



Thursday, March 12, 2009

Sectional champions!

Wayne routs Fairborn for shot at District title against LaSalle

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The Wayne boys basketball team won its third straight sectional title Sunday to qualify for a chance to repeat last year's District championship.

Wayne dominated Fairborn 85-51 in the Division I Dayton 4 sectional tournament at UD Arena.

The win sets up the District final match with Cincinnati LaSalle this Saturday at 7 p.m. at UD Arena.

The Warriors converted scoring chances into points early and often Sunday, while the defense put its stamp on the game and clamped down on the Skyhawks.

"I was very, very impressed with the way our guys came out and focused at the beginning," said head coach Travis Trice. "The difference is, we knocked down a few shots early, and that fueled our defense."

Senior Jordan Bazile and sophomore Travis Trice Jr. each hit a pair of 3-pointers to open a 16-7 lead halfway through the first quarter.

Wayne applied full-court defense from the opening tipoff, and the press paid off as Fairborn turned the ball over 18 times.

By contrast, Wayne committed four turnovers.

Bazile hit a layup off a steal to give Wayne its first double-digit lead at 18-8. Moments later, senior Lamar Mallory disrupted an inbounds pass going for the steal, an example of the overall effort that pleased Trice.

"I was very, very pleased with the way we defended today," he said.

Sophomore Markus Crider scored four early points with a layup and a slam dunk as Wayne outscored Fairborn 25-12 in the first eight minutes.

Wayne opened the second quarter with a 13-3 run that was fueled by six points from Bazile.

"We try to get on teams early," said Trice Jr. "Getting J.B. looks really keys our offense, because once he starts it, then everybody else backs it up."

Fairborn fouled Wayne three times in the act of scoring, a habit the Skyhawks repeated throughout the second half.

The Warriors outscored Fairborn 31-8 in the second quarter on the strength of seven different scorers and took a 56-20 advantage into halftime.

The game's tempo slowed down in the third quarter, but Wayne showed it can score both inside and outside during a 14-4 spurt. Following a Bazile trey, Trice passed the ball inside to Mallory for a slam dunk that put Wayne up 61-23.

Moments later, Crider got fouled scoring on a slam and converted the free throw. Wayne went up 70-27 when Bazile, an 82 percent free throw shooter, converted another foul shot after hitting a basket.

Fairborn outscored Wayne 7-5 to end the third quarter down 75-34.

Four out of the five non-starters who entered for mop-up duty scored in the fourth quarter.

Seniors Mark Pierce and Spencer Mims tallied scores, freshman Keith Clements grabbed a steal and went baseline-to-baseline for a layup, then sophomore AD White added a basket to end the game's scoring.

Wayne outrebounded Fairborn 42-36 and shot 33-for-74 (45 percent) from the field, including 21-for-37 (57 percent) in the first half. Wayne made eight of 21 three's (38 percent), and seven of 13 (54 percent) in the first half.

"We didn't have to show an awful lot and that helps us out," said Trice. "But also, it's good for the program, to get some of those guys who have worked all year, to be able to come in and get a few minutes and be able to enjoy it and get a real feel for what the tournament is like. They deserved it. Our starters came out and set the tone early."

Wayne's guards stepped up to key the offensive production as 20 of the Warriors' 33 field goals resulted from assists. Trice Jr. tallied a game-high nine assists, while senior Brandon Williams notched five. Crider, Bazile, senior Devin Bartlett and sophomore Tre' Moore also logged some minutes at guard.

"They like to push the ball, so that gets us easy shots," said Crider of the guards. "It's good to win the sectional championship three times in a row. We're looking forward to the districts, next week."

Crider said conditioning is the key to being prepared for the next round.

"We have to keep working on conditioning and get better for the next game," he said. "The next one is going to be a tough one. (LaSalle senior) Danny McElroy is a pro player."

The 6-foot-7 McElroy anchors LaSalle in the post.

Trice Jr. acknowledged that the Lancers press heavily on defense.

"They press, too, so it's going to be a real nice game," said Trice. "We're going to get up and down, a lot of possessions, a lot of shots. It'll be fun to watch."

"We got good minutes out of everybody tonight," said Trice Jr. "It was a good team effort. We all came to play today. We just have to get consistent minutes out of everybody. That was the main thing tonight, to get everybody in and everybody ready for the next game."

Wayne scoring: Dominique Fowler 2, Crider 14, Williams 4, Bazile 22, Trice 17, Clements 4, Moore 2, Mims 4, White 2, Bartlett 2, Mallory 10, Pierce 2.

Wayne 3-pointers: Bazile 4, Trice 4.