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All Michigan Boys Hoops (/boysbasketball/) Girls Hoops (/girlsbasketball/) Hockey (/boysicehockey/) Wrestling (/wrestling/) Gymnastics (/girlsgymnastics/) Boys Swim (/boysswimming/)

Cheer (/cheer/) + More Sports **Rockford (Rockford) @ Byron Center (Byron Center) - Boys Basketball**

Rockford vs. Byron Center - Game Preview & News  
(http://highschoolsports.

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Game Details

**Box Score**  
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Rockford (/school/rockford-rockford/boysbasketball/) **56** (4-3-0)

1/3/2013  
7:30 p.m.

Byron Center (/school/byron-center-byron-center/boysbasketball/) **41** (1-7-0)

Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI

**Rockford boys basketball team doesn't miss in fourth quarter, pulls away from Byron Center**

Dean Holzwarth | grsports@mlive.com, January 03, 2013  
11:46 p.m.



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Byron Center's Sawyer Smith (20) works the ball inside defended by Rockford's Austin Mckellar (14) - (ADVANCE photo by JEFF SWAINSTON)



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Rockford's Robert Holmes (5) puts up a shot over Byron Center's Quinn Humphrey (22) - (ADVANCE photo by JEFF SWAINSTON)

GRAND RAPIDS, MI - The Rockford boys basketball team displayed its 3-point prowess in the first half of Thursday night's game against Byron Center.

But with the outcome still in doubt in the fourth quarter, the Rams showed their patience on offense and pulled away for a 56-41 victory in the nightcap of the Cornerstone University High School Holiday Tournament.

Rockford, which evened its record at 3-3, advances to play Forest Hills Eastern Saturday night in the Gold Division title game.

The Rams executed their half-court offense to perfection in the fourth quarter and made all nine of their field goal attempts to thwart Byron Center's comeback bid.

"We shot pretty well in the first half, and in the second half we tried to get it inside more," said Rockford senior forward Chase Fairchild, who led all scorers with 19 points and knocked down four 3-pointers.

"We realized that our shots weren't falling, so we had to go inside and get higher percentage shots. We recognized what they were giving us."

After burying eight 3-pointers in the first half to build a 33-20 halftime lead, the Rams overcame a third-quarter scoring drought and an inspired rally by the upset-minded Bulldogs.

Byron Center (1-6) whittled a 19-point second quarter deficit to six (37-31) with an 8-0 run to close out the third quarter.

"We knew they could hit a lot of 3s, and they have good shooters out there," Byron Center coach Jared Crandall said. "The first half, we really lost them a little bit and our guys weren't as focused as they should've

been on closing out. We stayed tight on Fairchild and (Chad) Carlson in the second half and their looks were a lot less. It allowed us to get back in the game."

The Rams went scoreless the final five minutes of the third and committed six straight turnovers, but extended the lead back to double digits with a 6-0 surge to open the fourth.

**MLive.com Game of the Week statewide poll: Which Friday night basketball game is the best matchup? (Poll Closed)**

Paw Paw at Otsego boys **28.72%** (139 votes)

Lansing Eastern at Grand Ledge boys **18.6%** (90 votes)

Bay City Central at Pinconning boys **16.53%** (80 votes)

Wyoming at Coopersville girls **16.32%** (79 votes)

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Clarkston at Southfield-Lathrup girls **9%** (42 votes)

Total Votes: **484**

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(/player/austin-johnson-4/)

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**Three-Point Shots Made**

**Tyler Lewis**  
(/player/tyler-lewis-4/)

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"I think we got a little more patient on offense," Rockford coach Nick Allen said. "The third quarter was a tough stretch for us and they played some good defense, but our guys were able to make some shots (in the fourth)."

Rockford caught the Bulldogs out of position several times and converted easy layups with back-door cuts.

Fairchild was the recipient of three of them on feeds from senior guard Chad Carlson, who registered eight points and eight assists.

"They are two of our senior leaders, and they came up with some big plays," Allen said.

Crandall credited Rockford for making adjustments.

"They finally figured it out, and they are very smart," he said. "Instead of panicking and settling for bad shots, they executed even better to make sure they got great shots."

Robert Holmes, a senior forward, added 14 points for the Rams while junior guard Casey Watters chipped in 10.

Senior guard Sawyer Smith battled foul trouble to score a team-high 10 points for the Bulldogs.

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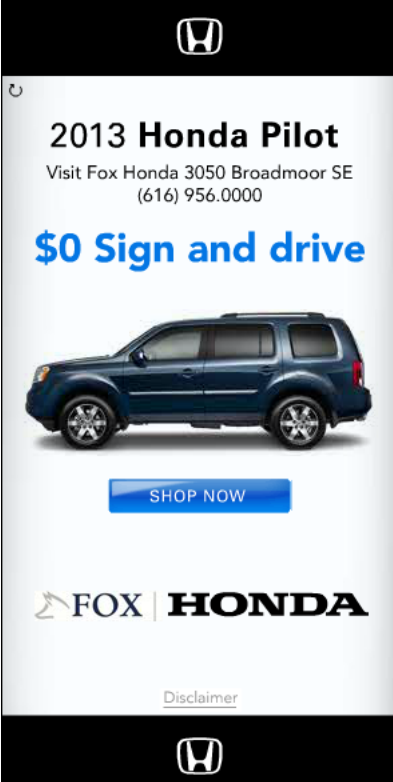
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By Steve Bell

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- Bank Hoops' Class B team, players of the week  
(<http://blog.mlive.com/highschoolbasketball/2013/01/ba>)
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