

**SHOOTING GALLERY:** Forest Hills/Central Cambria game, solicit quotes from both coaches. Jordan Miller normally gets the game-high, regardless if the Red Devils win or lose, but that was not the case here as he was one-upped (well, a few more points than one!) by Forest Hills' Luke Gallaher. The Rangers got the better of Central Cambria as well, winning the Section 1 contest 67-63.

Gallaher's 41 points led the way, although Miller added 38 in the loss. The senior Red Devil continues to lead the LHAC in scoring.

Victorious coach Lance McGough summed things up: "Our defense did a great job at keeping Jordan at bay for the first half even into the third quarter. The game was about to be out of hand until Jordan got going. He was making a ton of hard shots and getting to the foul line. They were down as much as 13 in the fourth quarter. We made a few offensive mistakes which Jordan took advantage of. Luke had a great night. He actually scored 39 points not 41. He is a great all around player. By far, besides maybe Jordan, Luke can handle the ball better than anybody in the area. The difference between Luke's night and Jordan's is that we had a box in one on Jordan whereas they played us man. This allowed Luke to work through the offense to get good looks. Night in and night out, Luke will get at least 10 points on transition. He is unbelievably quick getting up the court. Down the stretch we hit some big foul shots where Central Cambria did not. Another key to the game that was lost in the the high scoring of Luke and Jordan was the play of our big man, Tanner Thomas. He was strong inside getting some big boards. Also the team was well aware of where Jordan was at all times and offered help to our man that was on him. Central Cambria goes as Jordan goes and if you can limit his set open looks and force his teammates to do more the better chance you have to be in the game and get an upper hand. Jordan is the real deal. He can single handedly take over a game. It was a big game for us and our players stepped up."

The result of this contest locked both teams up in the standings with identical 4-6 records.

**HIGHLANDERS HAVE HOT HAND:** Eric Nagle's Cambria Heights Highlanders are 10-1 and sitting alone on top of the Section 1 standings. CH was 3-0 last week, scoring victories over Bellefonte (80-35), Bishop Guilfoyle (60-53) and Penn Cambria (65-47).

In the win over Bellefonte, it was quite the balanced attack for Nagle as Steve Sharbaugh had 18 while John Link and Devin Lansberry each contributed 16 and Ian Vescovi rounded things out with 15. Coach Nagle commented: "we shot the ball real well in this game, I believe we started the game 8-for-9 from the floor. Steve and John were knocking them down and when that happens it really opens up things for Ian in the post."

Three days later, in a game that was bumped back a day due to poor weather conditions, the Highlanders defeated sectional foe BG by seven. Two CH players had over 20 in Link (20) and Vescovi (21). "I thought Devin Lansberry kept Chris Brown in check. We were really concerned about Brown and Devin did a great job. We play as a team defensively and when Devin was beat, other guys stepped up to help him", Nagle added. For the record, Brown had 10 points in the contest.

Vescovi's 18 points help the Highlanders finish the week unbeaten as CH easily took care of Penn Cambria by 18. "Penn Cambria is a rivalry game and they were ready to play. Joe Dziabo is a great player and we kept him to ten points and two three-pointers. Coming off the emotional win at BG and not really having time to prepare as we weren't able to practice Tuesday or Wednesday, this was a nice win."

Nagle said that "to play three games is a credit to the kids and how they're playing and how they want to get better."

**CITY GAME:** Johnstown/Bishop McCort is always one of the more anticipated match-ups in the Cambria County area. Last Friday was no different as the Crushers were able to defeat their crosstown rivals 69-52. Pat Hollern's squad was led by Jim Spisak (21 points), Jack Schrey (18) and Mason del Rosario (15). Aside from that, Paul Weatherly had 19 points for Johnstown, but he scored all but eight of those in the first quarter. Hollern remarked about the contest, and the Crushers' start in general:

"We really needed the Christmas break to get organized. because of the great success of our football

team, we don't have that 2 weeks of training camp to get the guys in shape and ready to play basketball at a high level. We really tried to contain Johnstown in their dribble-drive motion attack, which is very difficult to do. We also wanted to make sure we kept them off of the offensive glass, which we did enough and we wanted to limit our live ball turnovers that would result in layups or dunks. Our senior leadership Friday night was fantastic and those guys (Jack Schrey, Zach Freeman, Jim Spisak) played with confidence. We got productive minutes from our bench guys and made some timely shots and it doesn't hurt when you are able to go 18-22 from the free throw line. I guess we were able to contain Paul Weatherly the best we could. When we played man to man, Zach Freeman did a good job of staying square with him and contesting his shot. Weatherly is without a doubt the strongest player in the conference in terms of using his dribble to attack the basket or pulling up for a jump shot."

