

Coach Haywood sees some things he liked, some he didn't

Aces Cagers drop opener to Flora



Staff photo by Bob Livingston

Mt. Carmel's Matt McCarty fought off Flora's Kole Greenwood for a first-half rebound in the Golden Aces season-opener against their former North Egypt Conference foe, the Wolves. Flora was playing its fifth game of the season but Golden Aces Head Coach Ryan Haywood was pleased with Mt. Carmel's defensive effort despite the loss. At right is Flora's Nick Painter (30).

FLORA - Ryan Haywood saw some things he liked, and some he didn't, as the Mt. Carmel Golden Aces basketball team opened its 2009-2010 season Tuesday night.

One of the things he liked, despite the 51-47 loss to the Flora Wolves, was the way the Aces played.

"I thought they played hard," the Golden Aces head coach said. "I liked our defense. I was really worried about us matching up. We're playing man-to-man on the back end of that press, and I was really worried about finding people and getting matched up. But we did a real nice job of that."

The Aces trailed the entire first quarter, but kept the game close with the full-

court press. Although the statistics were not available, in the second quarter that press forced some turnovers and Mt. Carmel was able to take leads of as many as six points. It was 16-13, Flora, at the quarter, and 27-24, Flora, at halftime. But Mt. Carmel held leads of 22-16 and 24-18 in the second frame.

Mt. Carmel went down by three early in the third period, but came back to tie at 33-33 and 35-35 before taking a 36-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

But there were also the things Haywood didn't like, and one of those was the fourth quarter, when the Aces went cold from the field.

"We were right there," he said. "In a tight game like this you can always point to a possession here, a possession there. But, really, it comes down to we went cold there in the fourth quarter from outside. I think we were one of eight from (three-point range) in the fourth quarter. That's probably shooting too many of them - we need to get to the rim and get fouled."

But free throw shooting was an Achilles heel for Mt. Carmel, and Haywood said so.

"Our free throw shooting wasn't very good. That's something to be expected, but there's no excuse for it. That first game we go five of 13 from the foul line - you can circle that stat right there," he said.

Overall, though, he was pleased with the first-game effort against the Wolves, who were playing their fifth game this season.

"I thought (the press) accomplished what we wanted to accomplish. Defensively, it was pretty good. We gave up a couple of layups, a couple of second-chance baskets, but overall, the defense wasn't bad. Offensively, we just got caught standing around an awful lot, where we've got to drive and make some plays happen," he said.

Alex Hale led Mt. Carmel with 12 while Beau Grant added 11.

The Aces were 38.5 percent from the line.

Flora was led by Paul Knapp with 24 and Bryton Krutsinger with 11.

The Wolves hit 12 of 16 free throws for 75 percent.

BOX SCORES

Varsity game

Mt. Carmel: Kennard, 0-0-0--0; Molstad, 1-1-0--5; Condol, 1-0-0--2; Grant, 4-1-0--11; Hale, 3-2-0--12; Griffin, 1-0-2--4; Carpenter, 0-0-0--0; Smith, 1-2-0--8; Marcotte, 0-0-1--1; McCarty, 1-0-2--4; Totals, 12-6-5--47

Flora: B. Taylor, 0-0-0--0; Bush-King, 0-0-0--0; Greenwood, 2-0-0--4; Knapp, 5-3-5--24; Painter, 4-0-0--8; Lewis, 1-0-2--4; Krutsinger, 3-0-5--11; Totals, 15-3-12--51

Fouled out: Flora - Greenwood

JV game

Mt. Carmel: Anderson, 0-1-0--3; Steckler, 0-0-0--0; Condol, 4-0-2--10; Deisher, 0-0-0--0; Wagner, 1-0-0--2; Dillard, 2-0-0--4; McFarland, 0-0-0--0; Tr. Thompson, 3-0-0--6; Cox, 0-0-0--0; Totals, 10-1-2--25

Flora: Durre, 1-1-0--5; B. Taylor, 6-0-2--14; Ta. Thompson, 2-1-0--7; Orel, 1-1-2--7;
Eade, 6-0-0--12; C. Taylor, 1-0-0--2; Burgess, 0-0-0--0; Shehorn, 1-0-0--2; Polanco, 0-0-
0--0; Moore, 0-0-0--0; Totals, 18-3-4--49