

Jays use balance, rebounding to down Lancers

Written by Jim Metcalfe

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MIDDLE POINT — St. John's used strong rebounding and balanced scoring to down host Lincolnview 70-45 in non-conference boys hardwood action Saturday night on Farmers' Night at the Lancerdome of Lincolnview High School.

The Blue Jays (12-4) owned the glass 42-17 (17-4 offensive) and received double-doubles from senior Curtis Geise (19 markers, 11 boards) and senior Ryan Buescher (14 and 12, to go with four assists and four steals).

Senior Seth Bockey added 15 markers and junior Ryan Koester 11 as the Jays shot 52.9 percent.

"We came out with a lot of energy and with an aggressive mindset. We were not only attacking the glass off the dribble drive and the pass but for second and third shots," St. John's coach Aaron Elwer noted. "We didn't always finish but we got a lot of opportunities. We won our second game in a row on the road, especially coming off a tough game at Marion Local the night before, so that is a good sign."

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For Lincolnview coach Brett Hammons, rebounding was the key.

“We gave up way too many second shots; the stats don’t lie. I thought we did OK defending the first shot but not the extra ones,” Hammons said. “You cannot give good teams that many extra chances at the basket; they will make you pay every time.”

Junior Kyle Williams was the lone Lancer in twin digits with 20 (5 treys).

The Jays came out attacking the offensive glass early, getting eight in the first period, with Buescher getting four of his eight first-period rebounds on the offensive end. Thus, they overcame 4-of-14 shooting. When Koester hit a trey off the opening possession just 18 ticks into the contest, the Jays never trailed. They scored the first nine points before a Williams trey at 5:23 got the Lancers (7-11) on the board. They rallied within 13-8 when senior Brooks Ludwig hit a pair of freebies with 56.4 ticks on the board.

After Bockey opened the second frame with a basket at 6:50, a triple-and-1 play from senior Kade Carey at 6:15 brought the Lancers within 15-14. That is as close as they could get the rest of the night. A Geise single at 5:53 started a 21-9 closing run — with Bockey pacing the way with six points, Geise five and Buescher four — culminated by a Bockey putback at the 30-second mark, to make it 36-23.

Lincolnview was 5-of-8 from beyond the arc in the first half to stay close but turned it over 11 times (15 total).

The 3-pointers didn’t drop for Lincolnview in the third like they did the first half, though they finished the game 10-of-18 for 55.6 percent (14-of-41 overall for 34.1%). That enabled the Jays to begin to open up the game. With Geise taking over early in the third canto, scoring nine, and the balanced crew doing the rest, the Blue Jays built a 55-30 edge on a steal and layin by Buescher at the horn.

St. John’s was 8-of-13 shooting in the period to Lincolnview’s 3-of-11.

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The Jays' lead reached as high as 29 in the finale as both benches emptied and the deeper reserves saw varsity playing time.

St. John's netted 11-of-19 from the line (57.9%); and amassed 14 errors and 14 fouls. Sophomore Evan Hays dealt five dimes. They visit Versailles Friday.

"The old saying about never fouling a jump-shooter — we violated that too many times. We were too aggressive in our close-outs," Elwer added. "We addressed that at halftime. We knew they were more than capable of hitting a few. Offensively, we're starting to get more balanced. We know the scouting reports on us focus on Curtis and Ryan but we are getting the others more on the same page, which will make us even tougher to defend."

Lincolnview ended up 7-of-13 from charity (53.8%); and with 16 fouls. Senior Nick Leeth delivered five assists and sophomore Justis Dowdy four. Lincolnview visits Lima Temple Christian Tuesday.

"We were getting good looks, especially outside the arc. If we can set our feet well, like tonight, we can get on runs like this," Hammons added. "We had 10 of them tonight. However, we only had four made baskets inside the arc. We've been more balanced between the inside and outside our previous four games and have done well but we didn't have that tonight. Again, good teams take advantage of that; St. John's isn't 12-4 for no reason."

In junior varsity action, Chandler Adams hit a 3-ball to send the game into overtime but it was the Jays who had the better of that extra session 10-2 as they grabbed a 53-45 triumph.

Sophomore Alex Odenweller led the Jays (7-9) with 17 (10-of-13 free throws) and junior Aaron Hellman added 11.

The freshman Adams topped the Lancers (11-7) with 20 and classmate Hayden Ludwig added 12.

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VARSITY

ST. JOHN'S (70)

Andy Grothouse 1-0-3, Ryan Buescher 6-1-14, Eric Clark 1-0-2, Ben Wrasman 0-0-0, Aaron Hellman 0-0-0, Ryan Koester 4-0-11, Curtis Geise 6-7-19, Cole Fischbach 0-0-0, Evan Hays 1-0-2, Tyler Conley 2-0-4, Alex Odenweller 0-0-0, Jake Csukker 0-0-0, Austin Heiing 0-0-0, Seth Bockey 6-3-15. Totals 22-5-11/19-70.

LINCOLNVIEW (45)

Nick Leeth 2-0-4, Kade Carey 2-1-7, Angelo Katalenas 0-0-0, Kyle Williams 7-1-20, Logan Miller 0-0-0, Mark Evans 0-0-0, Justis Dowdy 1-3-6, Conner McCleery 0-0-0, Eli Farmer 1-0-3, Brooks Ludwig 0-2-2, Hayden Ludwig 1-0-3, Austin Leeth 0-0-0, Chandler Adams 0-0-0. Totals 4-10-7/13-45.

Score by Quarters:

St. John's 13 23 19 15 - 70

Lincolnview 8 15 7 15 - 45

Three-point goals: St. John's, Koester 3, Buescher, Grothouse; Lincolnview, Williams 5, Carey 2, Dowdy, Farmer, H. Ludwig.

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JUNIOR VARSITY

ST. JOHN'S (53)

Aaron Hellman 3-2-11, Ryan Hellman 0-0-0, Ben Wrasman 2-4-9, Eric Gerberick 0-0-0, Gage Seffernick 0-0-0, Jake Csukker 3-3-9, Austin Heiing 0-0-0, Alex Odenweller 3-10-17, Tyler Conley 3-1-7. Totals 9-5-20/27-53.

LINCOLNVIEW (45)

Derek Friesner 2-0-6, Adam Stocksdale 0-0-0, Tyler Brant 0-0-0, Tyler Wannemacher 0-0-0, James Smith 0-0-0, Troy Thompson 1-0-2, Hayden Ludwig 4-3-12, Austin Leeth 2-0-5, Chandler Adams 8-3-20, Derek Youtsey 0-0-0. Totals 12-5-6/10-45.

Score by Quarters:

St. John's 9 10 5 19 (10) - 53

Lincolnview 4 10 6 23 (2) - 45

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Three-point goals: St. John's, Hellman 3, Wrasman, Odenweller; Lincolnview, Friesner 2, Ludwig, Adams, Leeth.