

Sports

CLASS 1A BOYS STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AT BAKER HIGH SCHOOL

Damascus Christian holds off Cardinals

By Jayson Jacoby
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When Carson Eynetich whipped a perfect pass to Taylor Rollins for a layin late in the third quarter, it looked as though Ione/Arlington was making a serious run at stunning top-ranked Damascus Christian.

Rollins' bucket narrowed the Eagles' lead to 37-26 in a Class 1A state tournament quarter-final game Thursday afternoon at Baker High School, their smallest advantage since the first quarter.

But on the ensuing possession Damascus Christian's Jacob Zakharyuk, who led all scorers with 20 points, made a 3-pointer to push the Eagles' lead back to 14 with 2 minutes left in the quarter.

The Cardinals (21-7) would get no closer and went on to a 58-46 loss.

Zakharyuk's basket was just one of several the Eagles (26-1) converted when Ione/Arlington was on the brink of slicing the lead to single digits.

"There were opportunities to get the game into single digits, we just didn't get it done," Ione/Arlington coach Dennis Stefani said.

The Cardinals scored the first 4 points of the final quarter, with Wesley Goad's two free throws paring the lead to 46-34.

Damascus Christian's Spencer Powers scored inside, then the teams traded baskets before Goad, who led the Cardinals with 14 points, made one of two free throws to get the Cardinals within 50-39 with 4:46 left.

Zakharyuk then took over,



S. John Collins /Baker City Herald

Ione/Arlington's Wesley Goad (No. 10) blocks a shot by Damascus Christian's Zach Nelson while Carson Eynetich (No. 12) looks on Thursday.

scoring consecutive baskets to boost the Eagles' lead to 54-40 with 2:51 left.

Stefani said Damascus Christian's knack for stifling the Cardinals' momentum was a combination of the Eagles' composure and Ione/Arlington's defensive lapses.

"They're very fundamentally sound," he said of the Eagles. "I thought we on defense had some communication break-

downs on our switches."

Eynetich, a freshman who had 13 points, said he felt the Cardinals lost some of their aggressiveness when they were poised to put real pressure on Damascus Christian.

"I think we started slowing down, we didn't keep the pedal to the metal the whole time," Eynetich said.

Maintaining momentum wasn't the problem in the first

Cardinals advance to consolation final

Ione/Arlington rebounded from a quarter-final loss to nip Trinity Lutheran 61-59 Friday morning and advance to the consolation semifinal Saturday at 10:45 a.m.

Wesley Goad led the Cardinals with 21 points. Jace Troutman added 14 and Hunter Padberg had 10.

Ione/Arlington led 57-49 with 2:37 left in the game before Trinity Lutheran rallied.

Scooty Gilbert's 3-pointer with 52 seconds cut the Cardinals' lead to 57-56.

But Ione/Arlington then scored 4 straight points, on Carson Eytenech's jumper and Goad's two free throws.

Trinity Lutheran's Matthew Eidler, who led all scorers with 27 points, hit a 3-pointer with 1 second left for the game's final points.

quarter — the Cardinals never had any.

Damascus Christian ended the quarter with an 11-0 run — 7 points by Powers — to lead 19-4.

The Cardinals actually outscored the Eagles 42-39 over the final three quarters.

Ione/Arlington made six of 24 field goals in the first half — 25% — and 15 of 51 for the game — 29%

"We got the looks we wanted," Stefani said.

Class 1A boys state tournament

FRIDAY'S GAMES

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

- Damascus Christian 61, Nixyaawii 53
- Crosshill Christian vs. Triad (after press time)

CONSOLATION SEMIFINALS

- Ione/Arlington 61, Trinity Lutheran 59
- Prairie City 51, Joseph 46, 3 OT

SATURDAY'S GAMES

CHAMPIONSHIP

- Damascus Christian vs. Crosshill Christian/Triad winner, 8:30 p.m.

THIRD PLACE

- Nixyaawii vs. Crosshill Christian/Triad loser, 2:15 p.m.

CONSOLATION FINAL

- Ione/Arlington vs. Prairie City, 10:45 a.m.

Class 1A girls state tournament

FRIDAY'S GAMES

CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINALS

- Crane 48, Joseph 36
- St. Paul 41, Perrydale 29

SATURDAY'S GAMES

CHAMPIONSHIP

- Crane vs. St. Paul, 5:45 p.m.

THIRD PLACE

- Joseph vs. Perrydale, 12:30 p.m.

CONSOLATION FINAL

- Mohawk vs. Damascus Christian, 9 a.m.

Troutman 1 12 3, Shandy 2 2 2 5, Knight 0 0 0 0, Giesing 0

Prairie City tops Joseph in triple overtime

The Joseph Eagles were eliminated from the 1A state tournament Friday morning, but it took Prairie City three overtime periods and nearly two hours to pull off the win, which the Panthers finally secured, 51-46, to advance to Saturday's fourth-place game and avenge a loss to Joseph in the season opener.

"The team left it all out on the court, we just didn't execute when we needed to," Eagles' head coach Olan Fulfer said. "We kept giving them offensive boards and putbacks."

Prairie City had to score late in regulation, the first overtime and the second overtime to stay alive, but grabbed the lead for good late in the third extra session and held the Eagles scoreless in the third OT.

— Ronald Bond, *The (La Grande) Observer*

0 0 0, Walls 0 0 0 0, B. Rollins 0 0 2 0, Heideman 0 0 0 0, T. Rollins 2 0 0 4, Totals 15 13 20 46.

DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN (58)
Nelson 4 0 1 10, Powers 8 0 0 18, Calabum 1 2 6 4, Zakharyuk 9 0 2 20, Jesse deLambert 1 0 0 2, Clear 0 0 0 0, Brandon 0 2 4 2, Jensen 0 1 1 1, Jacob deLambert 0 1 1 1, Totals 23 6 19 48.

Ione/Arlington 4 12 14 16 — 46
Damascus Chr 19 9 18 12 — 58
Three-point baskets — Eynetich 3, Nelson 2, Powers 2, Zakharyuk 2. **Total fouls** — Ione/Arlington 16, Damascus Christian 18.



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