

Short-Staffed Eagles Drop Vikings Boys

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If Greenwood High School boys basketball coach Hob Chandler was pleased about anything following Saturday's 51-38 win over cross-town rival Emerald on Saturday, it was the Eagles' depth. Playing without four starters and with just 10 players dressed, Greenwood faced the Vikings primarily with reserves and used its defense to shut down Emerald.

Leading scorers Damarcus Harrison and Zack Patterson missed Saturday's game, as well as Friday's loss to Westside, while serving a two-game suspension for disciplinary reasons. Point guard D.J. Harrison is out with a dislocated kneecap, and center Sam Montgomery is away on a football recruiting visit at Michigan.

That left Javaris Rhode, who had a game-high 13 points, as the Eagles' lone remaining starter, but he received help from the Eagles' reserves, in particular Dee Barcliff, who added 12 points. "I think some of our kids got a little bit more comfortable. They haven't been playing much and this is the second game where they've really had to contribute," Chandler said. "I think second half they got a lot more comfortable with what we were trying to be doing. I was really pleased with their execution."

The two teams played to a 20-20 tie at halftime, but Greenwood increased its intensity with a zone defense and outscored the Vikings 16-6 in the third quarter. "We played real good defense. We had to step it up because the guys had left, so we couldn't get in no foul trouble because we had no bench," Rhode said. "We pushed the tempo up because at the beginning we were getting into foul trouble, so we wanted to play more zone."

For the second night in a row, Emerald was unable to work around the zone and had another dismal scoring effort after tallying just 49 points Friday against Pendleton. "They just played their zone, and we didn't play around their zone," Emerald coach Robin Scott said. "It looked to me like they just stepped up their defense and we didn't."

With a short-handed roster, playing zone defense was necessary for the Eagles. "We had to play a slower tempo style, and we had to play a lot of zone, a lot more than we normally do," Chandler said. "You kind of live and die with the zone and when teams are cold, it's a good thing for you."

Greenwood scored the opening six points of the second half and gave up just one field goal to Emerald through the first six minutes of the period. "We really didn't make a whole lot of adjustments," Chandler said. "We pretty much did the same thing. I think we just might have wore them down a little bit."

EMERALD (38): Antonio Gray 6, Ryan Tracy 12, Dee Parks 8, Rahmad Strong 2, Ontario Curry 8, Lucas Mathis 2.

GREENWOOD (51): Javaris Rhode 13, Mike Smith 2, Landon Oliver 4, Dee Barcliff 12, Michael Lowe 7, Marquavius Lewis 9, Nathan Bridges 4

Emerald 12 8 6 12 -- 38

Greenwood 11 9 16 15 -- 51

3-point goals -- Emerald 4 (Parks 2, Tracy 2), Greenwood 1 (Lowe 1). Fouled out -- None. Technicals -- None.

Records: E (7-8 overall); G (8-6).