

Wayne clinches share of division title

A 23-6 run in second quarter propels Wayne to easy win.

By Andy Armstrong, Staff Writer

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CLAYTON — It was Coach Jim Ehler Appreciation Night at Northmont High School, but the Wayne Warriors owned the court.

Using a 23-6 second-quarter run, the Warriors stayed unbeaten in the GWOC North with a 80-49 boys basketball victory over the Thunderbolts on Friday, Feb. 12.

The Thunderbolts went ahead 3-0 and never led again as Wayne (14-2, 7-0) clinched a share of the North title.

“This is the best basketball game we’ve played all season,” Wayne coach Travis Trice said.

Xavier Jones led the Warriors with 21 points, 14 in the first half.

“We were hyped up about this game. We’re trying to make some noise and get some respect in the state,” Jones said.

Jones had help from Travis Trice and Markus Crider, who also scored in double figures with 17 and 21 points, respectively.

“We’re only as good as the last man on the bench,” Jones said.

Because this was the Warriors’ first game in more than a week due to the weather, there had been plenty of time to regroup.

“We’ve got the players to do things,” Coach Trice said. “Over this layoff we were able to pull everyone together. I’m really proud of the way we played. We wanted to play like a pack of wild hogs, and we did that.”

Zach Newsome led Northmont (9-8, 3-4) with 17 points.

It doesn’t get easier for Wayne, the No. 1 team in the Division I DDN ratings.

Tonight, the Warriors take on Centerville in what will be a key matchup to help the Warriors solidify a top seed in the upcoming state tournament.

Said Trice, “We have to take one game at a time and put our arms around each other.”

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