

GREAT WEEK FOR THE CRUSHERS: Aside from the win over Westy, the Crushers were 3-0 on the week, scoring victories over Bedford and Bellwood-Antis as well.

In the 73-46 win over Bedford, Jim Spisak led the way with 19 points.

Spisak had 21 and Jack Schrey had 10 in the 66-47 win over Bellwood-Antis.

I caught up with Pat Hollern to get some of his thoughts on the week, "beginning the week with a non-conference road game is great for playoff environment and atmosphere, because you have to rely on your teammates. Nobody is rooting for you, so you have to trust in one another. We are at the point in the season where you have to keep your mind and body fresh and ready to play because we have so many games each week. We really have to have our bench players ready to give us quality minutes."

ALSO IN THE 3-0 CLUB: The Cambria Heights Highlanders keep on truckin' with a 3-0 win, scoring victories over Bedford, Richland and Bald Eagle Area last week.

Eric Nagle's club beat Bedford 48-32 on Monday. Devin Lansberry had 12 while John Link had 10 in the win.

On Wednesday, the Highlanders won a close one with Richland, 43-39. Steve Sharbaugh had 15 points while Link added 13.

CH closed out the week by fending off a scrappy Bald Eagle Area club in tough non-league contest by the score of 59-52. Both Ian Vescovi and Link had 20 points in the win.

BIG WIN FOR BG: The Bishop Guilfoyle Marauders scored a very nice upset victory in inter-sectional play as they defeated Bishop Carroll last Wednesday 37-31. Nick Johnston scored 17 for BG in the low-scoring affair.

BG coach Josh Baker reflected on the win, "Our focus was to be physical and aggressive for 32 minutes, and I think we accomplished that goal. The result gave our kids some confidence that may have been lacking and provided some positive momentum going forward for the rest of the regular season and playoffs. If we can continue to build upon this solid win, we should be ready to play good basketball in the playoffs."

MORE ACCOLADES FOR GREENE: Last week in this space it was reported that Bishop Carroll's Steve Greene was named to the Big 33 team in addition to the all-state teams of both the Associated Press and Pennsylvania Football News. This week there is another honor to report as Greene was nominated for the Old Spice Red Zone Player of the Year.

Greene's coach, Cosie Aliquo, had strong words of praise for him: "Steve has been fabulous for us this year. We wouldn't be 14-2 without him. He's been our spark off the bench all year because of his size and leadership. Right now he's out with a broken foot so I don't have plans for his return but if he's healthy I'll put him in the lineup. But we need to look at his future and health first."

HOT SHOTS:

- Johnstown had a nice week, going 2-0. In a 79-44 defeat of Central Cambria on Wednesday, the Trojans got double-doubles from Paul Weatherly (24 points, 11 rebounds) and Richard Agurs (17 points, 14 rebounds). Carlton Wyatt also had 13 points in the win. Agurs nearly had another double-double in JHS' 58-49 win over Richland to close out the week. The junior had 9 points and 10 rebounds. Wyatt led the Trojans with 11 points while Cliff Eddins and Travis Williams each had 10.
- Scott Close got 24 points from Brett Christner in a 76-60 win over Penn Cambria. Somerset is now 12-4 on the season.

- Central Cambria defeated Penn Cambria 62-51 on Friday night. Two Red Devils had double-doubles as Caleb Handlon had 15 points and 15 rebounds while Ben Ridgely had 13 points and 12 rebounds. Jordan Miller led CC with 27.
- Bishop Carroll scored a big sectional win over Somerset 63-52. Chad Panick had 22 points and 11 rebounds while Luke Paronish had 19 points and 10 rebounds.
- Tim Koshute's Richland Rams opened the week with a big, non-LHAC win over Chestnut Ridge, 70-38. Dereck Malzi had 19 points while Jordan Blasko had 14 and Nick Niel had 11 in the win.
- Westmont got a mid-week one-point win over Forest Hills, 49-48. Mike Valcheff led the way with 16 points and 13 boards.

BUSY WEEK AHEAD FOR THE TROJANS: Oh the woes of the winter sports season. Dave Roman Jr.'s Trojans already had a busy week scheduled and it's even busier now as they will make up a weather postponement with Penn Cambria this Thursday. This is in addition to the three games already on their docket. They are at DuBois Monday, at Somerset on Wednesday and host Westmont on Friday.

ON THE HORIZON: Some top match-ups for the week ahead:

- Bishop Carroll (14-2) at Bishop McCort (11-2), 1/30
- Johnstown (10-3) at Somerset (12-4), 1/28
- Central Cambria (5-8) at Cambria Heights (14-1), 1/28

Also, all league games are sectional games with the exception of the above mentioned Johnstown/Penn Cambria makeup. However, there are some interesting non-league games on the week. Penn Cambria is at Punxsutawney on Monday. Bishop McCort hosts DuBois Central Catholic on Saturday. Westmont is at Hollidaysburg Monday. As previously referenced, Johnstown travels to DuBois on Monday.

RANKINGS: In the fourth regular season release of the Harrisburg Patriot-News' state rankings, Bishop Carroll is ranked #9 in Class A. No other LHAC teams are represented in any other classes. Cosie Aliquo offered some words on this topic: "The ranking is nice for the players because they've worked so hard and for Bishop Carroll to be back on the basketball map again. For me though, I want the ranking at the end of the year. This school has been great and I just want us to be playing our best at the end of the year. My players are awesome and it's been a fun year!!"