

Crestview boys skewer Jennings

Written by Jim Cox

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:46 PM -

sports@timesbulletin.com

CONVOY - Hitting on all cylinders at both ends, Crestview busted out to a 22-2 lead and rolled to a 60-33 win over Fort Jennings Tuesday night.

The Knights are now 6-0, the Musketeers 1-5.

The game started on an 8-0 Crestview run before Fort Jennings' senior Brandon Kohli stopped the bleeding, temporarily, with a layup on a delayed break with only 1:11 left in the first period. The home team, however, then scored 14 in a row to lead 22-2 before Kohli banked in a 10-footer with 5:32 remaining in the second quarter. Beginning with Kohli's banker, the Musketeers turned the momentum significantly, battling Crestview on nearly even terms from then on. It was, however, way too late.

It certainly didn't help the visitors' cause when senior starter Chad Recker went out to stay with a knee injury with three seconds left in the first quarter. Recker had suffered a similar injury in two earlier games but in both cases had been able to return to action in the same game.

Jennings actually closed the margin slightly -- to 19 (33-14) at the half and to 13 twice (35-22 and 37-24) midway through the third quarter. However, the Knights ended the third period on an 8-0 run to eliminate any doubt with a 45-24 lead.

Crestview coach Jeremy Best wasn't especially pleased with how the Knights handled the big lead.

"You keep playing (with a big lead)," said Best. "It's a long game. You saw that; they cut it to 13 at one time. We lost some intensity and focus in the third quarter. In the first half, we got out and did some things in transition. We got down the floor but then we didn't make much money out of it. When we go down the road, we've got to finish those opportunities."

Crestview boys skewer Jennings

Written by Jim Cox

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:46 PM -

Crestview totally dominated all of the numbers. The Knights out-shot the Musketeers from the field — 43 percent (20-of-47) to 35 percent (14-of-40) — and the line: 73 percent (16-of-22) to 33 percent (1-of-3). Crestview won the boards 28-17 and had far fewer turnovers -- 8-22.

“We can’t play with a team of that caliber yet, that’s for sure,” said Fort Jennings coach John Von Sossan. “We’re struggling; young kids and veterans not getting the job done yet for us. I just don’t like our energy right now but we’ll get there. You gotta stay positive with them; that’s all we can do. We’re not blessed with any size to speak of but we’ll just keep working at it.”

Junior lefty Damian Helm led Knight scorers with 15 and freshman Connor Lautzenheiser came off the bench to score 10, including two nothing-but-net treys early in the fourth.

Kohli led Jennings’ scoring with 11.

Eleven Knights saw significant playing time in the game and the play of his bench pleased Coach Best.

“We played a lot of guys tonight,” he added. “Not an excuse but we’ve got three guys who are fighting illness, so we thought we’d dig into the bench. I thought some guys off the bench stepped up and made us recognize them tonight. That’s what makes this team so unique; we’ve got a lot of guys who can earn minutes. Competition for playing time is good.”

Jennings hosts Miller City Thursday.

Crestview faces its biggest test of the young season at Lima Central Catholic Friday night. Crestview jayvees are now 5-1 after cruising to a 51-32 win. Fort Jennings is now 0-6.

Fort Jennings (33)

Von Sossan 1 0-0 3, Wallenhorst 3 0-0 6, Warnecke 4 0-0 9, Kohli 5 0-1 11, Recker 0 0-0 0, Wittler 1 0-0 3, Kehres 0 1-2 1, Eldridge 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 1-3 33.

Crestview (60)

Zaleski 1 0-0 2, Etzler 2 3-4 7, Helm 6 2-2 15, Heffner 2 2-3 6, Ream 0 0-2 0, Lautzenheiser 4 0-0 10, Gibson 1 1-2 4, Simerman 1 2-2 4, Brown 0 1-2 1, Bolenbaugh 3 3-3 9, Jones 0 2-2 2. Totals 20 16-22 60.

Score by quarters:

Crestview boys skewer Jennings

Written by Jim Cox

Wednesday, December 19, 2012 1:46 PM -

Fort Jennings 2 12 10 9 - 33

Crestview 14 19 12 15 - 60

Three-point field goals: Fort Jennings 4 (Von Sossan, Warnecke, Kohli, Wittler); Crestview 4 (Lautzenheiser 2, Helm, Gibson).