

Opportunity knocks, Rockets answer

Written by DEBBIE HAMM

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Fourth-quarter comeback lifts CG-Belgium boys past errant-shooting Ozaukee in Central Lakeshore battle

Opportunity knocked in the fourth quarter last Friday at Ozaukee High School, but only one boys' basketball team answered.

Pulling away down the stretch, Cedar Grove-Belgium rallied for a 53-47 win in a hard-fought Central Lakeshore Conference game.



Ozaukee grabbed a four-point lead in the first quarter and maintained a 37-36 edge entering the final period.

However, the Rockets surged ahead for good with a 17-10 scoring edge the rest of the way.

Free throws were again a problem for Ozaukee, which went 2-for-9 at the line in the fourth quarter and was 6-for-18 for the game.

“Their missed free throws definitely helped us,” Rockets coach Jim Meinen said.

“With about six minutes left, we also turned up our defensive pressure and forced some

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turnovers.”

Balanced offense helped Cedar Grove-Belgium take control. Spencer Bares scored a game-high 17 points for the Rockets, and Adam Chier and R.J. Lemmermann had 15 and 10, respectively.

Bares, a senior, had a trio of three-point baskets.

Lemmermann, a 6-foot-7 junior, also grabbed 18 rebounds.

Cedar Grove-Belgium improved to 2-1 in CLC play and 2-2 overall. Ozaukee fell to 1-2 in the conference and 1-4 overall after winning its season opener.

“I thought we played a pretty good game overall,” Ozaukee coach Isaiah Ketterhagen said. “We led the whole way and did what we needed to do to put ourselves in a spot to win again. However, we again struggled from the line.”

The Warriors led, 16-12, after one quarter and had the margin trimmed to 27-25 at halftime.

Junior guard Owen Miller finished with 16 points and four assists for Ozaukee, which also got 12 points from Elijah Mabry and 11 from Andy Richter.

“We had another great chance at winning a ball game and we just didn’t execute down the stretch,” Ketterhagen said.

“We’ll have to find a way to start closing out games.”

Meinen praised the backcourt defensive work of Drew Emperley and Josh Winker.

“They did good job against Miller, who’s one of the best players in the conference,” he said.

CG-Belgium 47, Random Lake 41

The Rockets withstood a late rally by the host team to secure a conference win Dec. 3.

Cedar Grove-Belgium led by as many as nine points and held a 28-23 advantage after three periods.

The scoring pace picked up in the fourth quarter, when Cedar Grove-Belgium held a 19-18 edge.

Lemmermann continued his strong front-line play with 15 points, 16 rebounds and three blocks.

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Bares had 11 points and six rebounds.

The Rockets' also got eight points from freshman guard Ethan Brochtrop, who was 8-for-11 on free throws.

Cedar Grove-Belgium will continue its conference schedule with a 7:30 p.m. home game against Sheboygan Christian on Thursday, Dec. 12.

On Dec. 17, the Rockets will travel to Kettle Moraine Lutheran for a 7:30 p.m. nonconference contest.

Sheboygan Christian 56, Ozaukee 51

Fourth-quarter problems derailed the Warriors in a CLC road loss Dec. 3.

Ozaukee held a 45-40 lead after three periods but managed to score only six more points. The Warriors missed six free throws and had five turnovers in the last quarter.

"I was pleased with most of the game, to tell you the truth," Ketterhagen said.

"I think we did a good job of controlling the game but then just let it slide again."

Jake Wolff scored a career-high 22 points for the Warriors.

Andy Richter had 12 points and six rebounds, and Miller had three points, nine assists and six rebounds.

This week, Ozaukee was scheduled to play nonconference games against Kewaskum on Tuesday and at home against Milwaukee Messmer at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

On Dec. 17, the Warriors will resume CLC play with a 7:30 p.m. game at Oostburg.

Image Information: OZAUKEE'S ANDY RICHTER tried to slip past R.J. Lemmermann of Cedar Grove-Belgium during a Central Lakeshore Conference game Friday. Lemmermann had 15 points and 18 rebounds to help the Rockets rally for a 53-47 win. Photo by Sam Arendt