Passing the Test

Meadowbrook rallies past Warrior Run for win

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Standard Journal

By: Chris Nagy

MILTON—The Meadowbrook Lions had played enough games to qualify to the District 4 Class A playoffs.

But long-time head coach Rod Baughman wasn't sure heading into Monday's night game against Class AAA Warrior Run if his young Lions were ready for the challenge of the district tournament.

"Tonight was a key game for us when it comes to deciding if we are going to enter the district playoffs," said Baughman. "If we were competitive against Warrior Run, then I thought we belonged in the tournament."

And after Monday night's dramatic 46-45 win over the Defenders, the Lions (14-5) showed they belong in the tournament, even though no official decision has been made yet.

"We don't have a senior on the roster," said Baughman. "We went in 2006 and it was a great experience for us."

"These kids have worked hard and it would be great to give them a taste of the Class A playoffs."

Meadowbrook trailed 45-42 with 5:13 left in the game when the Lions turned the ball over on the baseline.

Warrior Run (5-12) called a timeout and Jeff Pealer instructed his team to hold the ball, take time off the clock and force the Lions into a different defense.

"I've been with these kids for a long time and for some reason we don't do well against the zone," said Pealer. "So we pulled the ball out and hoped to get them into a man defense and hopefully get some looks."

Warrior Run 45
Meadowbrook 46

Meadowbrook's Austin Schott (22) drives the ball on Warrior Run's Zach Miller (21) and Zach Burrows during their game Monday Night.

Warrior Run's Jared Bender, left, and Meadowbrook's Dakota Pickett (10) battle for a rebound as time expires in the fourth quarter.

The Lions knew what Pealer was trying to do and did not crack.

"We were down one possession," said junior guard Tyler Baughman. "We just relaxed and were comfortable just sitting in the zone."

After three minutes went off the clock, the Defenders did try to attack the zone and Austin Schott came up with a steal and was fouled heading to the basket with 2:07 left. Schott hit both making it 45-44.

After both teams missed shots, Meadowbrook got the ball back and Tyler Baughman was fouled.

The junior, who was 4-for-4 from the line in the final six minutes, drained both to make it 46-45 with 1:07 left.

"Free throws are all mental," said Tyler. "If you concentrate and believe it is going to go in, then it will."
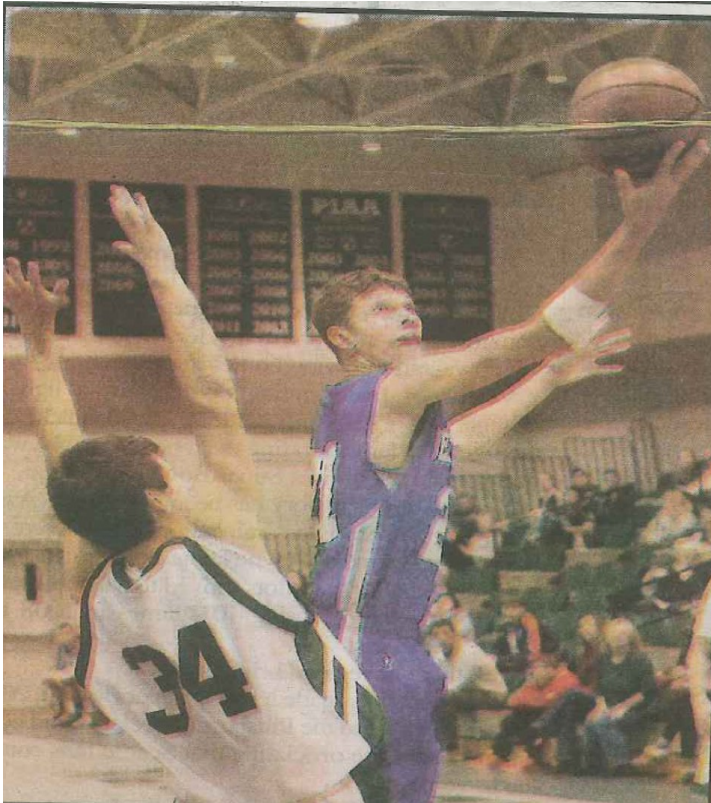
Warrior Run then had three chances to take the lead back and missed on all of them.

Dakota Pickett was fouled but missed the front end of a one-and-one to give the Defenders life with nine seconds left.

Warrior Run brought the ball down and got it to Zach Miller on the elbow, but his shot rimmed out and the Lions escaped with the win.

"We had some great shots down the stretch but they didn't fall," said Pealer. "We are down one and Miller gets an open 10-footer. That's the shot we wanted. It just didn't fall."

While Meadowbrook is contemplating the district playoffs, the loss eliminated the Defenders from the postseason.

Warrior Run's Zach Miller (21) puts up a shot in the final minute of the game Monday night as he is being guarded by Meadowbrook's Kurtis Klodnicki (34).

Tyler Baughman had 14 points, Picket added 12 and Schott had nine for the Lions.

Miller had 15 and Lance Pealer had 14 for the Defenders.

Warrior Run hosts Lewisburg Wednesday while the Lions entertain Walnut Street Christian Thursday.

Warrior Run (5-12) 9 12 19 5—45
Meadowbrook (14-5) 10 13 13 10—46

Warrior Run (45)
Zach Miller 6 0-1 15; Lance Pealer 5 0-0 14; Callen Foresman 3 0-0 6; Jared Bender 1 –0– 2; Zach Burrows 1 3-6-6; Sean Morehart 1 0-0 2; Jordan Welliver 0 0-2 0. Totals 17 4-10 45.
3-point goals: Pealer 4, Miller 2, Burrows.
Did not score: None.

Meadowbrook (46)
David Showers 2 0-0 5; Austin Schott 3 2-2 9; Dakota Pickett 6 0-1 12; Kurtis Klodnicki 1 0-1 2; Tyler Baughman 4 5-6 14; David Duncan 1 2-4 4. Totals 17 9-14 46.
3-point goals: Showers, Schott, Baughman.
Did not score: Logan Torrey, Tanner Feaster.