

Cats Tame Archbold

Putnam County Sentinel – December 13, 1978

Contrary to some sources, the Archbold Blue Streaks are not faster than a speeding bullet, they don't change clothes in phone booths, and they don't have a big red "S" stitched to their uniforms.

With a two-year 40-4 record and a high scoring 99-62 win over Continental credited to Archbold, the Blue Streaks carried a bit of superhuman confidence to Kalida Saturday night. Kalida proved the Blue Streaks were human after all, however, using a second quarter surge and a 13-point outburst early in the fourth quarter to upend the highly touted Archbold squad, 80-71.

"Some people who saw Archbold play Continental were saying that we shouldn't even bother to show up for the game," Kalida's Dick Kortokrax stated. "We tried to sell the boys on the idea that Archbold isn't inhuman and if we had an advantage in the game it may have been psychological. We knew we were facing a worthy opponent but they might not have known how to take us."

"I'd heard that Archbold shot 60 percent from the field against Continental." Kortokrax continued, "But there aren't many teams that are going to do that too often. They were probably higher for the Continental game because there's a general rivalry there. I don't think we saw the same team that Continental saw."

The long and short of the game was just that – long versus short. Kalida, fielding a taller squad than Archbold, looked to the inside for the bulk of its scoring and 6'1" senior forward, Tim Schroeder, answered with his finest showing of the season, netting 21 points to lead the Wildcat attack. Archbold's fire power was supplied by Joe Frank, a 5'11" senior guard who scored most of his 24 points on 25-28 foot bombs from long range. Kalida's better percentage shots netted a better mark from the floor and a 16-11 edge at the charity stripe iced it.

Frank's deadly accuracy from the outside had Kalida fans muttering softly to themselves and paced Archbold to an early lead that everyone in the gym thought would grow through out the game. Kalida rallied in the second quarter, however, when Carl Osterhage helped shut off the Blue Streak inside game entirely and Jeff Nartker fired off the bench to add needed scoring. Outscoring Archbold 24-12 in the second stanza, Kalida opened a 36-31 lead and led the rest of the way.

A 16-14 edge in the third period pulled the Blue Streaks within three, 50-47, but the Wildcat exploded for the first 13 points of the fourth quarter to pad the margin to a 63-47 spread. Archbold's outside barrage began chipping away at the huge lead, however, and late in the game the Blue Streaks had an opportunity to cut the deficit to just three points. Nartker was fouled after pulling down a rebound with just over a minute to play, but the junior forward for Kalida was slapped with a technical foul for spiking the ball. Nartker missed the one-and-one, and Frank stepped to the line on the opposite end of the

floor. Frank's shot wouldn't drop, however, and when Archbold missed the shot in its possession, Kalida took over.

The six-point Kalida lead widened in the closing seconds as Ken Kahle and Carl Osterhage padded the margin with free throws and Nartker scored with deadly accuracy from the baseline to insure the win, Kalida's fourth in five starts.

Schroeder paced Kalida to a slim 42-39 rebounding advantage, grabbing 11 caroms to go with his team high 21 points, while Tim Stechschulte added seven rebounds and 16 points. Ken Kahle added 11 points, while Nartker had a career high 18 points and grabbed six rebounds.

Frank led the Blue Streaks with 24 points while power center, Dave Benecke added 19 points and Mike Kennedy 12 for Archbold.

Kalida edged Archbold in every statistic, netting a 42 percent average from the floor to Archbold's 41 percent mark, connected on 16 of 19 free throws to 11 of 19 for the Blue Streaks and had 11 turnovers to 12 for the opposition.

The win marked another milestone in the coaching career of Kortokrax. In his 20th season as a Putnam County head basketball coach, Kortokrax posted his 300th career victory with Saturday night's decision. Kortokrax posted a 26-18 record in two seasons at Fort Jennings, added 200-82 in 13 years at Ottoville and is currently 74-20 at Kalida for a career record of 300-120.

Dan Utendorf hit a spectacular half-court shot to give Kalida's reserve a 29-28 lead at the half and Al Miller canned a jumper at the buzzer to send the game into overtime as the Wildcat JV's stunned Archbold in the preliminary contest, 67-63 in two overtimes.

Kalida 32 16 80

Schroeder 9-3-21. Stechschulte 8-0-16. Osterhage 4-0-8. Kahle 2-7-11. B. VonderEmbse 2-0-4. Kortokrax 0-2-2. Nartker 7-4-18. G. VonderEmbse 0-0-0.

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Benecke 6-7-19. Frank 10-4-24. Lauber 3-0-6. Kennedy 6-0-12. Ziegler 4-0-8. Wannemacher 1-0-2. Rychener 0-0-0. Britenriker 0-0-0.

Kalida	12	24	14	30	80
Archbold	19	12	16	24	71

Reserve score: Kalida 67-63 (2 OT).

At the time, it was thought that this was Coach Kortokrax's 300th win during his 20th season of coaching and 5th at Kalida. The actual 300th win came the next game against Delphos Jefferson when Kalida won 69-58. The Wildcats were 17-5 in 1979, losing to Miller City in the Sectional Finals. Dick was named the PCL Coach of the Year in 1977 at Kalida for the 2nd time and 7th time overall.