

Tagarelli grabs 23 rebounds as KCC rolls

Written by Jim Ecker

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Kirkwood sophomore Joe Tagarelli was mildly disappointed when he left Saturday's game against NIACC and was told he finished the afternoon with 23 rebounds.

That's a career for some guys, but "Tags" wanted more.

"I was trying to go for the school record," he said. "So I was a little disappointed I didn't put my name in the record book. But that's all right. We got the win. It was a good team win."

Tagarelli finished with an impressive double-double with 18 points and 23 boards as the 11th-ranked Eagles bopped NIACC, 88-70, in an ICCAC Conference game at Johnson Hall.

Tagarelli, a bruising 6-foot-5 post player from Wisconsin, was told the school record for most rebounds in a single game is 25. He had 13 rebounds at halftime, but he took a seat with 1:59 left Saturday with the game well in hand and fell short of the mark

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He was also a little disappointed he didn't join the 20-20 club with 20 points and 20 rebounds, but he missed a few too many inside chances and fell two points shy.

Don't get the wrong idea about Tagarelli, though. He's not playing the game for individual stats or glory, but it's only natural to think about those things when the numbers get so high in a victory.

"I was going for it," he confessed. "I had it in my head somewhere. I'm just glad we got the win, to be honest."

Kirkwood Coach Bryan Petersen calls Tagarelli a "workhorse" for his relentless nature on the court.

"He works really hard, but then he's smart about it too," said Petersen. "Angles, reading the ball off the rim, the timing. Part of it is natural. It's hard to teach that stuff. And he's got it. He keeps coming."

Tagarelli tries to keep it simple: See ball, Get ball. He's the youngest of three brothers and learned to scrap for his share of the goodies.

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