Written by Steve Ostermann
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Members of the Port Washington boys' basketball team didn't go into their game in last weekend's Terry Porter Classic at Milwaukee South High School looking for a track meet.

But when Lake Geneva Badger decided to go up-tempo, the Pirates were more than happy to oblige.

"We're not use to that type of basketball, but we adjusted pretty well," Port coach John Bunyan said of his team's 83-68 nonconference win Friday.

"Badger ran a dribble-drive offense and pushed the ball up court as fast as they could. They put up a lot of shots in a hurry, but they weren't very good defensively."

The Pirates, who had battled Waukesha North in a low-scoring win the previous weekend, wasted no time cashing in on Badger's defensive breakdowns. They raced to a 25-14 lead in the first quarter, when guard Josh Gasser scored 17 of his game-high 30 points.

Port's advantage grew to 47-35 at halftime, by which time every Pirate had gotten in the game.

The only thing keeping Badger within striking distance was long-range shooting. Guard Preston Dailey hit all of his six three-point baskets in the first half on the way to a game-high 34 points.

"It was frustrating. We had people on him with a hand in his face, but he couldn't miss," Bunyan said.

Badger rode Dailey's flurry into the third quarter when it managed to pull within 64-56. However, Port sealed the outcome with a 19-12 run in the final period.

Joining Gasser in the scoring column were seven other Pirates, including Shane Kennedy with 13 points and Zach Schultz with 12.

Sawyer Moseley and Luke Schueller each added eight points.

Port did a solid job at the free-throw line as well, making 21 of 26 attempts.

"It wasn't our kind of game," said Bunyan, who noted that his team prefers to play a more deliberate style that emphasizes defensive pressure and a disciplined, flex-style offense.

"But we played pretty well. We've had two games with very different styles so far, and it's good to have both."

Port will open its North Shore Conference schedule with a pair of 7:30 p.m. home games — this Friday against Germantown and Dec. 15 against Nicolet.

With both opponents picked to be among the league's top teams this season, Bunyan and his team know the importance of each contest.

“It’s a chance for us to make an early statement,” he said.