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**EFFINGHAM**  
**DAILY NEWS**

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62401

## EHS handles Vandalia in STA tourney opener

**Dustin White**

Effingham Daily News

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— A 17-0 run covering over eight minutes of first-half play was the difference for Effingham High School in its boys basketball opener.

The Flaming Hearts pounded Vandalia 60-35 in opening-night action Monday at the St. Anthony Thanksgiving Tournament, getting scoring contributions from nine different players and forcing 25 Vandalia turnovers at The Enlow Center.

"Defensively we were really good," said EHS coach Ron Reed, whose Hearts have never lost an opening game in four St. Anthony tournament appearances.

"We were able to force some turnovers, which led to some easy scores. We rotated and helped each other without losing ball pressure, and our posts also played well.

"For our first game, I was happy with our effort."

EHS scored 20 points off turnovers and turned an early 7-5 edge into a 24-5 gap; that stretch ran from the 3:54 mark in the first quarter up until the 3:09 point of the second quarter.

From that point, the Hearts were in command and limited their mistakes. EHS committed just 12 turnovers, and five were in the first half.

"At halftime, my only complaint was probably that we were rushing things a bit on offense," said Reed. "We took a few quick shots, but it was much better in the second half. I really can't be any more pleased with a first game."

Effingham shot 52 percent (28-for-54) from the field and was led by senior guard Cody McCollum's 14 points.

Nobody else scored in double figures, although Jeremy Wohltman and Chase Green along with reserve guard Tyler Semple each chipped in eight; Green added a team-high four assists, while Wohltman led all players with seven rebounds and also took a charge.

Additionally, senior forward Cole Morrow led with four steals; he also hauled in four rebounds and contributed three assists.

"I gained a lot of confidence in these guys over the summer," said Reed. "A lot of different guys got chances to play, and they played well. Also, most of these guys got to play for us last year, and that extra year of experience always helps."

Effingham won a slim rebounding battle 26-25, but turnovers were obviously the recurring issue for Coach Kevin Jackson's Vandalia squad.

The Vandals are coming off a 15-12 campaign, which followed up a 5-23 mark in 2007-08 — the worst Vandalia record since the 1965-66 squad went 3-19.

Vandalia played better ball after intermission, shooting 50 percent from the field and committing just four third-quarter turnovers, but were all but buried after going into halftime down 29-11.

Junior wing Marty Johnson led the Vandals with nine points, while 6-3 senior forward Will Cowger scored six and collected seven rebounds.

EHS plays the second of three games tonight at 6:30 p.m. when it takes on Taylorville; Mattoon leads off the action with a 5 p.m. matchup against Breese Central, while St. Anthony closes things out at 8 p.m. against Vandalia.

### **Charleston 67, Flora 56**

**Charleston allowed a 10-point third-quarter lead to evaporate in Monday's opener at St. Anthony High School, but Brad Wheeler and Joey Miller scored all but two of the Trojans' 24 fourth-quarter tallies to ensure a season-opening victory.**

**Wheeler, a guard who came in off the bench, was 3-for-3 from three-point range in the second half and scored 11 of his team-high 21 in the final period.**

**Miller scored 17 of his 20 after halftime and also piled up 11 in the fourth quarter, while 6-5 senior forward Taylor Nead had a solid all-around showing with 11 points and seven rebounds. Dylan Doughty, another senior forward, didn't score, but led his squad with nine rebounds.**

**Flora's sophomore standout, Paul Knapp, was 1-for-9 from the field in the first half, but scored 13 of his game-high 25 in the third quarter to lead the Wolves' charge from a 35-25 deficit to a brief 38-37 edge. The Wolves never led again, however.**

**Knapp led off the fourth quarter with his fourth and final three-pointer of the night to tie it at 43-43, but Charleston re-took the lead for good soon after.**

**Nick Painter, a 6-5 sophomore, scored eight of his 10 in the fourth quarter and also contributed six assists, five rebounds and three blocked shots. Kole Greenwood's nine rebounds were a team high,**

while Austin Lewis scored 10, grabbed five boards and had four steals.

