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West Carrollton at Belmont

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Game Notes: Coming into this game, the West Carrollton Pirates 7-3 (7-2) on the season. They had played a relatively lack schedule but had good wins against Troy, Butler and Stebbins. The Pirates are led by Senior Forward, Kalen McKinney and a trio of other solid players in Zahir Hopkins, Stanley Shrivvers, and Austin Jones.

The Belmont Bison came into this game, 3-7 on the season. They had rough a go of it as of late but had a good win over Carroll to start the season. The Bison are led by big man, Shawn Phillips and Guard, Logan Moore.

Game Start: From the outset, it was clear that West Carrollton's game plan was to try and shut down Phillips at all costs. The defense was setup to front the big man and dare the other Bison to beat them. On the offensive end the Pirates looked for any sort of offense as they struggled to get good looks and were trigger shy at times. Luckily for them, their senior leader McKinney, wasn't afraid to let it fly scoring the 1st 10 pts for his team. Shrivvers contributed with a couple nice mid-range jumpers but fouls racked up quickly as the Pirates had no answer for the size that Belmont had on the floor.

For Belmont, it quickly became evident that the main scoring threat was going to have to come from somewhere other than Phillips. West Carrollton deployed Aigbokhai Kadari to defend Phillips but that left their other big bodies free to clean up the glass and the guards to knock down shots. The Bison moved the ball extremely well and it was quickly established that their size was too much for West Carrollton to match.

End of 1st Quarter

West Carrollton: 19

Belmont: 26

The 2nd quarter went much the same as the 1st for the Pirates, Hopkins came off the bench and provided a quick spark to help West Carrollton try and rally but the only other scoring really came from McKinney as he knocked down a total of 4th 3's in the half. Otherwise it was bit of a bleak story as Belmont stepped on the gas, increasing the pace, and forcing the Pirates into TO's and Foul issues.

Belmont as stated above really picked up the pace in the 2nd frame. #12 got it all started with a big jam on a breakaway steal, and that got the Bison moving. From there #11 and #1 got into a groove with their shots and #32 and #34 cleaned up on the glass when Phillips went to the bench. Their pace of ball and good ball movement/distribution was rewarded with a big lead heading into the half.

Halftime

West Carrollton:27

Belmont: 47

Coming out of the break, it was certainly evident that the Pirates weren't going to go down without a fight. McKinney got it started with an early drive to the rim and finished strong. He followed that up with a good defensive play on the other end of the floor that he turned into an assist on a bucket off the Bison turnover. That spark led the Pirates to a 19-6 run that cut the lead to 7 pts by the 4:51 mark in quarter.

The Bison on the other hand came out extremely cold from the field. They played extremely sloppy, turned the ball over a lot and couldn't buy a bucket for the longest time. The Pirate run was stymied however when Logan Moore found a groove and accounted for 9 points in the quarter to help keep the opposition at arm's length headed to the final frame.

End of 3rd Quarter

West Carrollton:50

Belmont: 62

Unfortunately for the Pirates, just as they looked to be turning the tides, the early pressure issues and fouls caught up them. By mid-way through the 4th, they had their 3rd player foul out of the game (Kadari, Jones, Shivers). Those 3 key losses removed almost all the Pirates size and defensive game planning went out the window sealing this for the Bison.

Belmont continued to utilize their size and frustrate the Pirates. This is the main contributing factor that led to the accumulation throughout the game. Aided by the losses, Moore continued his flood of scoring to push the Bison all the way to the finish line. He was able to drive to the basket with impunity and seal the victory for Belmont.

Final:

West Carrollton:68

Belmont: 84

Player of the Game:

Logan Moore (Belmont)

Honorable Mentions:

Kalen McKinney (West Carrollton)

Shawn Phillips (Belmont)

Final Thoughts: West Carrollton will need to stay out of foul trouble and will need to get more consistent scoring from someone other than just McKinney. Kadari has the size to be a huge factor in most game but it wasn't on display tonight. They have okay against some of the MVL but will need to repeat some of those good wins in order to finish on the plus side of .500.

Belmont will need to continue to get good play from Moore and others as Phillips draws all the attention. Without that consistency the Bison will struggle mightily against the speed and size that the rest of the Dayton Public Schools have. They too have a rough road to walk if they want to salvage a .500 season.