

SWEET SATISFACTION

Worthington boys basketball team breaks losing spell with impressive win over Hibbing

By Aaron Hagen
The Globe

Worthington

Brock Bruns admitted he's been in a bit of a shooting slump.

After Friday's game, any struggles were a distant memory for the sophomore on Worthington's boys basketball team.

Bruns had a career-high 22 points as the Trojans snapped a five-game losing streak with a 79-71 victory over Hibbing.

"It's tough losing so many games and trying to beat good teams," Bruns said. "This will help us a lot. It feels great. Coming off a five-game losing streak, it's nice to get a win."

WHS started the season by winning four of its first five games, but then struggled. It's last win was on Dec. 20.

"We weren't playing as a team," WHS senior Karasharo Ojulu said. "Most of the

time we'd break down and we'd get down on ourselves and we weren't making plays."

Bruns was sharp from the beginning as his first shots gave the Trojans an early lead.

"My shots were kind of in a slump lately, but the team really got me going and getting me wide-open shots," Bruns said. "I've been trying to put in a lot of work outside of practice to get my shots going. My teammates were giving me good looks and I was knocking them down."

WHS built a 10-point lead early in the first half. While the Worthington offense was clicking, the defense turned up the pressure to turn steals into layups. WHS had 11 steals on the night.

"For us, if one person makes a play, then we all get energized and hyped and the next person makes a play and the next thing you know, the whole team is making plays and getting defensive stops and we're on a roll from there," Ojulu said.

Out of halftime, Hibbing made a 9-0 run at WHS and was within nine points, 45-36. However, Bruns answered with a triple to start a 10-0 run.

"The last couple games, the second half has been terrible for us," Ojulu said. "Today we were able to hold them off. We were just hungry and didn't want to come out weak in the second half."

The Trojans led by 19 with 3:27 remaining before the Bluejackets made a run to

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WHS sophomore Terbuto Ochothow (11) attempts a shot as Hibbing forward Payton Forer gets a hand on the ball Friday night in Worthington.

Tim Middagh / The Globe



Whatever it takes

Marshall wins twice on wrestling mat, Trojans beat JCC; Lais brothers get it done in the clutch

By Doug Wolter
dglobe.com

WORTHINGTON — Twin brothers Kent and Tom Lais are still learning how to win varsity wrestling matches consistently. But they both took big strides Thursday night as the Worthington Trojans split a pair of bouts at the local high school.

Kent had trailed Marshall freshman Collyn Marcy at 138

pounds in Worthington's first match of the triangular, but he rallied to flip his opponent onto his back, using a whizzer, at the edge of the mat to win in a fall in 1:41.

Tom also won a key match-up, this time in Worthington's late match against Jackson County Central. The Huskies desperately needed a win when they sent freshman Will Freking against him at 170

pounds. But with less than a minute remaining in a tight battle, Tom threw Freking onto his back for near-fall points and prevailed, 11-6.

Marshall defeated the Trojans, 49-18. The Trojans recovered to beat JCC 36-26.

In the first match of the night, the Tigers were 45-29 winners over the Huskies.

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Tim Middagh / The Globe

Trojan Kyle Mullaney rolls Marshall senior Zach Felcyn over during a high school wrestling match in Worthington Thursday night.

Worthington's Hali Bullerman begins her rotation on the vault as assistant coach Junior Nguyen spots her in a match with St. James Thursday night in Worthington.

Tim Middagh / The Globe



Scores trending up for WHS gymnasts

By Dominic Burns
The Globe

WORTHINGTON — On the entrance wall to the Worthington armory, a sign says, "I don't like to gamble, but if there's one thing I'm willing to bet on it's my team."

The Worthington Trojans' gymnastics team lives by its mantra this season, making team a family.

In a Thursday dual meet at the armory, Worthington scored 142.925 and St. James Area scored a 107.25. The Trojan girls improved nearly a full point since their last match against Martin County Area.

"The exciting part is we

still have a lot of room to go," coach Joni Reitmeier said.

The positive support the girls have for one another demonstrate the value they put in gymnastics being a team sport.

"We are like a family, and that's the best part," senior co-captain Autumn Drahota said after Thursday's event. "We lift each other up, even if you don't fall."

Drahota competed at uneven parallel bars against St. James Area, using a new release. She scored well, with a 7.95.

Drahota joined gymnastics in seventh grade. She learned fast, and was able to catch up with girls who have

been participating for as long as they can remember.

Worthington once again was simply supreme on the vault. Adrian product Gracia Elias placed third with a 9.1, Mekyla Nystrom placed second with a 9.175, and seventh-grader Hali Bullerman tied with McKenna Prunty for first with a 9.425.

"When you're done with your routine, the hardest part is getting to all your teammates for a hug," Hali Bullerman joked at the amount of support her caring teammates make.

Despite her youth, Bullerman shows great capability, participating for

the varsity in both vault and balance beam.

"Our bars have improved immensely. The girls have worked really hard, and our scores show that," Reitmeier proclaimed.

Elias placed first on bars with an 8.75. Prunty placed second with 8.5, and WHS junior Kara Thuringer tied for third with freshman Mekyla Nystrom with 8.425.

Freshman Abby Bristow took top honors on balance beam with a 9.15. Elias took second with a 9.0, and Bullerman placed third with an 8.625.

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