

Doug Wagemester is accustomed to winning basketball games at Kirkwood Community College. It's become a habit.

He entered his 15th year with the Eagles this season with an impressive record of 390-94, which means a typical year produces a final mark of 28-7.

This year's club will have to improve in a hurry to keep the record going.

The Eagles suffered another tough loss Saturday when they fell to Iowa Lakes Community College, 67-64, in overtime in a conference game at Johnson Hall on the Cedar Rapids campus.

The setback left Kirkwood with a 7-7 overall mark and a 1-1 record in the ICCAC, which is not what the Eagles come to expect.

"We're consistently inconsistent. And we struggle at times scoring the ball," said Wagemester. "We turned the ball over 19 times in our own gym, we give up 18 offensive rebounds and we're shooting 56 percent at the foul line."

Kirkwood's roster has gotten thinner as the season has gone along. Matt Tiby, a 6-foot-8 sophomore, left the team without playing a game. Kasey Semler, one of the club's top shooters, has a broken hand and will be sidelined into January. Shaun Manego, a backup point guard, suffered a head injury in Kirkwood's last game and missed Saturday's contest with symptoms of a concussion.

Roles have changed and the rotation has changed, and right now it's not a winning combination.

Iowa Lakes trips Kirkwood in OT

Written by Jim Ecker

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"Our margin of error is so slim. We're beating ourselves," said Wagemester. "We're doing so many things to punch ourselves in the gut. And then when they punch us in the gut, we can't overcome it."

Kirkwood got off to a good start and had a 30-18 lead late in the first half, but the margin slipped to six points at intermission at 32-26.

"I thought in the first half we did a lot of good things, and then we relaxed and let them back in," said Wagemester.

The Eagles rebuilt their advantage to 36-26 early in the second half, but then the momentum shifted and Iowa Lakes (7-4, 2-1) kept getting closer and closer.

The visitors tied the game at 48-48, then took their first lead at 50-48. The Eagles needed two free throws by J.C. Fuller with 1.3 seconds left in the second half to force overtime at 55-55, but it was a temporary reprieve.

Iowa Lakes took a 65-61 lead with 21 seconds left in overtime on a free throw by Diamontae McKinley. Taylor Olson pulled Kirkwood within 65-64 with a 3-pointer with 6.8 seconds left.

McKinley gave Iowa Lakes a 67-64 edge with two free throws with 6.2 seconds remaining, giving Kirkwood a chance to force double-overtime with a 3-pointer.

J.C. Fuller got a decent look at the basket, but his 3-pointer hit the front of the rim and bounced away at the buzzer.

Devan Douglas led Kirkwood with 15 points. Fuller scored 11.

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Josh Schaben paced Iowa Lakes with 14 points.

IOWA LAKES (67): Larson 1 0-0 2, Shellim 4 1-1 9, Parks 4 0-1 9, Madison 4 0-0 8, Schaben 6 2-5 14, Harmon 0 0-0 0, McKinley 3 3-4 11, Neff 6 0-2 12, Miedema 1 0-0 2. Totals 29 6-13 67.

KIRKWOOD (64): Hunter 3 0-0 6, Heffernan 2 2-3 7, Fuller 3 5-8 11, Olson 3 0-0 8, Douglas 6 3-7 15, Young 2 0-0 4, Butler 2 0-0 6, Witt 1 0-0 2, Currie 1 2-2 4, Lang 0 1-3 1. Totals 23 13-23 64.

Halftime - Kirkwood 32, Iowa Lakes 26. Regulation - Kirkwood 55, Iowa Lakes 55. 3-point goals - Iowa Lakes 3 (McKinley 2, Parks 1), Kirkwood 5 (Olson 2, Butler 2, Heffernan 1).