Trojan Head Coach Dave Roman, Jr offered some words in the loss: "Our man to man defense left a lot to be desired. We gave up easy dribble penetration which requires us to help. That help leaves shooters wide open for uncontested three-pointers. They are too good of shooters to allow that. We have a long way to go in our man to man defense. We are not going to give up on it because I believe that is what strong programs are built upon. We practice it every day and will continue to do so. It is a technique thing and a habit. Right now we have bad habits. That will soon change to good habits."

**HUSKIES COME UP BIG:** It was a rough week for Dave Roman's club as the Trojans lost a makeup contest with Bishop Carroll on Saturday afternoon at the Doc Stofko Gym.

Cosie Aliquo's Huskies jumped out to a 34-20 lead at the half but Johnstown battled back and BC needed some key free throws late down the stretch to score the one-point win. All-state footballer Steve Greene scored 12 points off the bench in the second quarter for BC.

On the other hand, it was a great week for Aliquo as the Huskies won their contest Friday night with Richland. BC defeated the Rams 58-47 on the heels of 14-point performance from Jackie Moschgat and Luke Paronish. The 2-0 week improves the Huskies to 11-1 on the season and has them all alone on top of the Section 2 standings.

Aliquo offered some words on the week before looking ahead: "It was another big week for us. First we beat a good Richland team on Friday then we travel to Johnstown and claim a one point victory. Those are two well coached teams and coming out 2-0 in that week gave us some more confidence. Right now we're just taking it one game at a time because in the LH you can't take any team light."

**WEDNESDAY WEATHER WOES:** All but one of the games scheduled for Wednesday 1/7 were postponed. Two (Johnstown/Bishop Carroll and Cambria Heights/Bishop Guilfoyle) were made up within the week, the other three are still to be determined.

In that lone contest that took place on Orthodox Christmas evening, Tim Koshute's Richland Rams edged the Westmont Hilltoppers 41-39. Dereck Malzi had 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in the win.

**1,000-POINT CLUB:** Johnstown's Paul Weatherly scored his 1,000th point this past Saturday in the above mentioned Trojan loss to Bishop Carroll. He dropped 13 on the Huskies but it wasn't enough as BC held on for the win.

**HOT SHOTS:** Other noteworthy performances from a week ago:

- The above mentioned Jordan Miller dropped a league-best 42 points on Bishop Guilfoyle in a 64-62 overtime victory. BG's Chris Brown had 25 in the loss. The Marauders rebounded to get one in the win column with a 58-52 win over Bedford. Nick Johnson's 27 points led the way for BG.
- Penn Cambria's Joe Dziabo scored 34 points in the Panthers' 70-52 win over Bedford. Mark Scott had 23 for the Bisons in the loss.
- Dereck Malzi had 19 while teammate Jordan Rozich scored 15 in the Richland Rams' 53-31

victory over Windber in non-league action.

**NON-LEAGUE MONDAY:** Five LHAC teams will play non-league games on Monday. Penn Cambria will host Conemaugh Valley out of the WestPAC. Forest Hills will host another WestPAC member in Portage. Bedford will take on their archrival geographically in Chestnut Ridge. Bishop Carroll is at Johnstown Christian and last but not least Westmont will host another WestPAC squad in Windber.

**ON THE HORIZON:** It's a very busy upcoming week as nine of the 12 league teams will be playing three games on the Monday, Wednesday, Friday cycle of 1/12, 1/14 and 1/16. Some of the featured contests are:

- Somerset (10-2) at Bishop McCort (6-2)
- Bishop McCort (6-2) at Cambria Heights (10-1)
- Johnstown (6-3) at Penn Cambria (5-4)
- Richland (4-6) at Central Cambria (4-6)

**COACHSPEAK:** I was recently able to touch base with Penn Cambria Head Coach Jim Ronan and he talked about some recent success his club had as well as some general comments on the young season: "We recently defeated Bedford last night Jan. 5 (70-52). It was a very physical game with many emotions running high on the court and in the stands. I feel that our team is playing hard and learning to win games instead of constantly doubting themselves as in the past. We are learning the mental toughness to being a champion which is key to being successful. Our kids are working hard at practice which is translating into a hard fought game each night. I look forward to watching this team grow as the season goes."

**RANKINGS:** In the second regular season release of the Harrisburg Patriot-News' state rankings, Bishop Carroll is ranked #8 in Class A. No other LHAC teams are represented in any other classes.