



D. ELLIOTT SCORES 12 POINTS, STEALS 3; KANE 6 REBOUNDS, 6 POINTS; WRIGHT 7 POINTS

GL Highlanders Hypnotize Blue Devil B'Ballers, 48-45

By DAVID B. CORBIN

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Nothing seemed to go right and nearly nothing went in for the Westfield High School boys basketball team in a 48-45 loss to Governor Livingston at Westfield on January 28, just three days after beating the Highlanders, 45-36, on their turf.

Shooting percentages were quite low for both teams, especially in the first half, but the 4-9 Highlanders managed to sink one more 3-pointer than the 8-6 Blue Devils in the third quarter and added another in the fourth.

"It is tough to win games when you shoot 25 percent from the field. A lot of those shots were in the paint too. The effort was there but the execution was lacking. When we got to the rim we had trouble finishing and when

we took jump shots, some were good shots and some were forced," Blue Devil Head Coach Daryl Palmieri said.

Highlander Rob Imbalzano, who hit a pair of 3-pointers in the third quarter, led all scorers with 16 points, while teammate Pat Mahoney nailed a 3-pointer in the third quarter and added another in the fourth to finish with 10 points. John Iorio and Javon Reis-Wilson each bucketed six points, while John Wills and Vic Candeloro each scored four points and Chris Marzo added two.

Senior Dylan Elliott led the Blue Devils with 12 points, including three 3-pointers, and three steals. He also had six rebounds, an assist and tipped a pass that ended up in the hands of a teammate. Senior Dave Kane had six rebounds, six points and a pair of

steals. Chris Wright sank seven points, while adding five rebounds, a blocked shot and one steal. Chris Boutsikaris also had seven points, two rebounds, a steal and an assist. Junior Sean Elliott had six points, four rebounds, a steal and an assist. Owen Murray banged a 3-pointer and added five rebounds and three assists. Parker Hess (2 assists, 3 rebounds) and Eric Shor (2 rebounds, blocked shot, steal) each had two points. Chris Sweeney had three rebounds.

Neither team could find the basket until Dylan Elliott sank his first 3-pointer with 6:30 left in the first quarter. Hess sank two free throws and Sean Elliott hit a 2-pointer to give the Blue Devils a 7-0 lead before a timeout was called with 5:08 on the clock. The Highlanders answered with a 9-2

run to knot the score entering the second quarter. The Blue Devils missed all three of their free throws during that 9-2 span, while the Highlanders managed to hit only one of four.

Both teams were still off the mark, but the Blue Devils were a little better at the line, hitting 5-for-7, and won the quarter, 11-10, for a 20-19, halftime lead.

Mahoney banged a 3-pointer early in the third quarter, but Westfield responded with an 8-2 run, which included Elliott's second 3-pointer, to stretch their lead to 28-24 midway through the quarter. Imbalzano's two straight 3-pointers staggered the Blue Devils and caused a timeout with 1:31 left. but by the end of the quarter, the Blue Devils were clinging to a 35-34 lead.

The lead plunged to a 40-35

deficit quickly when Mahoney sank a 3-pointer and Imbalzano was fouled while rolling in a lay-up and sank the free throw. Both teams took several minutes to add just four points to their total until another timeout was called with 58.26 on the clock.

The Blue Devils were forced to foul. Reis-Wilson went to the line and sank both free throws, stretching the lead to seven. Boutsikaris nailed a 3-pointer, Reis-Wilson sank two more free throws and Elliott sank his third 3-pointer. With 18.18 remaining, Mahoney went to the line, missed both free throws, got the rebound, was fouled and missed two more free throws to keep the Blue Devils alive with 5.86 left. The Blue Devils attempted to hit a 3-pointer in the final second

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