



# Daily News Online

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## Oblong, Hutsonville-Palestine lose Little Illini road contests Friday

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Sports Editor

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Oblong and Hutsonville-Palestine's boys basketball teams continue to struggle in Little Illini Conference play, as both teams dropped league contests on the road Friday night.

The Panthers fell to Casey-Westfield, 58-39, while the Tigers lost at Flora, 69-45.

At Casey, Oblong stayed with the host Warriors for the first eight minutes, as the game was tied 9-9 after the first quarter. However, Casey-Westfield outscored the Panthers 19-9 in the second quarter to take a 28-18 lead at halftime. Casey-Westfield extended its lead to 40-27 after three quarters and then outscored Oblong 18-12 in the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Scoring continues to be a problem for the Panthers, as they only had one quarter where they scored in double figures. Oblong made just 14-43 shots from the floor (32 percent), including 12-32 (38 percent) from two-point range and two of 11 (18 percent) from three-point range. Casey-Westfield shot 43 percent from the field (21-49), which included an 18-35 performance (51 percent) from inside the arc and a three of 14 (22 percent) effort from long distance. Oblong was nine of 12 (75 percent) from the free throw line, while Casey-Westfield made 13-23 (57 percent).

Joey Harder paced the Panthers, scoring 13 points, as he was the only player in double figures. Drew Morecraft tossed in eight points, Anthony Johnson netted five, Sean Morecraft and Karch Knollenberg scored four points apiece, Ethan Mendenhall added three and Devin Aikman had two.

Kruz Kusterman topped all scorers with a game-high 23 points to lead Casey-Westfield, while Riley Scales was also in double figures with 11 points.

Casey-Westfield also took the junior varsity contest, 58-41.

Sean Morecraft led Oblong with 10 points, Johnson dropped in nine and Seth Smith added seven.

At Flora, Hutsonville-Palestine was tied with the host Wolves, 12-12, after one period, but Flora outscored the Tigers 15-8 in the second quarter to grab a 27-20 advantage at halftime. Flora extended their lead to 41-31 after three quarters, then exploded for 28 points in the fourth quarter, doubling up the Tigers 28-14, to pull away for the win.

Flora also won the junior varsity game, 50-32.

No further information was provided by press time.

Oblong (4-10, 0-5 LIC) will play host to Cumberland for a Little Illini Conference contest Tuesday at 6:15 p.m., while Hutsonville-Palestine (14-9, 1-4 LIC) will play at Edwards County in a Little Illini Conference contest Tuesday at 6:15 p.m.

At Casey

Oblong 9 9 9 12 - 39

Casey-Westfield 9 19 12 18 - 58

OBLONG (39)

Collin Meese 0-0 0-0 0-0 0, Ethan Mendenhall 0-1 1-3 0-0 3, Anthony Johnson 1-5 1-1 0-0 5, Karch Knollenberg 2-2 0-2 0-1 4, Justin Wartsbaugh 0-0 0-0 0-0 0, Drew Morecraft 2-6 0-3 4-6 8, Devin Aikman 0-1 0-2 2-2 2, Joey Harder 5-12 0-0 3-3 13, Logan Mendenhall 0-0 0-0 0-0 0, Sean Morecraft 2-5 0-0 0-0 4, TOTALS 12-32 2FG, 2-11 3FG, 9-12 FT, 39 TP.

CASEY-WESTFIELD (58)

Ethan Blankenship 1-1 0-0 0-0 2, Colin Carver 0-0 0-1 0-0 0, Chris Unzicker 1-3 1-3 3-4 8, Riley Scales 5-7 0-1 1-2 11, Lucas McVey 0-3 0-1 0-3 0, Jeff Babbs 0-0 0-1 0-0 0, Ryan Shull 0-0 0-2 0-0 0, Clinton Scott 2-4 0-0 2-4 6, Kruz Kusterman 7-12 2-4 3-4 23, Kaleb Barnhart 2-4 0-0 2-4 6, Drew Bolin 0-1 0-1 2-2 2, Mitch Markwell 0-0 0-0 0-0 0, TOTALS 18-35 2FG, 3-14 3FG, 13-23 FT, 58 TP.

Team fouls - OHS 17, CWHS 17. Fouled out - none. Technical foul - none.

Junior Varsity

Oblong 4 14 14 9 - 41

Casey-Westfield 14 9 14 21 - 58

Highlights - (OHS) Lucus Cupp 3 points; Cory Littlejohn 3 points; Collin Meese 4 points; Tyler Kessler 3 points; Sean Morecraft 10 points; Seth Smith 7 points; Gerald Richardson 2 points; Anthony Johnson 9 points.

Next game - Oblong (4-10, 0-5 LIC) will play host to Cumberland for a Little Illini Conference contest Tuesday at 6:15 p.m.

At Flora

Hutsonville-Palestine 12 8 11 14 - 45

Flora 12 15 14 28 - 69

Junior Varsity

Hutsonville-Palestine 32

Flora 50

Next game - Hutsonville-Palestine (14-9, 1-4 LIC) will play at Edwards County in a Little Illini Conference contest Tuesday at 6:15 p.m.

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