



Warriors scalp Firehawks in romp, 87-48

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From the first few minutes of the game, it just seemed like it was going to be Markus Crider's night.

The Wayne Warriors jumped up early on the Fairborn Skyhawks behind the hot play of Crider, and rode the momentum of a big first period to an eventual 87-48 victory at Wayne High School last Saturday night.

Crider led the Warriors in three categories, finishing with a double-double as his 25 points, 12 rebounds and five steals all were tops on the team.

"That's what I have to get out of Markus every single night," Wayne head coach Travis Trice said. "He was 11-for-14 from the field. He's that type of player. He's got to be smarter on his fouls so he can stay in the ball game, because he makes us a totally different team. Offensively, he can do special things with the ball."

After falling behind 2-0 at the start of the game, Crider came up with the Warrior's first four points. Fairborn tied the game at four, but Wayne responded with a 14 point run starting with a three pointer from Travis Trice and ending with a steal and slam dunk by Crider.

The Skyhawks cut the Warrior lead to 18-8 before Braxton Miller ended the first period scoring with a rebound and two point bucket.

Fairborn cut the lead to eight points before Miller and Crider led the Warriors on a seven-point run. Crider added four more points in the period after the run, and by the time the halftime buzzer rang, Wayne had itself a 20 point lead over the Skyhawks at 40-20.

Wayne's second half started out much like the first half had with Crider dominating down low and putting points on the board. After an uncharacteristic low-scoring first half for Trice, the junior heated up in the third period.

Trice sank his second three pointer of the game, and followed that up with a steal and lay-up for the Warriors giving them a commanding 51-25 lead. Trice's second steal and lay-up of the period extended the Wayne lead to 55-28. The Warriors finished the third period with 22 points after Jason Bitsko scored his only points of the game on a lay-up.

Trice capped off an 11-point second half with a three pointer and a foul shot to get the Warrior fourth-period scoring under way. Fairborn cut the lead to 68-41 before the Warriors turned around and went on another run, scoring 14 points before the Skyhawks found the net again. Crider keyed the run for the Warriors with three rebounds and six points. Fairborn scored the final point of the game on a free throw, but it wasn't nearly enough as the Warriors remained unbeaten at 5-0 and 2-0 in the GWOC.

"It's special for the kids and the community," Coach Trice said on starting the season 5-0. "We want the community to back us and be excited about their basketball. You can't get better than 5-0."

Even with the slow first half, Trice still finished second on the team with 16 points to go along with his six rebounds, three assists and four steals. Isiah Boddie was the Warriors third leading scorer with nine points.

Although they came away with 87 points, Coach Trice says there's still work to be done.

"Right now we're missing a lot of lay-ups, a lot of free throws, and we're turning the ball over when we should be converting those into lay-ups," he said. "We had 87 points, but we should have done better with the 17 turnovers. We just have to take better care of the ball. I'm happy with the win, but we can play so much better."