

Dragons Are For Real, Rip Centerville 74-57

By Mickey Davis
Journal Herald Sports Writer

Fairmont West proved once and for all it is a solid contender for Western Ohio league title honors this season by smashing Centerville 74-57 last night at West.

The victory over the sixth-ranked Elks, the top-rated WOL team among five in The Journal Herald Class AA listings, kept 40 West, the No. 10 team, in first place in the WOL.

With only one returning starter, senior guard Mel Hill, back from last year's strong team, few gave West a chance to be in the race again this campaign.

Even though the Dragons had beaten their first three WOL foes, some said they weren't for real. Now, they have proved they are.

With the score tied for the eighth time last night, West's Bob Servis converted a foul toss to send the Dragons ahead to stay 1-56 before halftime. They outscored the Elks 10-2 from that point to take a 35-27 lead into the locker room.

West boosted its margin to 12 points, 51-39, at the end of the third period after Hill, a 5-9 bundle of bones, banked in a 45-foot two-hander at the buzzer. Even though Centerville closed the gap to seven points midway through the final period, West really never was in serious trouble.

Pete Luther, a hard-driving junior forward, paced four Dra-

WOL Standings

W	L	W	L
Fairmont West	4	0	
Fairborn	3	1	
Xenia	3	1	
Beavercreek	2	2	
Fairmont East	2	2	
Wayne	2	2	
Troy	2	2	
St. Joseph	1	3	
Stobbins	0	3	

gons in double figures with 20 points. Junior center Bob Royer, neutralizing Centerville's 6-6 Bob Melberth under the boards, contributed 17, while Hill and Bob Servis added 14 apiece.

Melberth, John Kidwell and Steve Bicknell each had 14 for the Elks.

"We knew we had to run with them and we did a heck of a job," said West coach Bill Kaylor. "Lord knows, what kids these are. They do what you tell them. Why Royer never even played reserve ball before. This is the first year he's played."

West and Centerville both hit 23 times from the field, but the Dragons had a big edge at the foul line. This didn't set well with Elk coach Bill Yensel.

"How can you win when they shoot 36 times from the line and we shoot 14," Yensel said, slamming shut a scorebook. "I never saw anything like that. We got busted around under the boards and they didn't call anything. They were holding Melberth all night."

"You just can't win away from home unless you're really tough," said Yensel whose team must play all its games away from home this season. The Elks' gym is undergoing renovation.

Though West shot 36 times from the foul line and made 28 of them, 18 of the tosses were taken in the final 4:25 of the contest when Centerville, playing catch-up, had to go for the ball. In doing so, the Elks fouled. West made 17 of 20 in the final quarter.

West also hit a better percentage from the field. It attempted 52 two-pointers for a 44 per cent mark, to the Elks' 62 for 37 per cent.

"We have to win four out of five against the 'Big Five,'" Kaylor said. "That was No. 1."

Fairborn and Xenia deadlocked for second place after registering triumphs last night. Fairborn, paced by Dave Stackhouse's 21 points, had little trouble in downing Stobbins 81-44, while Xenia dumped Wayne 79-63 at Xenia fieldhouse.

It was the 14th straight triumph for the Bucs at the aged gymnasium. Tyrone Lane paced four Xenia players in double figures with 23 points. Jerry Tucker topped Wayne with 16.

In other WOL games, Beavercreek beat Fairmont East 65-60 and Troy dumped Springfield North 65-56.

Trailing 44-43 at the end of three periods, Beavercreek rallied for its second WOL victory. Five Beaver players — Doug Ashworth and Larry Fischer with 12 apiece, and Gene Schulte, Don Voorhees and Ed Zink with 10 each — hit double figures.

FAIRMONT WEST 74, CENTERVILLE 57
Fairmont West: Hill 6-2-14, Luther 7-6-20, Pancost 2-3-7, Royer 5-7-17, Servis 2-0-14, Merrill 3-6-2. Totals: 58-28-74.
Centerville: Bicknell 7-6-14, Granson 1-1-3, Thomas 1-1-3, Daber 2-6-6, Melberth 5-4-7, Kidwell 5-4-7, Walker 1-1-3. Totals: 25-21-57.
Fairmont West 11 25 31 34
Centerville 11 27 29 27

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