4:15 North Canton Hoover vs. Midview, North Park Recreation Center Orange vs. Hudson, Kent State Ice Arena, 1:25 Shaker Heights vs. Kenston, The Pond, 9 University Heights vs. St. Ignatius, John M. Coyne Recreation Center, 4:45 West Geauga vs. Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, Mentor Civic Ice Arena, 6 Western Reserve Academy at Cleveland Heights, 5:15