

## BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL: FAIRVIEW 63, LAKEWOOD 58



Photo by Sean Faska

Fairview's Colin Meany (12) hit crucial free throws in the final quarter to preserve the victory.

# Fairview holds off Lakewood for tourney win

By **BRIAN LOVE**

They're old friends from high school. The friendship shines through when they talk about the other.

So it meant something to Fairview Coach Ryan Barry when his Warriors defeated Lakewood 63-58 last Friday.

Barry and Lakewood Coach Alex Cammock played high school baseball together at Lakewood in the early 2000s. Barry graduated in 2003, while Cammock finished a year earlier.

"I love the way he played as a player," Barry said. "And he coaches the same way. He's one of the best coaches in the state of Ohio right now. To be able to go against him for the first time and who knows maybe the last time was pretty cool."

To Cammock, it was tough.

"We were buddies in high school and we're buddies now," Cammock said. "I don't like doing it. I don't like coaching against friends. It's an odd feeling. It's a lose-lose so I don't love doing it."

The win moved the Warriors (9-11 overall, 5-6 conference) to the third round of the Great Lakes Conference tournament, where they played a rematch on Tuesday at Holy Name. In the opening round, Holy Name took an 82-64 victory.

Meanwhile, Lakewood (10-11, 9-3) played Valley Forge, which lost 69-60 to Westlake.

Fairview's victory over the Rangers was not easy. The difference between the two was a pair of wild exchanges, one in the third quarter and one in the final quarter. Both featured technical fouls that helped the Warriors build leads.

With the score tied 31-31 with 2:41 left in the third period, Colin Meany hit a 3-pointer followed by a putback by Nolan Davis, who was fouled and hit the free throw.

The technical was called on the play with Meany hitting the free throws to open a 39-31 lead. The lead increased to 42-31 moments later when Will Allen drilled a 3-pointer.

However, Lakewood was far from finished. The Rangers, behind 10 consecutive points by Drew Jablonowski, cut the advantage to 49-48 in the fourth quarter when the second wild event took place.

A foul was called on a Fairview player as the players hit the floor. As they were arising, Fairview's Jacob Rehor was shoved as he was helping the downed players.

Lakewood took its final lead on the free throws, but Fairview then regained it when Meany connected on the technicals. On the ensuing possession, Bodhi Johnson hit a 3-pointer to give the Warriors a 52-48 advantage, followed by a three-point play by Allen to increase the lead.

Lakewood again cut into the lead, narrowing it to 55-53 with 1:42 left, but it became a

free-throw exhibition by Meany and Allen in the final minute. Meany, a senior, and Allen, a freshman, both went 4 for 4.

"It's always great to have free throws down the stretch to win the game," Meany said. "Me and Will closed it up at the end."

Meany and Allen were the Warriors' leading scorers, getting 20 and 18 points respectively. Johnson added 7, followed by Rehor with 6, J.R. Beato with 5, Davis with 4 and Wesley Fletcher Jr. with 2.

Jablonowski led Lakewood 17, followed by Luke Vannucci and Osied Albanarin both with 11. Jack Gowan added 9, Dominic Peck had 4 and Brayden Volcansek had 3.

Following the conclusion of the tournament, which ends Friday, both teams will be playing in the Ohio High School Athletic Association tournament. Fairview, in the Division III, Region 9, Sectional 4, takes on the Wooster Triway-West Salem Northwestern winner on Feb. 24. Meanwhile Lakewood plays at Rhodes on Feb. 22.

"Gearing up for the state tournament, we needed something to go our way a little bit," Barry said. "We didn't made enough winning plays in a lot of games this year. We haven't made the right play down the stretch, and it's good to see us do that tonight."

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