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SPORTS

Marion, FW Wayne split contests

Blackmon continues to etch legacy in Giants victory

By Sean Douglas

The Marion Giants’ home opener against Fort Wayne North Side on Saturday evening was a physical affair. The Legends did everything they could to throw the Giants off their game. Between whistles, players jawed at one another, and on one occasion, a minor scuffle broke out that required quelling by officials. But in the end, Marion remained unfazed and played their style of basketball, coming back from an early 10-point deficit to defeat the Legends 71-52.



Jalen Blackmon scored 30 points on Saturday night at the Bill Green Athletic Arena, passing Zach Randolph for fourth place on Marion’s all-time scoring list. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

Blackmon recorded his 121st head coaching victory at the helm of the Giants’ program, passing Moe Smedley for fourth place all-time. Only Jack Cole-scott (122), Woodrow “Woody” Weir (163), and of course, the legendary Bill Green (315) have won more games as the head coach of the Marion boys basketball program. While the Giants came away with a fairly comfortable victory, the game got off to a bit of an inauspicious start. The Legends came out firing, scoring the game’s first 10 points in the opening two minutes of the contest. North Side’s gifted freshman guard Braunte Johnson scored a pair of

baskets in the paint, while Ryan Collins knocked down a corner three in the early stages. Marion would not score their first point until the 5:36 mark on a free throw from Matthew Goolsby and were held without a field goal for the first 5:22 of the contest. However, freshman Taden Metzger hit a corner three of his own to provide the Giants a much-needed spark on both ends of the floor. “Our game is played over 32 minutes,” Marion Head Coach James Blackmon said. “They are a very talented team. I thought they came out and really at-

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Turnovers, rebound struggles prove costly for Lady Giants

By Sean Douglas

Growing pains have pockmarked the Marion Lady Giants’ 2020-2021 season. A head coaching change prior to the start of the season, together with a roster full of youth and inexperience, the Giants, have resulted in a fair share of struggles, like those on display Tuesday evening in the Giants’ 81-18 loss to the Fort Wayne Wayne Generals.



Tori Beal (#10, in white) goes up for the shot in the post against Fort Wayne Wayne this past Tuesday. **Photo by Sean Douglas**

As a team, the Giants only finished with seven total field goals and struggled to hang on to the basketball throughout the contest, turning the ball over 32 times. Fort Wayne Wayne’s full court press proved troublesome for Marion, and the Generals capitalized on the Giants’ giveaways, scoring a plethora of easy baskets to control the game from the opening tip. Additionally, the Giants struggled on the boards, giving up 26 offensive rebounds that led to second and third chance opportunities. “It’s a rebuild,” Marion Head Coach Jerry Freshwater said. “It’s a great group of girls, but we just have to keep working and doing the basic stuff.”

After Fort Wayne Wayne scored the first four points of the game, Marion freshman Talia Alsup knocked down a pair of free throws to make it 4-2, but that was as close as the Giants would get. Marion wouldn’t score again until the first quarter buzzer on a shot from Destiny Davis, but the Generals held a 19-4 advantage – one they would not relinquish. After collecting just one field goal in the first quarter, the Giants scored just two points in the second quarter, which came in the final minute. The Generals

outscored Marion by 23 points, taking a 44-6 lead into halftime. While the Giants played better in the second half, scoring 12 points, they were unable to slow down the Generals. Fort Wayne Wayne scored 37 points in the second half en route to the 63-point triumph. Aniah Hill led the Generals with 23 points, while Khalise Collins finished the contest with 22 points and 11 rebounds, six of which came on the offensive glass. For the Giants, Alsup,

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Mississinewa opens CIC season with win

By Sean Douglas

While the Mississinewa Indians are a proficient group on offense, the backbone of their program, and the key to their success over the last few seasons, has been their play on the defensive end of the floor. While they did come away with a pair of wins over two top-10 ranked teams, the players and Head

Coach James Reed were not satisfied with their defensive play across the first four games of the season. Leading up to their CIC opener against Oak Hill on Friday night, the Indians took it upon themselves to rediscover their defensive mojo. And they did just that. The Indians stifled the Golden Eagles from the opening tip, forcing 13

turnovers, five in the first quarter, and setting the tone on both ends in a 58-39 triumph. The 39 points allowed were the fewest given up by the Indians so far this season. Additionally, the Indians held Oak Hill to just 16-of-44 (36 percent) shooting from the field, handing the Golden Eagles their first

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Landen Swanner sinks the three in Mississinewa’s victory over Oak Hill on Friday night. **Photo by Sean Douglas**