

Game Recap-- 12-10-19

Carroll at Fenwick

Article by: Seth Keim

Game Start:

Coming into this game everyone knew that the kid to watch was going to be A.J. Braun from Fenwick. A.J. is a prolific 6'8 post player who isn't afraid to step out beyond the line and is one of the better rim protectors in the GCL. He is aided this year by Dan Luers and Jordan Rucker, as the 3 of them spearhead the attack for the Falcons. For Carroll, they lost a lot of talent and experience with multiple Seniors departing, leaving Jaden Dahm, Sam Severt, and company looking to get some assistance from others around them on the Patriot Roster.

We started off the game in a very tough defensive battle both teams threw zone looks that eventually shifted into Man-to-Man. Carroll's strategy was quite clear, sellout to stop Braun and dare the other Falcons players to beat them. Dahm, Chapman and Seltsam were constantly harassing Braun as Fenwick looked for the entry pass to the post. Fenwick had a tough start going almost 4 mins without a basket to start the game. Luckily for them, even though Carroll moved the ball from side to side very well, they struggled to make shots, only getting a basket or two from Dahm down low.

End of Q1

Carroll 4

Fenwick 6

As the 2nd quarter got started both teams got more comfortable and settled into the game rhythm. Carroll found continued success going down low to Dahm, as he seemed to be the only one who could get anything going offensively. Braun was guarding him tightly but the pace Carroll moved at slowed Braun down and Dahm took advantage. Fenwick on the other hand, saw a tired Braun commanding the same level of attention and the tandem of Luers/Rucker stepped up to fill the void. Luers looked to attack off the dribble, while Rucker took advantage of a 1v1 matchup, and scoring 3 buckets in

succession to end the 1st half, pushing a 1pt. game to 7pt. lead heading into the locker room.

Halftime:

Carroll 13

Fenwick 20

The 3rd quarter started much the same that the game initially started except Fenwick exploited the front side ball denial on Braun by lobbing the pass over the top, resulting in two easy buckets. Carroll continued to lack consistent scoring from anyone other than Dahm. Other Patriots would get good looks but seem to be trigger shy. As it was Dahm's tireless effort kept Braun off balance and kept Carroll within striking distance. The final minutes of the third saw Fenwick push the lead out closer to the double digit mark.

End of Q3

Carroll 22

Fenwick 31

Carroll entered the 4th quarter desperately needing to find a way to get some momentum going and make it a game. They were able to accomplish that and the spark was provided by one of their bench players, Johnny Deep. Deep came in around the 6 min mark, when Seltsam went out with his 4th foul. Deep immediately made his presence known on the glass and scored 8 straight points to propel Carroll into what would become a 13-0 run. This allowed Carroll to retake the lead with just under 1 min left to play, with Fenwick only having 2 pts total in the 4th Quarter. That drought put Fenwick into desperation mode, where it came down to Braun taking a prayer 3 that missed the mark, but he was fouled on the attempt. Braun went to the line with a chance to tie if he made the 3 FT's coming his way. Braun made the 1st 2 shots but the 3rd clanged off the rim and Carroll secured the rebound. Fenwick fouled quickly, sending Severt to the line where nailed both to push the lead back to 3. Braun was again tapped for the desperation 3, he fired an off balance and awkward attempt that he was able to bank in as time expired, sending it to OT.

End of Q4

Carroll 38

Fenwick 38

OT started off after a lengthy delay, a rules book was referenced, and Carroll was awarded 2 FT's on a technical foul situation. Severt hit them both and Carroll began OT with a 2pt. lead. The rest of OT, was very much a back and forth battle of FT's by both teams. In the end it came down to Fenwick calling a timeout with 10 seconds left to setup a game winning play. The score was tied at 45 all. Fenwick inbounded the ball but Sam Severt had other plans, he picked off the inbound attempt and took off, streaking down the court and cemented the Patriot victory with a sweet layup at the other end.

Final (OT):

Carroll 47

Fenwick 45

Overall Notes:

Carroll will need to find a more consistent scoring output from players other than Dahm and Severt. They play tough, scrappy and have the ability to put it together for short stretches. If they can play an entire game the way they played the 4th Quarter and OT, they will win a fair number of games this year.

Fenwick has similar issues when they cant get the ball into Braun's hands. Braun is an extremely dominant player but if the other team sells out defensively, then others need to step up. Luers and Rucker were there at times and a number of other players made a shot or two. None of them were able to pose as enough of a threat (at least in this game) to warrant less attention on Braun. Look for the entire Fenwick roster to develop throughout the year as they get more comfortable.

A rematch on January 17th, at Carroll, may serve as a better indication of how both of these teams have settled into the season as a whole.