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Rockford vs. Hudsonville - Game Preview & News

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Hudsonville High School, Hudsonville, MI

Rockford's Chase Fairchild reappears just in time to hit the game-winner against Hudsonville

Jeff Chaney | MLive.com, January 15, 2013 10:31 p.m.



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Christopher Sunday looks to take a shot for Rockford High School during the game against Hudsonville High School, on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013 in Hudsonville - (Lataro Appleby | MLive.com)

HUDSONVILLE, MI – Chase Fairchild heard his coach call him out.

Midway through his team's game at Hudsonville Tuesday night, Rockford boys basketball coach Nick Allen could be heard barking at Fairchild, "Chase, you are playing invisible."

The senior guard was struggling at the time, but when his team needed him most, Fairchild reappeared and hit a game-winning driving layup as time expired, giving the Rams an exciting 53-51 win.

"He was absolutely right when he called me out, I needed to pick it up," Fairchild said. "It was motivation. I know it's not personal with him, he's just looking out for me and the team and wants us to play up to our

abilities."

Fairchild was struggling, hitting just one 3-pointer on six shots up to the final shot of the game.

RELATED: See more photos from this game (http://photos.mlive.com/4469/gallery/rockford_at_hudsonville_basketball/index.html)

When he got the ball with just under five seconds to play and the score tied at 51-51, he knew it was going to be a long-distance shot this time.

"I wasn't really thinking at that point," Fairchild said. "We had three seconds left and I needed to make something happen. And then I had (6-foot-6 Hudsonville forward Brent Hibbitts in the lane, and I had to take the shot over him. I hit all of the rim with the shot – the basketball gods were good to me tonight."

Allen had faith that Fairchild would make his presence felt down the stretch.

"We have high standards for our guys, and the bar is set high for Chase," said Allen, whose team improved to 1-0 in the OK Red and 6-3 overall with the win. "Early, Chase wasn't playing for the expectations we have for him, or he has for himself. But when he needed to make a play, he did just that."

That play may not have been if not for the heroic efforts of Rockford senior forward Robert Holmes, who carried his team in the fourth quarter.

Holmes scored 13 of his game-high 20 points in the fourth quarter to keep the game close with the host Eagles.

In fact, when Hudsonville built a 43-36 lead three minutes into the fourth quarter, Holmes scored his team's next 11 points.

"Rob was an animal tonight," Fairchild said. "I don't have the opportunity for that last shot if not for our surge in the fourth quarter thanks to Rob."

The Rams needed that kind of scoring, considering talented senior point guard Chad Carlson was held scoreless on the night.

All Hudsonville coach Eric Elliott could do was stand and watch as Fairchild sent his team to its fifth loss in nine games with the game-winner.

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Spring Lake

66

Three-Point Shots Made
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Leroy Pine River

45

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"Both teams played well when they had to," Elliott said. "They played well in the first half, and then we played well in the third and into the fourth quarters. We just had some missed opportunities down the stretch."

Hibbitts led the Eagles in scoring with 14 points.

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By Steve Bell

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