

Basketball from B1

longstanding, multisport monkey off one's back is no small task, but North Douglas was up to the challenge on Saturday.

"My boys were really hungry for a win against them," Vancil said. "We just came out and played hard, did the little things right. I think we still had 15 turnovers as a team, which is too many, but down the stretch we took care of the ball and we closed it out on an 11-1 run."

In a tightly contested game up until the final five minutes, the Warriors came away with a 51-38 win that was a long time coming.

Given the circumstances, the Warriors understandably came out shaky in the first quarter, committing nine of their 15 turnovers in the opening period. An experienced roster boasting five seniors, however, turned things around and the game remained close until late in the fourth quarter.

With around 4:30 left to play in the game and North Douglas leading 40-37, the Warriors held possession for nearly two minutes, trying to draw Hosanna out of their zone defense to create space down low for

a layup. The attempts were unsuccessful, but the Warriors eventually found an open man in the corner and they drained the three-point attempt, taking a 43-37 lead into crunch time.

"That wasn't even the shot I wanted. I told them layup, but I'm ok with it because it went in," Vancil said laughing after the game.

The North Douglas boys also earned a win the previous night, beating Triangle Lake 73-16, and now sit at 3-0 on the season.

Overall, the early-season jamboree was a successful event for all four local teams.

The North Douglas girls (3-0) got two wins over the weekend, defeating Triangle Lake 59-28 and Hosanna Christian 71-16 behind an overwhelmingly dominant defensive effort.

"We haven't had a team in three games get into their offense against us," said head coach Jody Cyr, pointing out that opposing teams have scored a total of 25 field goals against the Warriors in those three games.

"Defensively we've seen a lot of improvement. We've been changing it up, platoon-subbing, so we're working in nine people right now

pretty evenly," Cyr said, though he believes the team is just getting started. "I think we've created our identity defensively, but not yet offensively."

The Elkton girls (3-0) followed up a 43-17 win over Hosanna Christian on Friday with another victory against Triangle Lake on day two, 55-20. The Elks were buoyed by all-around performances from seniors Kieryn Carnes (12 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and four steals) and Alexis Halstead (nine points, eight rebounds and five steals).

On the boys' side for the Elks (1-2), the team removed a monkey off their own backs, earning their first win of the season on Saturday against Triangle Lake, 55-22.

"We made a point of getting the ball inside a little bit more," said head coach Gary Trout. "I think our offense's execution was just a little bit better, our rebounding certainly was, and you could see us starting to get some confidence with our defense, especially in the second half."

The four teams from Elkton and North Douglas will look to continue their promising starts to the season on Friday, as day one of the North Douglas Winter Invitational kicks off in Drain.

Other results

Cottage Grove Wrestling: The Lions headed to Turner, Ore. on Sat., Dec. 7 for the annual Perry Burlison Classic held at Cascade High School. Varsity results: MaryAnne Eckstine (5th), Savannah Osban (2nd), Drew Swenson (2nd), Elizabeth Bass (1st), Raina Herzog (1st). Junior varsity results: Cael Kent (5th), Tyler Russell (5th), Charlie Kent (4th), Malaky Barr (4th), Angus White (4th), Braden Green (2nd), Luke Johns (1st), Oden Armstrong (1st), Crimson Tadlock (3rd), Cobie Simpson (5th), Austin Glenn (2nd), Cole Johns (6th), Delaney Abraham (4th).

Yoncalla girls' basketball: In a stark contrast to their start in 2018 - when they lost their first five games, four due to forfeit - the Eagles have burst out of the gates in 2019 under head coach Kim Beer in his first year back in Yoncalla.

After a dominant 55-22 opening victory over Falls City, the girls followed it up last week with consecutive wins against Lowell (37-28) and North Clackamas Christian (37-27) to move to 3-0 on the season and hold an early number-three overall ranking in OSAA 1A basketball.

Yoncalla boys' basketball: Nearly matching the girls' success, the boys have started the season a promising 2-1 with victories over Falls City (72-71) and Lowell (57-44). They fell last Sat., Dec. 7 to North Clackamas Christian at home, 44-31. Senior Elijah Allen and juniors Bryan Allen and Jordan Aguilar each had nine points for the Eagles. Both the boys' and girls' teams will look to get another in the win column when they take on Mapleton at home on Thurs., Dec. 12 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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Tie-Breaker:44

LARRY This Week Stats:8-4 Season Stats:90-88

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Tie-Breaker:38

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