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## Boys basketball scoreboard

### Boys Basketball

# Forest Hills Northern edges Rockford 55-44 in Cornerstone Holiday Tournament



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Caption

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GRAND RAPIDS – Beating Rockford by double digits Friday night may enlighten the Forest Hills Northern Huskies.

Topping the Rams 55-44 in the Cornerstone University High School Holiday Tournament Friday night may tell the Huskies just how good they are, four games into the season, and give them an indication of just how good they might be by season's end.

Forest Hills Northern (2-2) jumped out to an 11-point lead (19-8) in the first nine minutes of the game and eventually won by the same margin, despite trailing Rockford (3-1) by three (35-32) with nine minutes left to play. The Huskies, who are scheduled to face Wayland at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Silver Division championship game, did in the final nine minutes Friday night what they did in the first nine minutes: play stingy defense and rebound.

“We try to get better day by day and I think they are starting to believe,” FHN coach Joe Soules said. “It's a long season, a marathon, and right now the guys have no idea how good they can be. Everyday we ask, 'How much better can we be?' It's a commitment, a commitment to excellence and staying together as a team.

“I can only lead them so far, they have to mature as a group. It's the boys' program,” Soules said. “Right now we just have to give ourselves the opportunity to enjoy the Holiday Tournament because things like this don't happen all the time.”

Forest Hills Northern, which permitted only two field goals in the fourth quarter Friday night, went on a 6-0 run to open the fourth quarter and open up a 40-35 lead. The Huskies also converted only two field goals thereafter, but they also connected on 11 of 14 free throws (79 percent) in the game's final four minutes.

Rockford, which doubled Northern's point output in the second quarter (14-7), tied the game in the first two minutes of the second half, took a 30-26 lead with just over three minutes left in the third and led by a point, 35-34, with eight minutes left to play.

“Patience on offense; we didn't have it in the first quarter, we got it in the second, we made a bit of a run in the third quarter and then we lost it again,” Rockford coach Nick Allen said. “Patience on offense is something we have to get better at. Their big guys were tough inside and we told our guys to keep good positions. We have to do a better job of making plays, but it's early in the season and we'll get there.”

Forest Hills Northern senior forward Jayvon Bennett led all scorers in the game, with 17 points, while sophomore forward Spencer Peterson added eight. Rockford was led by senior forward Nathan Woznick's 11 points while senior guard Casey Watters added 10 points.

“Playing Wayland is going to be another good challenge for us,” Soules said. “They are well-coached, they have excellent players and they are organized as a group. They play the right way. We're in for a battle; I would expect nothing less than that tomorrow.”

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