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Early deficit too much to overcome in Panthers' 51-44 loss to Flora

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Sports Editor

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Oblong's boys basketball team dropped their first game of the season Friday night, as the Panthers fell in their home and Little Illini Conference opener to Flora, 51-44.

The Panthers trailed 12-6 after one quarter of play, but pulled to within four, 25-21, at halftime. However, Flora outscored Oblong 13-9 in the third quarter for a 38-30 lead after three quarters and held on for the seven-point win.

Drew Morecraft was the only player to reach double figures for the Panthers, as he netted 11 points. Ethan Mendenhall scored nine points, Sean Morecraft dropped in seven points and Anthony Johnson and Joey Harder added five apiece. Devin Aikman tossed in four points and Justin Wartsbaugh had three.

Nick Painter paced Flora with a game-high 21 points, while Bryton Krutsinger was also in double figures with 11 and Mychal Bush-King had eight.

Oblong also lost the junior varsity game, 43-34.

Karch Knollenberg topped Oblong with 10 points, while Seth Smith, Tyler Kessler and Lukas Jones each netted five points.

Oblong (2-1, 0-1 LIC) will play Hutsonville-Palestine in the annual Shrine Game at Lincoln Trail College Friday at 7:45 p.m.

At Oblong

Flora 12 13 13 13 - 51

Oblong 6 15 9 14 - 44

FLORA (51)

Christian Taylor 1 0-0 2, Mac Earleywine 1 0-1 2, Mychal Bush-King 3 2-2 8, Kole Greenwood 2 1-2 5, Nick Painter 9 2-2 21, Austin Lewis 0 2-4 2, Bryton Krutsinger 4 3-6 11, TOTALS 20 FG, 10-17 FT, 51 TP.

OBLONG (44)

Ethan Mendenhall 3 1-3 9, Anthony Johnson 1 2-2 5, Justin Wartsbaugh 1 0-0 3, Drew Morecraft 4 3-5 11, Devin Aikman 2 0-0 4, Joey Harder 2 1-4 5, Sean Morecraft 3 1-2 7, TOTALS 12 FG, 8-16 FT, 44 TP.

3-point goals - Mendenhall 2, Johnson, Wartsbaugh, Painter. Team fouls - FHS 18, OHS 13. Fouled out - none. Technical foul - none.

Junior Varsity

Flora 5 12 13 13 - 43

Oblong 4 8 8 14 - 34

Highlights - (OHS) Seth Smith 5 points; Cory Littlejohn 2 points; Denzel Hughes 2 points; Lukas Jones 5 points; Jordon Harris 3 points; Tyler Kessler 5 points; Karch Knollenberg 10 points; Anthony Johnson 2 points.

Next game - Oblong (2-1, 0-1 LIC) will play Hutsonville-Palestine in the annual Shrine Game at Lincoln Trail College Friday at 7:45 p.m.