

## Jan 13 Boys Basketball



*Hamilton's Bret Stroman drives through two WWPS defenders for two points during tonight's game in West Windsor (Photo by Ken Weingartner).*

### **Nottingham's defense the difference in close victory over Allentown**

**By Rich Fisher**

**Fish4Scores.com**

**Jan. 13:** Maybe, just maybe, the Nottingham High boys' basketball team is starting to come of age.

The Northstars won their second straight tonight, 43-37, at Allentown in true grind-it-out fashion.

In a game that was tight throughout, the Northstars led by two at halftime and by three after three quarters. It was still a three-point game when Nottingham (4-5) took possession and went into its spread offense late in the fourth quarter.

When the Redbirds came out to double-team Shaquan Worthy, the point guard drove the lane and dished to Jamir Jenkins, who put in the game-clinching lay-up with 50 seconds left.

"That was huge," said coach "Irish" Mike Walsh. "If that goes the other way it's still a one-possession game with a lot of time left for them to tie it."

It capped a nice game for Worthy, who was held scoreless but did what a floor leader should do.

“He ran a great point guard,” Walsh said. “They played a tight zone, he didn’t force things and he kept us in the game.”

The Alexis brothers led the scoring, with Kevin Alexis hitting a dozen and Gerald Alexis notching 10. Jenkins finished with eight against a packed defense.

“They sat in a tight zone and we didn’t shoot that great,” Walsh said. “We’re still working on scoring in the interior. Our interior defense is good but our interior offense is still coming along.

“But I’m proud of them. We’re getting more maturity. A lot of times when shots stop falling, you stop playing defense. An immature team would have quit on the defensive end tonight, we didn’t do that. We played straight man and kept defending and I think that’s a sign we’re kind of growing.”

When Walsh talks about defense, he’s not talking about points allowed and shooting percentages, as much as another stat he finds important.

“We keep a stat – points (allowed) per possession,” the coach said. “When you play us, we take quick shots a lot, so the other team gets more possessions. Our goal is to allow .7 points per possession, tonight we allowed .64 points per possession, which is the first time we got under that mark this year.”



*Kevin Alexis led Nottingham with 12 points tonight (Photo by Wes "The Media Mogul" Kirkpatrick)*

## **WW-P South turns away Hamilton with help of Hornets turnovers**

**By Ken Weingartner**

**Fish4scores.com**

**Jan. 13:** Turnovers turned the game.

Hamilton West committed a dozen turnovers in the first half tonight, helping fuel a 12-0 run by West Windsor-Plainsboro South in the second quarter, as the Hornets were handed a 55-42 setback in the Pirates’ Cove.

The Hornets opened the game with a 3-pointer from Lenwood Squire and a bucket from Tyler Wrenn to take a quick 5-0 lead, but the miscues later enabled South to 27-13 lead late in the second period and Hamilton was unable to dig out of the hole.

Squire led the Hornets with 14 points. Bryan Rivers scored a game-high 21 points for South.

“We finally came out strong and the next thing I know [the lead] was gone,” Hamilton coach Jason Malloy said. “It was unforced turnovers; throwing the ball out of bounds. The way we are offensively, we can’t afford to have mental lapses and turnovers like that, especially against a team like this.

“We knew what they did defensively, we knew where we were supposed to be, but we just had mental lapses where we just threw the ball away.”

South connected on three 3-pointers in the first half – including Zavon Johnson’s trey that gave WWPS a 9-6 lead it never relinquished – and when Isaiah Edmonds tipped in a missed shot, the Pirates had their 14-point advantage. Anthony Anglin’s basket for Hamilton with 1:19 to go in the half halted the run.

Hamilton chipped away at the Pirates' lead in the second half, getting as close as five points on two occasions early in the fourth quarter, thanks to two free throws and a driving layup from Bret Stroman, but the Hornets could get no nearer.

"What happened in the first half is every time they would score, we would put our heads down and feel sorry for ourselves," Malloy said. "We didn't do that in the second half, which is why we were able to keep it close for as long as we did. But we've got to find a way to play with that kind of energy in the beginning of games instead of waiting until we're down by 10 points.

"I told their coach that I thought they outrebounded us and he said he felt we outrebounded them," Malloy added. "I think both teams did a great job on the offensive boards – getting second, third, fourth shots – but we needed to grab those rebounds. They were able to get rebounds and finally score when we were trying to cut [the deficit] and that's very deflating."

Wrenn finished with eight points for Hamilton, which fell to 3-7, and Stroman added seven. WWPS improved to 9-1, with its lone loss a one-point setback to Rancocas Valley.

### **Locklear gets 17 in Spartans loss at Ewing**

James Locklear scored 17 points but Steinert could not hang with Ewing in a 57-44 setback in the Devils Den.

The Blue Devils (8-2) led by seven after one quarter, 12 at halftime and 17 after three quarters. Nick LaBelle had 10 points and Ryan LaMarca chipped in with nine for the Spartans (2-6).