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Boys basketball scoreboard

Boys Basketball

Rockford outlasts Muskegon Heights, 70-66, in boys basketball overtime thriller



Nathan Woznick of Rockford, left, made five 3-pointers in the Rams win over Muskegon Heights. Photo taken from loss on Friday at Muskegon High (Ken Stevens | MLive.com)

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on December 17, 2013 11:10 p.m.

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12/17 - 7:00 PM Boys Basketball	Final
Muskegon Heights	66

Academy	00
Rockford	70

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Deja vu nearly happened all over again.

Rockford needed to score first and last in overtime to defeat Muskegon Heights 70-66 on Tuesday night at Rockford High School.



Rockford head coach Nick Allen listens to Casey Watters against Muskegon on Friday
(Ken Stevens | [MLive.com](#))

Casey Watters scored 20 points and teammate Nathan Woznick made five of Rockford's 11 3-pointers to lead the Rams. Woznick finished with 17 points. Rockford missed the front end of a pair of free throws with 29 seconds remaining in regulation to give Heights its window of opportunity.

Aaron Sydnor, who finished with 36 points, made it to the right wing and sunk a 3-pointer from 25 feet to tie it at 56-56.

"Sydnor made it right in front of our bench and the guys just went crazy," Heights coach Dell Stewart said. "He had it going and just took over in moments when we needed him to.

"We were playing the foul game after just getting deuces, but Sydnor was just in that zone, and all my kids recognized it."

Heights never reclaimed the lead in overtime and had to foul the Rams again in hopes of another miss.

"We got a stop to start overtime and came down and scored," Rockford coach Nate Allen said. "It's a good thing if you can draw first blood in overtime."

Heights led 44-37 at the start of the fourth quarter, however, the Rams scored 19 points and took the late three-point lead. Watters had a chance to win it with 11 seconds left, but Tigers' big man Marquise Grissom's presence in the lane was enough to disrupt Watters and force a shot.

"Heights is a tough team and they played an incredibly hard game," Allen said. "Our guys showed some character and resilience. We changed a little bit of our offense after taking the lead (in the fourth) and we had some big shots and big stops."

Allen credits his seniors, Watters, Wozniak, Chris Sunday, and Reid Kelley for finding out how to lead their team to victory.

"I really appreciated the quality of the game and the officiating. Even though we

lost, we can use this game like a building block and grow," Stewart said.

Rockford (1-1) travels to Macomb L'Anse Creuse North at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, while Muskegon Heights (1-1) hosts Kalamazoo Phoenix.

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