

Warriors find balance in season finale

Written by

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Almost every night has been senior night for the Washington Warriors this season, with the talented senior duo of Josh Oglesby and Wesley Washpun leading the way.

So, naturally, that's who stepped forward when Washington actually held its Senior Night on Thursday, with the help of junior Sean Bredl.

Washpun, Oglesby and Bredl were too much for West Waterloo to stop, scoring 19, 18 and 20 points, respectively, in Washington's 72-49 win over the Wahawks.

"It is the best balance we have had all year, and that is the best part about it" Washington Coach Brad Metzger said. "We need more balance."

Washpun breathed life into the Warrior team in the first half as a one-man fastbreak, converting two steal and lay-ups in the second quarter along with a monster one-handed dunk over a Wahawk defender that brought the fans to their feet.

"I just saw him do it on somebody else two days ago," Metzger said with a smile. "We've seen it before. I knew it was coming. I mean, the guy can get up."

Bredl was able to work down low and find easy buckets and put-backs all night long.

"Bredl had a great game," Metzger said. "He had some nice finishes, some nice catches, probably his best game of the year hands down."

Oglesby struggled in the first half by his standards. The future Iowa Hawkeye was being closely guarded by Wahawk forward Daleshondis Jones and was held to just seven points in the half. He got to the bucket a little bit more in the second half to get going offensively.

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The Warriors got off to a slow start defensively, battling West to a 17-16 first quarter lead. Metzger faulted his team's focus.

"We didn't pay attention to every detail we needed to in the first quarter, but the rest of the game we did," Metzger said. "I'm pleased that they got back on track."

With Senior Night as the backdrop, this game meant just a little bit more to the Washington senior class than a normal regular season game.

"It was a big deal for our team," Oglesby said. "Through all the things that we have accomplished this year and through the years that Wes (Washpun) and I have been on varsity, this last regular season game is going to be something you can look to and remember.

"It's not sad, but at the same time, I have been friends with these guys through middle school and high school and it's coming to an end, it's weird."

The Warriors' next game is Monday against Clinton in a substate first round game at Washington.

"There are a lot of things that go into a good quality basketball team and I thought tonight we played pretty well," Oglesby said. "I think we are ready (for the postseason)."

Washington senior guard Alex Carr, who will be playing football at UNI next year, missed the game because he was in California for a modeling job.

WATERLOO WEST (49): Washington 4 2-2 13, M. Smith 0 0-0 0, D. Smith 2 2-5 6, Mallet 0 0-0 0, Moore 0 0-0 0, Green 0 0-0 0, Williams 0 1-2 1, C. Smith 1 2-2 5, Young 0 0-0 0, Jones 4 2-2 13, Roby 0 0-0 0, Johnson 4 0-0 9, Jackson 0 0-0 0, Myers 0 0-0 0, McMahon 1 0-0 2. Totals 16

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9-13 49.

WASHINGTON (72): Tann 1 0-0 2, Butterfield 0 0-0 0, Washpun 9 1-3 19, Moa 2 1-2 5, Olglesby 7 2-2 18, Hoekstra 1 0-0 3, Oney 1 0-0 3, Bergstrom 0 0-0 0, Matteson 0 0-0 0, Rosenthal 0 0-0 0, Clark 0 0-0 0, Bredl 10 0-0 20, Nash 0 0-0 0, Williams 0 0-0 0, Todd 1 0-0 2. Totals 32 4-7 72.

Halftime -- Washington 33, Waterloo West 23. 3-point goals -- Waterloo West 8 (Washington 3, Jones 3, C. Smith, Johnson), Washington 4 (Olglesby 2, Hoekstra, Oney).