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Maine South rolls by Streamwood, goes to 4-0

By: Dick Quagliano



Maine South High School's Ryan Leyden, left, and Marko Anderson, right, fight for possession of the ball with Streamwood High School's Darrel Lucen a boys basketball game in Streamwood Wednesday.

Maine South's inside game was too much for host Streamwood Wednesday.

Maine South went to the paint to score an 82-58 boys basketball win over the Sabres. It was the fourth game in six nights for the Hawks (4-0), who are off to a great start just one week into the season.

"We are getting better each day," Maine South coach Tony Lavorato Jr. said. "It was a step in the right direction with regard to matching intensity, finishing and fighting though some fatigue."

Lavorato said he did not have his team pointed toward the paint.

"We wanted to see if they would collapse and then hit 3s," Lavorato said. "If they didn't collapse, we were going to pound it inside and that's what we did."

The Hawks also had a huge rebounding effort with an impressive 49-22 advantage on the glass.

"That has become a big emphasis for us," said Marko Anderson, who is 6-foot-6 and had a double-double with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

"Coach told us to crash hard and get rebounds and put them back up. I have kind of made that a big part of my game. With my size, I can get it, put it back up or kick it out to our shooters."

The first half matched Maine South's inside game against the outside shooting from Streamwood. There were nine lead changes and four ties with Streamwood staying in the game thanks to eight 3-pointers.

With the score tied at 34, Maine South, which scored 34 points in the paint, got a trio of baskets from Anderson and a pair from Sean Gallery on their way to a 10-2 run and a 44-36 lead at the break.

"I thought we did a good job of breaking the press," said Gallery, who finished with 31 points and 8 rebounds. "In the second half we did the same thing and got some wide open layups, so it worked pretty well."

The Hawks came out flying in the third quarter, going on an 18-5 run to blow the game wide open.

Nikola Zelenovic had 12 points for Maine South while Milan Adamovic had 11 points and 6 rebounds and Ryan Leyden had 6 points and 11 rebounds.

Streamwood (0-3), which finished with 11 3-pointers, was led by Jakobe Strong, who had 15 points. Kody White, Zachary Marquez and Darrel Luce each had 10 points while Kyle Maybrun chipped in 9 points.

"We can't make consistent shots," Streamwood coach Kent Payne said. "Then we just made some mistakes, some box outs. That has kind of been the story."