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# SPORTS

## Eastbrook opens with win

By Sean Douglas

Heading into year three at the helm of the Eastbrook boys basketball program, Greg Allison knew right away that this version of the Panthers could be special. Despite winning just four games over the last two years, along with an ongoing global pandemic, the players made it their mission to come into the 2020-2021 season with a new mentality. They worked tirelessly on honing their craft, growing together with one another, and most importantly, learning how to win.

Highs and lows marked their home and season opener against Southern Wells on Tuesday night. The Panthers started strong and built a double-digit lead, only to see it evaporate in the second and third quarters.

However, Eastbrook never wavered. They continued to battle, and when the final buzzer rang, the Panthers stood victorious, defeating the Raiders 67-58 for their first win of the season.

Every Panther who saw the floor on Tuesday evening made positive contributions. Jaxson Van-Belkum—who showed flashes of his ability last



Levi McElaheny drives to the hoop in the fourth quarter of Eastbrook's home opener against Southern Wells. Photo by Sean Douglas

year—flourished on the offensive end, scoring 19 points. In the first half, he shot four-of-five, including all three of his attempts from the perimeter, and added eight points in the fourth quarter.

“He started hot, which really helped us,” Allison said. “He is a really good shooter, and he played really well.”

Braxton Bowser recorded a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Jett Engle finished with 11, including four clutch free throws in the final 37 seconds of the con-

test.

However, the player of the game was sophomore guard Levi McElaheny, whose tenacious play on both ends of the floor in the fourth quarter helped the Panthers regain control of the contest in the final 5:33. Of his 14 points, nine came in the final stanza.

“I’m so proud of these guys,” Allison said. “I told them [in the locker room] that this is the start of a new group, of a new wave of basketball here. In previous years, I don’t think my team wins that game. It’s nothing that I did – it’s everything

that the kids did. “I’m just so proud. I’m just so happy for them.”

The Panthers came out firing, shooting nine-of-17 in the first quarter and grabbing the early 22-11 advantage. Eastbrook, along with shooting the ball well, got after it defensively, forcing six first quarter turnovers.

Eastbrook looked to have the game in hand late in the second quarter, but the Raiders began to push back, asserting themselves on the boards and collecting a plethora of second chance opportunities. After leading 30-13 with 2:33 remaining in the first half, the Raiders headed into the locker room on a 12-1 run, trimming the Panthers lead to 31-28 at the halftime break. Additionally, the Panthers struggled at the free-throw line, making just four of their 13 attempts.

The Raiders continued to cut into Eastbrook’s advantage in the third quarter little by little, eventually taking their first lead at 39-38 with just over 1:30 to play in the stanza. Southern Wells led 47-42 in the waning seconds, but Bryce Dmyszewicz’s lone three of the evening turned out to be an important one, trimming the Raiders’ lead to 47-45 heading into the fourth

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Hayden Ulerick missed just one shot in Mississinewa’s victory over South Decatur. Photo by Sean Douglas

## 2nd half lifts Indians over South Decatur

By Sean Douglas

As the first half of play between the Mississinewa Indians and the 2A No. 6 South Decatur Cougars concluded, it looked like a contest that could go down to the wire.

And over the final 16 minutes of game play, the Indians made sure that would not be the case, scoring a remarkable 37 points in the third quarter and shooting 25-of-37 in the second half in a 95-74 triumph, their second win in a row.

“I could not be more-proud of this group, the leadership, and just how bought in they are to what they are doing,” Mississinewa Head Coach James Reed said.

Landen Swanner, who has been nothing short of automatic in the early stages of the 2020-2021 campaign, lit up the scoreboard again on Saturday night, collecting a double-double with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The Cougars did not have an answer for the sweet-shooting senior, who knocked down seven of his 10 looks from beyond the arc and nine of his 16 shots overall.

“Landen is a program changer,” Reed said. “This is not a surprise for me or any of his teammates what Landen does every single day because he puts in the work. I’m just lucky to be his coach.”


Tai McClung, who only scored five points in the first half, came alive in the second half, scoring 19 of his 24 points in the final two quarters. After South Decatur star post player Lane Lauderbaugh was forced to sit early in the third quarter due to foul trouble, McClung went to work in the post, making several tough shots through contact and enforcing his will underneath the boards throughout the second half.

“In the last two games, he has woken up,” Reed said. “He’s got his spark back. His love for the game is there. When he is on a roll, he is tough to stop.”

However, the star of the game was junior Hayden Ulerick, who put together one of the finest performances of his high school career. Though lacking in stature, that did not deter Mississinewa’s point guard, who drove to the hoop with ferocity and vigor, showing a finishing touch around the rim, which was not a part of his game a season ago.

Ulerick finished with 25 points, shooting 11-of-12 from the field, which included 11 straight makes to start the game. Thirteen of his points came in Mississinewa’s game changing third quarter, as he was a perfect six-of-six from

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# College Internship

### Ford Meter Box

Ford Meter Box is seeking a Foundry Intern at its Wabash, Indiana facility for Summer 2021. Candidates should be entering their junior year of college and pursuing a four-year Material Science or Mechanical Engineering degree. A minimum GPA of 3.00 is also required. The position has the following responsibilities:

**Foundry Tasks and Labor**  
**Hand Tool Operation**  
**Green Sand Molding Processes**  
**Environmental/Safety Compliance**

**Sustainability Initiatives**  
**Material Diagnostics, Statistics, and Analysis**  
**Oral Presentations**

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and able to work at least 8 weeks during Summer 2021. Temporary lodging is also available for this paid internship. The assignment is seasonal and concludes prior to the beginning of the Fall College Semester. The deadline for resume submission is January 5, 2021.

Due to the high volume of interest, phone calls and in-person visits cannot be received at this time.

Interested prospects may email their resume to [opportunities@fordmeterbox.com](mailto:opportunities@fordmeterbox.com).

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