

## **No. 8 Linn-Mar boys maul Waterloo West**

Written by Jim Sullivan, Waterloo Courier

Wednesday, 04 January 2012 00:13 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 January 2012 23:43

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WATERLOO - Waterloo West suffered through four quarters Tuesday night.

Justin Little planned to make the Wahawks suffer through the whole thing one more time.

Minutes after Linn-Mar finished off an 80-46 thumping of West at Siddens Gymnasium, Little made no effort to hide his frustration and anger with his team.

"I've been taking the blame for a lot of their losses," said the Wahawks' head coach. "I was right with them. But, tonight, that's all on them. That's just how it is."

Little said he was not yet ready to file and forget West's fourth straight loss. Far from it.

"Tomorrow, we're not gonna practice," he said. "We're gonna go through and watch that game all over again. That's the plan for tomorrow. That's all I'm doing. Maybe them visualizing and seeing it - maybe that'll trigger something, because I've tried every trick in the book and they don't want to motivate themselves. I don't know what to do anymore."

While West (3-4, 2-3 MVC) lost its fourth straight game, eighth-ranked Linn-Mar (4-2, 2-2) looked like a team that was just starting to heat up.

The Lions trailed by a 4-1 margin early in the first period. That's where the fun stopped for West. A 25-4 run through the remainder of the quarter settled matters.

Linn-Mar was deadly from the perimeter in the first quarter, pumping in five 3-point field goals on the way to nine baskets in 13 tries. That's 69.2 percent.

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Zach Martins, Jimmy Roth and North Carolina-bound Marcus Paige did most of the damage. That trio combined for 21 of Linn-Mar's 26 first-quarter points. Paige finished the night with a game-high 27 points.

"That's kind of what we've been waiting to see," said Lion head coach Chris Robertson of the Lions' performance Tuesday. "It just hadn't happened yet. Fortunately for us, tonight it happened. We've been struggling to get some guys to play around Marcus. They like to watch him. Jimmy Roth was aggressive tonight. Zach was shooting the ball. When those pieces help, it frees Marcus up a bit."

West, by contrast, shot 19 percent in the first quarter and trailed by 30 points (46-16) midway through the second.

"You can't just not show up and expect to win," said Little. "We got hammered because of that. You could say it was poor shooting, but poor shooting doesn't play defense.

"We've got to play as a team. We don't play as a team right now. As long as they want to play as individuals, we will get beat every single night."

Dale Jones led West with 18 points.

LINN-MAR (80): Zach Martins 6-11 4-6 19, Marcus Paige 10-14 4-5 27, Jimmy Roth 5-9 0-0 13, Andy Henry 3-4 2-4 10, Derik Gogg 1-1 2-2 4, Jon Schlotterback 0-1 0-0 0, Nate Dick 0-1 4-4 4, Matt Meier 1-2 0-0 3, Jacob Hutchins 0-0 0-0 0, Caleb Nelson 0-0 0-0 0, Josh Wick 0-0 0-0 0, Tylor Richardson 0-0 0-0 0, Kyle Mortenson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 26-44 16-21 80.

WATERLOO WEST (46): DaQuan Moore 3-8 1-1 7, DiMarco Mallett 1-5 0-0 3, Carderrius Smith 0-5 0-0 0, Dale Jones 8-23 0-0 18, T.J. Morgan 3-5 0-0 6, Malik Green 2-6 1-3 7, Xavier Hightower 1-3 0-0 2, Alex Young 0-2 0-0 0, Marcus Phillips 1-2 0-0 2, Tre Johnson 0-0 0-2 0, Queshawn Roby 0-2 1-2 1, Isaah Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Charles Calhoun 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-61 3-11 46.

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Halftime - Linn-Mar 55, West 20. 3-point goals - Linn-Mar 12 (Martins 3, Paige 3, Roth 3, Henry 2, Meier 1), West 5 (Jones 2, Green 2, Mallett 1). Total fouls - West 17, Linn-Mar 12. Fouled out - none. Technical foul - Jones.