



Wayne advances to Sunday's sectional final against Fairborn

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Thursday, March 05, 2009

The Wayne boys basketball team defeated Beavercreek Tuesday to advance to the sectional final against Fairborn, and mark a three-game sweep of the Beavers.

Wayne (17-5) will battle the Skyhawks for a third straight sectional crown this Sunday at 2 p.m. at UD Arena.

"We haven't seen them play a lot this year," said head coach Travis Trice of Fairborn (12-10), but he added that Wayne looks forward to the matchup.

Tuesday night's game started out close, with Creek limiting Wayne's lead to five. Creek pulled to within three at 13-10 before sophomore Travis Trice Jr. sank a 3-pointer and senior Jordan Bazile added another for a 19-12 lead.

Freshman Keith Clements' layup gave Wayne a 27-18 halftime edge.

Wayne stretched the lead to double digits early in the third on senior Lamar Mallory's layup, then Mallory drew a foul that sent Creek into a tailspin. Senior Alex Arthur committed a personal foul that Mallory converted into free throws, and Ben Dorn committed a technical that Trice converted into points.

Another Mallory score put Wayne up by 17 at 42-27, which spurred a 21-10 Wayne run.

The Warriors held Creek to 18 first-half points and pulled away in the second half with a 27-15 third period.

"We played pretty solid defensively and that's what I was most proud of," said Trice.

Despite a foul-ridden fourth quarter, Wayne opened up a showcase of highlight plays. Following a Bazile triple, Mallory gathered a Bazile pass and rose to the rim for a one-handed slam dunk.

The inside opened up for Wayne in the fourth, allowing it to surpass the 70-point plateau. Senior Mark Pierce rebounded a missed Wayne free throw and lifted the ball in for two.

Trice Jr. led all scorers with 17 points, and shot 4-for-7 from 3-point range. Wayne varied its offensive weapons, scoring 40 points in the paint and 21 from the outside. Wayne shot 18-for-30 (60 percent) in the second half and 29-of-64 (45 percent) overall.

Trice said a lack of focus caused Wayne to miss shots in the first half.

"I thought we got pretty good looks. We just have to be in a situation where we finish some of those buckets earlier," said Trice.

Senior Dominique Fowler notched a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds, leading Wayne to a 49-22 edge on the boards. Mallory added 10 points and eight boards.

The Warriors also distributed the ball evenly, particularly in the second half. Senior guard Brandon Williams tallied nine assists and Trice Jr. notched five, leading to 22 overall.

"We have guys that stepped up on the defensive end and put us in fastbreak situations," said Trice. "I have strong, quick guards in Brandon Williams and Devin Bartlett. Those guys do a good job of pushing the ball up the floor. I'm very pleased with our effort all night, especially defensively. We still know we have a lot of work to do, but I thought we focused, especially in the second half."

Wayne scoring: Fowler 10, Markus Crider 12, Williams 5, Clements 4, Trice 17, Moore 6, Spencer Mims 4, Bazile 8, Mallory 10, Pierce 2.

Wayne 3-pointers: 7 (Trice 4, Moore 1, Bazile 2).