

Norbeck's 46 Pts. Stuns Patrick Henry

21 FGs Ties Denny Haselman and Dick Rice's PCL Record

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You just had to be there to believe it. Going in as heavy underdogs, the Fort Jennings Musketeers pulled off the first tournament upset by ousting a talented Patrick Henry team 78-77 Saturday night in one of the most exciting games ever in Ottawa-Glandorf's Robert J. Hermiller gymnasium.

Fueled by a school record 46 points from 5-11 senior guard Keith Norbeck, the Muskies stayed in contention most of the game against the much taller Patriots and had a 64-58 edge with 5:10 to play.

But the Patriots retook the lead with 2:20 left and had a seeming safe 77-74 edge with 18 seconds to play.

However, Darrell VonSossan, who had missed his previous five field goal attempts, nailed a critical jumper for the Muskies to cut it to one, 77-76, and to have Norbeck foul Dennis Bostelman on the inbounds pass with eight ticks on the clock.

That was Norbeck's fifth foul and he left to a standing ovation in one of the best performances ever by a high school guard.

It looked like it was in the bag for Patrick Henry, up one and Bostelman, who had 29 points, at the foul line. Two makes would have sealed it but he missed the front end of the one-plus-one and Ft. Jennings rebounded.

VonSossan raced with the ball down court and sent up a 15-footer from the key that looked good but it bounded off. Schuerman tried a tip in that missed and the ball landed in forward Dan German's hands and he dropped it in as the buzzer went off.

"These kids just never gave up," said Coach Bill Altenburger. "Our seniors deserved a win like this."

As to Norbeck's outing, he added, "a 5-11 guard cannot play any better than what Keith did. He was unbelievable."

The PCL's scoring king this year, Norbeck hit 21 of 33 field goal (68 percent) and four of six free throws. Most of his points came under heavy pressure from the Pats who were taller but not as quick. Several of his fielders came on double pumps and fade away to avoid having them blocked.

"We could not stop him," admitted losing Coach Jim Zurbrugg who announced several weeks ago his resignation at the Henry County school. "We did not try anything special on him but we did spread out our defense. He was making everything though and they weren't easy shots."

Zurbrugg, who guided his Pats to a Northwest Ohio League championship for the second year and a final 14-7 record, was still criticized by always dissatisfied Patrick Henry fans, felt it was his team's own undoing that led to the loss.

"We did not run our offense," he said. "With Bostelman scoring at will inside and Kevin Seeman bombing from the outside Patrick Henry appeared in control the first half.

Up six at the halftime break, 37-31, PH stretched it to ten points early in the third period.

Only Norbeck was keeping Ft. Jennings in the game with his fast break driving and stopping at the lane to take a short jumper.

Norbeck hit FJ's first 16 points of the third round. He had 18 the first half that spring boarded the Muskies back in the lead, 47-46 and the team took a 53-48 lead into the last quarter.

Patrick Henry finally got the lead back with 2:30 left and had a three point edge with 18 seconds on the clock before the last winning surge by the Musketeers.

"I glanced at the clock when Darrell took his shot and it said two seconds," said German. "Mark hit the ball and it landed to me and I just laid it in."

Norbeck's 46 points broke the school mark of Bill Kramer's 43 set in 1970. It is also fifth on the Putnam County all-time scoring list.

PH 17 20 11 29 - 77
FJ 12 19 22 25 - 78

PH 28 - 21 -- 77
Bostelman 12-5-29. Kevin Seeman 9-4-22. Kirk Seeman 2-7-11. Shade 2-1-5. Schweibert 1-0-2. Prigge 1-3-5. Zachrich 1-1-3.

FJ 35 - 8 - 78
Norbeck 21-4-46. Schuerman 7-1-15. German 2-2-6. Schroeder 1-1-3. D. VonSossan 4-0-8. T. VonSossan 0-0-0. Schimmoeller 0-0-0.

Norbeck's 21 field goals tied the PCL record for the most field goals made in a game held by Denny Haselman of Leipsic in 1962 and Dick Rice of Pandora in 1951.