

No. 2 Eagles roll by Clarke JV

Written by Jim Ecker

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Everybody played, everybody scored, everybody had fun.

From all angles, it was a good way for the Kirkwood men's basketball team to ring in the new year.

Shakur Triplett led a balanced attack with 16 points Saturday afternoon as the second-ranked Eagles rolled by the Clarke University junior varsity, 112-63, at Johnson Hall.

Six players reached double figures with Elijah Henry (12), Josh Meier (12), Josh Bartlett (11), Byron Harp (11) and Cristen Wilson (10) all helping Kirkwood zoom past the century mark against an over-matched opponent.

The victory left Kirkwood with a 12-2 record heading into the heaviest part of the season.

"It was nice to get everybody into the game. That was good," said Coach Bryan Petersen. "That was one of the positives, I thought, for the night."

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Petersen has gotten major contributions from 13 players this season, but he'll need to trim the rotation once the ICCAC campaign begins

Saturday at Iowa Lakes. He'd rather have too many good players than not enough, especially if the injury bug hits, but the coach is still trying to figure out his best rotation.

"There were certain guys I wanted to see on the floor today," he said. "We still have some tough decisions to make."

The Eagles will host Marshalltown in a non-conference game Wednesday before diving into the conference race, where they figure to compete for the title and a spot in the national tournament.

"I'm pretty pleased with where we're at," said Petersen, "but we have to get better."

KIRKWOOD (112): Bartlett 4 0-0 11, Rhodes 1 1-2 3, Richards 2 4-6 8, Woods 1 3-4 5, Jackson 3 0-0 7, Harp 4 2-2 11, Fagan 2 1-4 5, Meier 3 6-8 12, Wilson 5 0-0 10, Henry 5 2-2 12, Triplett 6 4-4 16, King 2 3-3 7. Totals 40 26-33 112.

Halftime - Kirkwood 54, Clarke JV 34. 3-point goals - Kirkwood 6 (Bartlett 3, Jackson 1, Harp 1, Olson 1).