

Hosch scores 23 in Saints loss

Written by Jake Koolbeck

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Cedar Rapids Xavier met Waverly-Shell Rock in a slugfest, seesaw battle Saturday night at Xavier High School. After all the punches and counterpunches were thrown it was the Saints that came up short, dropping a very physical game, 73-63.

“It is what is is, you can’t have every call go your way,” said Xavier Coach Matt Jenkins, whose team was whistled for 22 fouls compared to 12 for Waverly-Shell Rock. “The fouls were not a factor. They made shots at the end.”

Xavier (0-2) trailed 46-44 going into the fourth quarter but quickly retook the lead behind an offensive surge from senior Kevin Hosch. After the momentum swung to the Saints the Go-Hawks took it back for good with two big 3-pointers. The six-point swing gave the Go-Hawks a five-point lead that they never gave back.

“Anytime you hit a three, get a stop, and convert it helps any team,” Jenkins said. “To go from down one to up five is huge.”

Trailing late in the game the Saints were forced to start fouling intentionally to conserve time. Waverly-Shell Rock left the door open, missing some key free throws down the stretch, but Xavier was unable to get quality looks and the Go-Hawks pulled away.

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On Sunday, December 4, 2011, the Saints defeated the Hawks 23-14. The Hawks' only lead was in the first quarter, but the Saints' defense was too strong. The Saints' offense was also very effective, with Hosch scoring 23 points. The Hawks' defense was unable to stop the Saints' offense, and the game ended in a Saints' loss.