

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

## Warriors rout Belmont 78-41 to advance

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The Wayne Warriors continued on their quest for playoff perfection Tuesday night, easily taking care of Belmont 78-41 at U.D. Arena to move on to the Sectional Finals.

"I'm really proud of our guys," Wayne head coach Travis Trice said. "We overcame a lot this week and have won two games in the tournament. Now we know we got the finals and I'm looking forward to that."

The Warriors took control of this one early by jumping out to a 6-0 lead. Marcus Crider got the Warriors on the board first with his two free throws. Crider put Wayne up 6-0 on a long lay-up after Travis Trice came up with a jumper for two. The Warriors responded with four more points after Belmont got on the board with a free throw. Trice knocked down his first three of the game to put Wayne up 10-1.

Belmont made things close coming back to within two at 10-8 before Crider came up with two more for the Warriors. Crider's dominance wouldn't last, though. The junior had to leave the game with 1:12 remaining in the quarter when he went down hard while trying to come up with a loose ball.

"I don't think it's serious," Trice said. "But it's going to be a nagging type of injury. It looks like it's a little bit of a hip pointer. I think he'll be alright. We'll get him some treatment and see if we can get him ready for the next game."

Crider wouldn't return to the game finishing his night scoring six of the Warriors 12 first quarter points.

Wayne came out to start the second quarter and built its lead up to 23-9. Xavier Jones had five points, including a 3-pointer, during the Warriors 11-1 run. Trice added four more points to his total and the Warriors also got a basket from Aaron Montgomery. The Bison brought the score to 23-13 before Trice came back to score seven straight for the Warriors. The junior connected on his second and third 3-pointer of the game. Trice's seven were followed by points by Jones and two free throws by Keith Clements. Wayne built up a 34-13 lead before the Bison scored before the half.

After Belmont scored to start the third quarter, Wayne responded with an 8-0 run. It started with two more from Trice and ended with a three-point play by Isiah Boddie as he made a basket and the bonus shot after being fouled. Belmont scored five more points before Trice came back with four more for the Warriors and after the Bison made the score 46-25, Wayne ended the quarter outscoring Belmont 11-2. Boddie came up with seven more points during the run.

Wayne entered the fourth quarter with a 57-27 lead and kept plugging away. Clements was good on two free throws and Jones scored the Warriors' next eight points to give Wayne a 67-33 lead. After Montgomery gave the Warriors two more points, it was Boddie's turn to take over the game again. He scored the Warriors next six points, as the Warriors were cruising with a 75-38 lead. Evin Bartlett scored the Warriors final three points on free throws in the games final minute.

Trice led the Warriors in scoring with 22 points, assists with nine and steals with six. Boddie finished second on the team with 18 points, followed by Jones' 16. Montgomery and Jason Bitsko led the team with six rebounds each.

"I think this is the time of the year where that needs to happen offensively," Trice said. "We know each other and understand what we want to have happen offensively. We've got guys that have played a lot of basketball in their young lives and now that's starting to show."

With the win, the Warriors will move on to face the winner of the Xenia and Meadowdale game. The Sectional Finals will be played Sunday at U.D. Arena at 2 p.m.