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### 7th Annual St. Anthony Thanksgiving Tournament

At The Enlow Center

#### Game One

##### FLORA (56)

B. Taylor 0-0 0-0 0, Bush-King 1-3 1-2 3, Greenwood 0-2 1-3 1, Knapp 7-20 7-9 25, Painter 4-14 0-0 10, Lewis 4-6 0-0 10, Krutsinger 3-9 0-1 7. TOTALS 19-54 FG (35.2) 9-15 FT (60.0).

##### CHARLESTON (67)

Lord 3-4 0-0 7, Miller 6-14 3-4 20, Addison 1-2 1-4 3, Doughty 0-6 0-0 0, Nead 3-9 5-6 11, Wheeler 6-10 5-8 21, Shick 1-1 0-0 2, Clark 1-3 0-0 3. TOTALS 21-49 FG (42.9) 14-22 FT (63.6).

Flora-----11---11---18---16-----56

Charleston---16---10---17---24-----67

3-point FG — Flora 9-23 (Knapp 4-10, Painter 2-5, Lewis 2-4, Krutsinger 1-4), Charleston 11-21 (Lord 1-2, Miller 5-8, Doughty 0-1, Wheeler 4-7, Clark 1-3). Total Rebounds — Flora 33 (Greenwood 9), Charleston 38 (Doughty 9, Nead 7). Offensive Rebounds — Flora 15 (Greenwood 3, Painter 3, Lewis 3), Charleston 15 (Doughty 5, Nead 4). Assists — Flora 9 (Painter 6), Charleston 9 (Miller 4). Turnovers — Flora 11, Charleston 15. Steals — Flora 5 (Lewis 4), Charleston 8. Blocked Shots — Flora 3 (Painter 3), Charleston 2 (Nead, Clark). Total Fouls — Flora 19, Charleston 16. Fouled Out — Flora 1 (Lewis). Officials — R. Hacker, Smith, Stremming.

#### Game Two

##### EFFINGHAM (60)

Cs Green 4-4 0-0 8, Steppe 0-2 0-0 0, McCollum 6-13 0-0 14, Semple 4-5 0-0 8, Tate 3-5 0-0 6, Morrow 1-5 0-0 2, Cd Green 2-4 1-1 5, M. Wohltman 2-2 1-1 5, J. Wohltman 4-10 0-0 8, Foreman 2-4 0-0 4, Gardewine 0-0 0-0 0, Martin 0-0 0-0 0, Johnson 0-1 0-0 0. TOTALS 28-54 FG (51.9) 2-2 FT (100.0).

##### VANDALIA (35)

Hoffman 0-0 0-0 0, Berning 0-0 0-0 0, Bell 1-4 0-0 3, Ritchey 1-4 0-0 3, Rubin 0-0 0-0 0, Norris 2-4 1-2 5, Osorio 0-2 0-0 0, Hosick 2-5 0-0 5, Johnson 3-9 1-1 9, Stewart 1-2 0-0 2, Cowger 1-3 4-6 6, Austin 1-1 0-1 2. TOTALS 12-34 FG (35.3) 6-10 FT (60.0).

Effingham---16---13---18---13-----60

Vandalia-----5-----6---15---9-----35

3-point FG — Effingham 2-7 (Steppe 0-1, McCollum 2-4, Tate 0-1, J. Wohltman 0-1), Vandalia 5-15 (Bell 1-2, Ritchey 1-4, Hosick 1-3, Johnson 2-6). Total Rebounds — Effingham 26 (J. Wohltman 7, Morrow 4), Vandalia 25 (Cowger 7, Bell 4). Offensive Rebounds — Effingham 8 (J. Wohltman 2, Morrow 2), Vandalia 7 (Bell 2). Assists — Effingham 14 (Cs Green 4, Morrow 3), Vandalia 7 (Bell 2, Ritchey 2). Turnovers — Effingham 12, Vandalia 25. Steals — Effingham 19 (Morrow 4), Vandalia 5 (Cowger 2). Blocked Shots — Effingham 1 (Cd Green). Total Fouls — Effingham 15, Vandalia 9. Fouled Out — none. Officials — Fisher, K. Hacker, Rodriguez.

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#### Photos



Effingham's Jordan Tate goes up against Vandalia's Marty Jansen to score during St. Anthony Thanksgiving Tournament play Monday evening at The Enlow Center. For the Daily News



Effingham High School's Tyler Semple scores two of his eight points against Vandalia during action at the St. Anthony Thanksgiving Tournament. For the Daily News