

# Oak Hill

for anybody to be in a zone like he was in. We were calling three-point plays for him because that basket was just quite monstrous looking to him. Tonight, obviously, he had the three-point shot going, and they were giving him the three-point shot. He did a good job of reading that and taking that.”

From the end of the first quarter through the midway point of the third, he hit 11 straight shots, which included four straight threes in his 16-point third quarter.

“He’s a really good player,” Allison said. “He’s put a lot of time into the game of basketball to become a really good player. He just made shots. He played really well.”

Eastbrook opened the

scoring with a Jett Engle field goal, but the Golden Eagles responded with 11 straight points and never relinquished the lead. Oak Hill forced five of their seven first quarter turnovers in that stretch and hit 11 field goals in the opening eight minutes to take a 27-14 lead.

“We tried to beat them off the dribble too much instead of beating them with the pass,” Allison said. “[Oak Hill] did a good job. I’m sure that was a point of emphasis – keeping the ball out of the lane.”

Oak Hill kept the pressure on in the second quarter, forcing eight more turnovers and outscoring the Panthers 14-7 to increase their advantage to 41-21 at the halftime break.

After a dominant first

half, the Golden Eagles put the game away in the third quarter, scoring 31 points and shooting 11-of-19 from the floor. Biegel scored his 16 points on six-of-seven shooting.

Armed with a big lead, Renbarger gave some of his JV players some varsity minutes and they made the most of their opportunity, helping the Golden Eagles secure their seventh victory of the season.

Strange finished as the Golden Eagles’ second leading scorer with 11 points, while Kian Hite scored eight points and co-led the team with six rebounds. Caleb Kroll, Mason McKinney, and Jacob Winger also contributed valuable minutes, each finishing with five points.

“Kroll is emerging and

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needs more playing time. I think he is a double-digit scorer because of the attention the other two will get,” Renbarger said. “Matthew was a 54 percent three-point shooter last year, and I think he is getting used to the speed of varsity basketball. He is a better shooter than what he is showing. And Mason is a kid that we have been begging to look to score more on the offensive end, and he is starting to be aggressive.”

For Eastbrook, Braxton Bowser led the way with nine points to go along with six rebounds, while Engle finished with eight points. Isaac Rans finished with seven points and game-leading 10 boards, while Jaxson VanBelkum also scored seven.

# Giants ...continued from Page 6

Marion off the scoreboard for nearly five minutes. In that span, the Giants missed their first nine shots. Marion was able to regroup, cutting the Attucks’ lead to 15-11 on a Blackmon three, but the Tigers were able to increase their advantage back to six, 18-12, after one quarter of play.

Attucks’ Jalen Hooks and Isaiah Stafford exploded in the second quarter offensively, combining to score 16 points and pushing the Tigers’ lead to 42-26 at halftime.

However, the Giants never backed down and began to push back in the third quarter.

The Tigers led by as many as 19 early in the stanza, but Blackmon’s strong shooting kept the Gi-

ants in striking distance. In the final 3:29, Marion outscored the Tigers 15-8, trimming their deficit to just eight points heading into the fourth quarter. Blackmon scored nine of those 15 points.

But the Giants would not get any closer. A Taden Metzger field goal in the opening moments cut the Attucks’ advantage down to eight once again, but the Tigers were able to pull away, extending their lead back to as many as 20 before securing the 13-point triumph.

Along with Blackmon’s stellar outing, Josh Balfour continued his strong season, finishing with 12 points to go along with six rebounds. Balfour has developed into a steady contributor for the Giants this season, and his size and athletic ability have made him into a capable scorer and rebounder.

Blackmon is pleased with his played, particularly over the last few games.

“Josh has had a whole different attitude his whole senior year, even starting with football,” Blackmon said. “When you think about the consistency that he showed and the attitude he showed during the football season, it just carried over. He came with that same positive attitude. I thought he played a lot more confident than he did the year before, and he is stepping on the court giving 100 percent every single night.”

All five of the Tigers’ starters finished in double figures, led by Hooks’ 21 and Stafford’s 19. Hooks also finished with 11 rebounds.

Now, the focus shifts back to NCC play and an important matchup with longtime rival Anderson.

“We are going to bring the guys in on Monday, go over some stuff, and let their bodies rest,” Blackmon said. “We will get some shots up, shoot some free throws, and be ready for Tuesday night. Each game prepares us for the future, and I think we are prepared to go to Anderson and play a tough game.”

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# Lady Indians

court press throughout most of the contest, and it worked to perfection, especially in the first half. For the game, the Giants turned the ball over 39 times, 19 of which came in the first two quarters, which allowed the Indians to build their double-digit advantage.

However, despite their turnover struggles, the Giants kept playing, and behind a career-best performance from senior Olivia Aguilar, put together an encouraging performance which they can build on.

“We needed this more than anything,” Marion

Head Coach Jerry Freshwater said. “The girls played hard. I’m proud of them. From the first game to the 11<sup>th</sup> game, you see the difference in where we are and where we need to be. That’s all we want. That’s all we want for these girls to do.”

Aguilar scored 35 points against the Indians, including 14 in Marion’s furious fourth-quarter comeback attempt, and missed just two shots, both of which came in the opening quarter. After shooting two-for-four in the first eight minutes, she finished the game 13-of-13.

Mississinewa opened the game on an 11-0 run, in-

cluding four points from Catey and a triple from Webb, and held the Giants off the scoreboard until the 4:45 mark of the period. The Indians kept the pressure up, taking a 24-12 lead after the first quarter.

Ole Miss increased their advantage to a game-high 18 points at the 3:13 mark of the second quarter, continuing to force the Giants into mistakes and capitalizing on them. However, the Giants, slowly but surely, cut into the Indians’ lead.

Aguilar dominated the stanza, scoring 11 points, and her third triple of the game, followed by a three

from freshman Talia Alsup, made it a 40-31 Indians’ lead at halftime.

Aguilar opened the third quarter with six of the Giants’ first eight points, as Marion drew to within six with 4:30 remaining in the stanza. But the Indians responded with Webb and Catey, who sparked a 16-6 run to close out the period.

The Giants, though, owned the fourth quarter, outscoring the Indians 23-9 over the course of the final eight minutes. Marion opened the stanza with a 13-4 surge to trim the lead to 65-57, and after some more clutch baskets from

Aguilar, a field goal from Tori Beal in the last 30 seconds made it a one-possession game.

However, after struggling to score in the fourth quarter, Catey hit her free throws when they mattered most, knocking down two in the final 14.8 seconds to secure the Indians’ third victory of the season.

Along with Catey’s and Webb’s double-digit performances, Karmen Swindall scored 11 points, while Kaiyah Jones added 10.

Alsup helped Marion with 14 points, and Beal added 13.



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