Rams can’t find finishing touch in ninth defeat

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FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — Just like many Shepherd games this year, the Rams showed a lot of tenacity to battle back from a second-half deficit.

But like many of their games this year, the Rams suffered a tough defeat, losing in the final minutes to the Bowie State Bulldogs 77-67.

The Rams were able to keep up with the Bulldogs for most of the first half, but the Bulldogs’ stifling defense was able to force the Rams into taking too many 3-point attempts. The Rams went 2 for 15 in the first half.

“We’re just not finishing games, just like in our last three games,” Shepherd coach Justin Namolik said. “We have faced some tough and athletic teams, and we hang in there, but we give it up in the last 10 minutes.”

The Rams fell behind by as many as 10 points, but midway through the second half tied the Bulldogs twice, but were unable to pull ahead.

Chad Moore led Shepherd in scoring with 18 points and was a big part of the Rams’ comeback, coming up with eight points in a two-minute span to cut the Bulldogs’ lead to one. He came up with a steal that led to a Tyrone Roach foul shot to tie the game.

Shepherd could not go ahead.

“Though Namolik felt his team was struggling to come up with the shots and plays late, he wasn’t hesitant to accept some of the blame.”

“They were trying to establish a scoring game with Duke Crew, and I made the mistake of switching to a zone,” said Namolik.

The Rams’ leading scorer and rebounder was Moore with 18 points and six rebounds, while Roach gave his team 15 points and was also tied with junior forward Dave Karlson with five rebounds.

Crew led Bowie State in scoring with 18 points. Eric Vann was second with 17 points.

“It’s tough, because as crazy as it sounds, I think we have a good team, even though we are 1-9,” Namolik said. “We just need to finish games.”
Charleston clips Rams, stays near WVIAC lead

CHARLESTON -- Both teams had added personnel for the opening of second semester play. It was Charleston that got 19 points from newly instated Bahnaadar Russell that benefitted most from the newly eligible players that were used by both the Golden Eagles and visiting Shepherd ... and Charleston remained unbeaten in the WVIAC with a 93-85 win over the Rams.

Charleston improved to 5-3 overall and 4-0 in the WVIAC while the Rams fell back to 1-7 overall and 1-3 in the WVIAC.

Jonathan Higgins, a reserve guard, led the Golden Eagles in scoring with 23 points. James Eversley added 13 points and John White totaled 12 points as Charleston was able to win the first game it has played after 3 1/2 weeks of inactivity. Shepherd also had been idle for over two weeks.

White had 13 rebounds and Russell had a nifty first-game total of 10 assists.

All five Shepherd starters were able to reach double figures with Tyrone Roach and Dave Karlson both notching 17 points. Jonathan Motichka, back after missing all of the first semester games, had 16 points with Derek Gallagher (15 points) and Chad Moore (13 points) rounding out the five double figure scorers the Rams had.

Moore was the game’s leading rebounder with 14.

Charleston received 47 points from its reserves. Shepherd’s three bench players totaled seven points in their combined 36 minutes.

The Golden Eagles had a 42-36 lead at the half. Charleston went 31-for-62 (50 percent) from the field. Shepherd was 32-for-66 (48.5 percent). The Golden Eagles made 23-of-33 foul shots and the Rams were 12-for-20 from the free throw line.

Gallagher had five of the 16 assists that Shepherd was credited with, and Charleston had 19 assists, all but nine achieved by Russell. Neither team was plagued by turnovers with Charleston committing 12 and Shepherd 15.

The Rams stayed in the southern part of the state to face West Virginia State on Saturday, January 9. The Yellow Jackets were also unbeaten in the WVIAC.

“Cookie” crumbles Rams with his 42

INSTITUTE -- Josh “Cookie” Miller, a diminutive 5-foot-8 guard who transferred from Nebraska, led West Virginia State to an 82-64 conference win over visiting Shepherd on Saturday night.

Miller scored 42 points, connecting on 15-of-22 shots overall and 7-for-10 on three-point attempts. He made all five of his free throws.

Durren Jones was the Yellow Jackets other scorer in double figures with 10 points. West Virginia State improved its nationally recognized record to 9-1 overall and 5-0 in the WVIAC.

Shepherd went to 1-8 overall and to 1-4 in the WVIAC.

Miller’s 27 points helped the Yellow Jackets to a 44-38 lead at the half. In the second half, the Yellow Jackets had only a 33-30 lead when they scored seven straight points to move ahead, 40-30.

Derek Gallagher (16 points, four steals), Sidney McCray (14 points, eight rebounds, five steals), Dave Karlson (13 points, 12 rebounds), and Tyrone Roach (13 points) were Shepherd’s double figure scorers.

