

Jan. 20 Boys Basketball



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*Nottingham's Stephen Adams looks for someone to pass to against Trenton's high-pressure defense today (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing [jbsportphoto@aol.com](mailto:jbsportphoto@aol.com)).*

## Hamilton West battles but Ewing wins the free throw war and the game

By Rich Fisher  
Fish4Scores.com

**Jan. 20:** For the most part, the Hamilton West boys' basketball team pretty much did what it was supposed to do against Ewing.

The one thing it didn't do, is what it never does, and that's make free throws.

If there is one thing that hasn't changed from the Chris Raba era to the Jason Malloy era, it's the Hornets' inability to hit from the charity stripe. Hamilton was just 7-for-16 from the line tonight while Ewing was a whopping 23 of 29 in taking a 51-38 victory at the Hornets Nest.

"We still can't shoot free throws," said Malloy, whose team is under 50 percent from the line. "We do it every day for the most part. In practice, the kids are making them but, I don't know.

"And once you start missing free throws and missing lay-ups, it's going to affect their psyche at some point."

It happened in the fourth quarter against the Blue Devils, as Hamilton scrapped its way to a miniscule 33-32 deficit after three quarters.

At that point, Ewing coach Shelly Dearden went to zone and it seemed to bother Hamilton (4-8), which could muster just six fourth-quarter points.

The first 24 minutes featured seven lead changes and six ties. Ewing (10-3) looked to pull away when it took a 23-16 lead late in the first half, but Hamilton began to penetrate at will in the third quarter to take a leads of 25-24, 29-28 and 30-29.

Tyleer Wrenn fed Bret Stroman for two lay-ups, and each player drove an open lane for easy buckets.

Ewing took the lead for good with four straight points to make it 33-30 and went to zone for the entire fourth quarter.

"They're pretty physical, they play good defense but they weren't really rotating," said Stroman, who had 12 points. "They were kind of slow inside but they were big, so we had to penetrate and get fouls.

"We knew the zone was coming. We just didn't get good shots out of it."

"It slowed us down a little bit," Malloy said. "We cut it to five with four minutes left and I don't think we scored the rest of the way except for a couple foul shots."



*The Hornet Dance team is back this year and was doing it up at tonight's game under the direction of coaches Danielle "The Author" Muni and Taylor Pickett-Stokes. The full team (above) is small in numbers but sharp in routine thanks to Samantha Hall, Silvia Bardon, Marsha Pierre and Zhakier Seville. Below, Hall busts a big-time move (Photos by Mike Dill/purchase photos at [www.michaeldillphotography.com](http://www.michaeldillphotography.com)).*

Malloy's memory was correct, as a driving baseline lay-up by Rahmeir Reeves made it 41-36 with 4:20 left. But Ewing scored seven straight and had a 10-2 run to end it.

Led by David Azoroh (24 points, 10 rebounds), the Blue Devils were 14 for 17 from the line in the final quarter to keep Hamilton from mounting a comeback.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game," Dearden said. "Hamilton just keeps coming at you."

"I asked them to play as hard as they could for 32 minutes, and they did that," Malloy said. "Defensively we're averaging 44 per game (allowed) so we're doing a nice job there. We just can't score."

Lenwood Squire and Wrenn each had 10 points for Hamilton, as Wrenn continues to make strides during his freshman year.

"He's getting better and better, more and more confidence," Malloy said. "He's one of the hardest workers in practice, he gets better in practice every day and it's showing on the court."

One problem Hamilton has is a lack of depth, as Brandon George has been out for over a week due to illness. Coupled with John Lansing's pre-season injury, Hamilton has been going with a six-man rotation, sometimes seven.

"We need guys to step up in practice and show me that they're ready to go," Malloy said. "Against a team like that, you're gonna get tired. And Tyleer twisted his ankle in the first half and was hurting in the second but he battled."

## Short-handed Nottingham can't contain explosive Trenton

Missing two regulars is never good.

Missing them against Trenton High, well, you do the math.

The Tornados (9-1) rolled to a 104-66 victory at Nottingham today, blowing the game open early and keeping the pressure on throughout.

Nottingham (4-7) was without two regular guards, who missed the game due to suspensions. Kevin Alexis and Jamir Jenkins had 13 apiece, but it was hardly enough against the powerful Tornados.

"Trenton did most of their damage off second and third shots," coach "Irish" Mike Walsh said. ""We are going through some things as a team right now. Trenton was a tough team to play first after the changes we made.

"But we've got a good group of kids who stuck together throughout a tough game. We will bounce back."

## Princeton uses fourth-quarter run to thwart Steinert

A tough week came to an end on a down note for Steinert (2-8), which dropped a 61-48 decision at Princeton.

Trailing by four at halftime, the Spartans scored the first six points of the third quarter to go up 22-20. Princeton went on a 16-9 run over the remainder of the quarter for a 36-31 lead, then blitzed Steinert with eight straight to start the fourth and put the game away.

Jarrett Varanyak led the Spartans with 15 points, while James Locklear had 12 and Ryan LaMarca added nine.



Ryan LaMarca drives to the hoop against Princeton tonight (Photo by Dennis Symons/purchase photos at [www.dennissymons.com](http://www.dennissymons.com)).

