

Wayne bounces back to topple Centerville

Trice, GWOC's leading scorer, leads the way with 17 points.

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CENTERVILLE — Wayne rebounded from its first slip-up of the season to beat Centerville 59-52 on the road in Greater Western Ohio Conference Central play Friday, Jan. 8.

It wasn't the exact performance coach Travis Trice was looking for following a 74-71 loss to Gahanna Lincoln on Dec. 31, but the Warriors used their athleticism and torrid long-distance shooting to overcome turnovers and missed free throws in the opening half to improve to 3-0 in GWOC (8-1 overall).

"We put a lot of time this week into fundamentals. We got back to playing Wayne basketball," Trice said.

Travis Trice, the coach's son and leading GWOC scorer (23.3 ppg), had 17 for Wayne while 6-foot-6 junior Markus Crider added 15 points, 13 coming in the second half.

Centerville produced a 12-2 run in the third quarter to get back into it but Crider took over. With the Warriors' lead cut to three, his one-handed jam with 5:21 left in the fourth quarter put Wayne up 49-44.

Jimmy Staley nailed a 3 in the final minute to get the Elks within 56-52, but Wayne hit its free throws down the stretch.

The Warriors had 16 free-throw attempts in the fourth to Centerville's two.

Matt Sullivan led the Elks (3-5, 1-2) with 17 points.

Centerville built a 15-8 lead with nine points coming from Sullivan. But an Isiah Boddie 3-pointer late in the first quarter spurred a 12-0 Wayne run that featured seven straight points by Trice after he had missed a breakaway dunk to start the second.

Trice had 10 of Wayne's 20 points in the quarter. The Warriors connected on 7 first-half 3s.

"They had eight 3s and they got them from players who don't normally hit them," said Centerville coach Jim Staley. "That, to me, was the difference in the game."

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