

Argylls top Norwell for third-straight win

- By SCOTT HUNT shunt@chronicle-tribune.com Dec 6, 2020



Madison-Grant's Grant Brown looks for a shot over a Norwell defender in the Argylls' 61-45 win Saturday night in Fairmount.

- Scott Hunt/shunt@chronicle-tribune.com



Madison-Grant's Jase Howell puts up a shot in front of a Norwell defender in the Argylls' 61-45 win Saturday night in Fairmount.

- [Scott Hunt / shunt@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:shunt@chronicle-tribune.com)

FAIRMOUNT — Kevin Cherry's tenure as head coach for Madison-Grant couldn't have started any better.

The Argylls completed a weekend sweep with a 61-45 win over Norwell Saturday night after winning 69-60 at Wes-Del on Friday.

Cherry is obviously pleased by the 3-0 start, but he's more excited by the prospective growth he sees for his team.

"We're a work in progress. We're only scratching the surface of how good we can be," Cherry said after the Norwell game.

He then referenced the fact that Argylls' senior sharp-shooter Kaden Howell had been held to just three points against the Knights, yet M-G still won by 16 points.

"Teams have to guard Kaden. If you have to go out and guard him that opens up things for other guys," Cherry said of his second-leading scorer. "Kaden Howell is a big part of it whether he scores three points or 20 points. By the way he shoots it, he does a lot of things for us."

Howell and senior Grant Brown each dished out three of the Argylls' 12 assists, and both had five rebounds.

Brown led the Argylls with 17 points and was the primary defender on Knights sophomore Luke McBride, who scored 29 points in Norwell's loss to Oak Hill Thursday and was averaging well over 20 points entering the game.

Brown had some help defending McBride at times, and he still finished with a game-high 18 points, but the son of Norwell coach Mike McBride worked hard to find his 13 field goal attempts.

"I challenged Grant. Grant has a chance to go play at the collegiate level, a higher level," Cherry said. "I think he's being under recruited a little bit, but being able to guard like he did tonight, I think that will even break through another barrier.

"Yes, he can score. Yes, he can do some other things, but can he lock-down defend? I think tonight he proved that he can defend."

M-G led 14-7 after one and 26-15 at halftime.

Norwell closed within 32-24 midway through the third quarter, but the Argylls closed with a 14-6 run and 46-30 lead.

Sophomore point guard Jase Howell, Kaden's brother, scored 11 of his 16 points in the third to help M-G extend its lead. He also had two assists, two rebounds and a steal.

"He's a leader. He leads by example," Cherry said of Jase Howell, the only underclassman in M-G's starting five. "He has grit, has toughness about him. Smart. Competitive.

"If he gets beat, we all get beat from time-to-time, but man he busts his butt to get back down to the other end and locks in," he continued. "He'll normally make something positive after a negative. I love him."

After not scoring a point in M-G's first two games, senior Lance Wilson hit 4-of-7 field goal attempts and scored 11 points off the bench. He also had four rebounds.

Senior Jackson Manwell finished with nine points and a team-high six rebounds. Senior Zach Pretorius finished with three points and junior Seth Lugar scored two.

"Lance Wilson was huge off the bench tonight," Cherry said. "Zach Pretorius came in off the bench and made a huge three. He's a role player and people are going to start to figure out if you leave him open he can knock down a three.

"Seth gave us great minutes and he's still coming back from football mode. He's got a little bit of knee injury," he added.

The Argylls' made 19-of-43 (43 percent) field goal attempts but hit 10-of-18 (55.5 percent) from 3-point range.

Norwell made 16-of-43 (37 percent) and 7-of-18 (39%). The Argylls made 13-of-16 free throw attempts while the Knights converted only 6-of-13.

Madison-Grant committed just four turnovers and forced nine. Norwell narrowly won the rebounding battle, 25-24.

Madison-Grant hosts Elwood on Friday then travels to Mississinewa on Dec. 18 to start Central Indiana Conference play.

Cherry said the focus moving forward for the Argylls will remain mostly the same as it's been since practice started up.

“We’re just gonna stay the course, try to get a little bit better every day. Continue to stress on our fundamentals,” he said. “Not turning the basketball over, being able to guard and being able to rebound it.

“It’s not a real hard game. If you can do those three things you’re going to put yourself in position to win a lot of nights.”

Brown finished with 28 points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals in the Argylls win over Wes-Del Friday night.

Kaden Howell finished with 14 and Justin Moore scored 11 while Jase Howell scored eight points and dished out six assists.