

Hudsonville (Hudsonville) @ Rockford (Rockford) - Boys Basketball

Hudsonville vs. Rockford - Game Preview & News

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Hudsonville (8-6-0) 40	2/5/2013 7 p.m.	Rockford (10-5-0) 36
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Rockford High School, Rockford, MI

Hudsonville avenges loss to Rockford thanks to a smothering defense

Jeff Chaney | grsports@mlive.com, February 05, 2013 9:58 p.m.



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Hudsonville's Cody Stuive runs the ball down court past Robert Holmes in the final seconds. He was fouled and then hit both free throws, the final points in the 40-36 win. - (Rex Larsen | MLive.com)

ROCKFORD, MI – There would be no last-second disappointment this time for the Hudsonville boys basketball team.

In the Eagles' first meeting with Rockford this season, Hudsonville lost on a last-second shot to the Rams on its home court.

The Eagles avenged that loss to the Rams on the road Tuesday thanks to a smothering defense.

Hudsonville held Rockford to 27 percent shooting en route to a 40-36 victory.

The win pulls the Eagles into a tie with Rockford in the OK Red Conference standings, both with 4-2 league records and one game behind East Kentwood.

"I thought we played fantastic defense tonight," Hudsonville coach Eric Elliot said. "Defending their motion for 32 minutes, and making as little mistakes as we did tonight, that's not an easy task."

Elliot pointed to one of his substitutions as a big reason why Hudsonville's defense was able to do so well.

"A key is when (senior forward Cole Miller) came in during the third quarter and he was assigned to (Rockford senior forward Rob Holmes)," Elliot said. "He came in, did a great job and gave us some excitement."

Holmes, one of Rockford's top scorers, was able to neutralize Holmes enough for the Eagles to turn a 17-14 deficit at halftime to a one-point lead after three quarters, and a the four-point final margin of victory.

The second-half swing could have been even larger, but Hudsonville's offense was struggling, too. Lucky enough, the Eagles were able to shoot 37 percent for the game, after shooting just 26 percent in the first half.

"It wasn't pretty what we did on offense," Elliot said. "We just made baskets when we needed to."

Much of the work came from senior forward Cody Stuive, who scored a game-high 16 points, including hitting two important free throws in the final seconds.

Holmes finished with 15 points for Rockford, 10 more than his nearest teammate.

"We didn't shoot the ball well," Rockford coach Nick Allen said. "But you have to give their defense credit. We didn't make shots, and they did."

Allen said his team missed a golden opportunity to distance itself from Hudsonville and keep pace with East Kentwood for a possible conference championship.

"Hudsonville has a heck of team, and it's not easy to win games in this conference," Allen said. "We found that out first-hand tonight."

For Elliot, it was a monumental win for him.

"This is my first time beating Rockford at Rockford in my four years here," Elliot said. "To beat Rockford at their place is not easy. And then for our kids to bounce back after a tough loss to Grand Haven on Friday, they showed some heart."

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59

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