Shepherd was guilty of 28 turnovers, while the Yellow Jackets had 19 turnovers. Shepherd reserve guard Aaron Spencer was guilty of 10 turnovers. Miller had five of West Virginia State’s turnovers.

The Rams were 24-for-68 (35 percent) from the field, including just 6-of-24 (25 percent) on their three-point attempts. Shepherd had 10-of-12 free throws.

West Virginia State was 31-for-75 (41 percent) from the field with Miller accounting for almost its successful field goals. The Yellow Jackets made 9-of-31 (29 percent) of their three-point tries and converted 11-of-13 free throws.

The rebounds were almost evenly divided with Shepherd having 47 and the Yellow Jackets 44.

Miller and Bo King each had five of West Virginia State’s important 20 steals. Shepherd had 12 steals.

Miller added 15 second-half points to his 27 points from the first half to be the primary force behind the Yellow Jackets 18-point win.
Balanced Lady Rams sting Yellow Jackets

INSTITUTE -- Carrie Saunders had 13 points as Shepherd moved out to a 12-point halftime lead in its WVIAC road game at West Virginia State.

The lead of a dozen points proved to be enough as the teams played a mostly even second half with the Lady Rams winning, 69-57, over the Yellow Jackets.

Shepherd was 4-5 overall and 3-2 in WVIAC games following the victory. The Yellow Jackets were 6-5 overall and 2-4 in league games.

Saunders would finish with 17 points and six rebounds and be joined in double figures by Camille Wilmer (15 points and eight rebounds), Melissa Furr (a reserve with 13 points, seven rebounds), and Jerica Hewett (10 points, five steals).

Shelby Fayak had a career-high 14 rebounds as the Lady Rams outrebounded the Yellow Jackets, 45-38. Fayak also set a school record for blocked shots with nine of the 11 blocks Shepherd was credited with.

West Virginia State’s Tonasha Members scored a game-high 25 points and Danielle Davis added 15 points. Sharena Atkinson totaled 10 points and led her team with 12 rebounds.

Shepherd’s 36-24 lead at the half kept West Virginia State at bay.

Statistically, the Lady Rams were 26-for-57 (47.3 percent) from the field and 3-for-11 on three-point field goal attempts. The Lady Rams made 14-of-20 (70 percent) of their free throws.

The Yellow Jackets went only 19-for-63 (30 percent) from the field and could make only 5-of-23 three-point attempts. West Virginia State made 14-of-21 (67 percent) of its free throws.

Shepherd claimed seven more rebounds and overcame its 23 turnovers because the Yellow Jackets nearly matched that floor-error total with 21 turnovers. The Lady Rams had 11 blocked shots as compared with the Yellow Jackets seven blocks that featured five from Atkinson.

The Lady Rams travel to Alderson-Broaddus tonight (Thursday) for another conference game.

Charleston women defeat Shepherd

CHARLESTON -- Kaitlyn Arick and Lindsey Kentner combined for 49 points as Charleston defeated Shepherd, 78-68, in a WVIAC women’s basketball game last Thursday at the venerable Eddie King gym on Charleston’s campus.

The Lady Golden Eagles improved to 4-2 in the WVIAC and 7-4 overall. Shepherd slipped to 2-2 in the conference and 3-5 overall.

Shepherd had five players score at least eight points with reserve Shelby Fayak going 8-for-13 from the field for 16 points in her 25 minutes of duty. Fayak also had 10 of Shepherd’s 39 rebounds, but the Lady Golden Eagles claimed 49 rebounds.

Jerica Hewett added 14 points for the Lady Rams as did Camille Wilmer. Carrie Saunders chipped in 12 points and Jenna Prine totaled eight points.

Prine had nine rebounds. Tarena Dixon led Charleston with 10 rebounds with Tianna Beatty and Arick both having seven. Dixon also scored 15 points.

Charleston held a 43-39 lead at the half.

The Lady Rams shot only 38.6 percent from the floor, making 26-of-68 attempts. Shepherd was 11-for-32 from the foul line. Charleston made 43.2 percent of its field goal attempts, going 32-for-74. The Lady Golden Eagles shot only 11 free throws and made only five of those.

Each team committed only 16 fouls.

Shepherd had a 23-14 advantage in assists even though Hewett had the game’s most with seven. Beatty had six for Charleston.

Shepherd had 12 steals and Charleston only four, yet the turnover numbers were nearly identical with Charleston committing 16 and Shepherd having 14.

Kentner blocked a game-high five shots.

Shepherd resumed its southern swing of conference games with a Saturday, January 9, date in Institute against West Virginia State.