

No. 1 Eagles sail by Black Hawk, 98-55

Written by Jim Ecker

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The top-ranked Kirkwood Eagles popped in six 3-pointers in the first nine minutes Saturday and coasted to a 98-55 victory over Black Hawk College at Johnson Hall.

Miles Wentzien began the barrage with a pair of triples, then Ethan Meeker, Carlo Marble and Al'Tavius Jackson followed with 3-pointers of their own and Meeker added another to make it 25-4.

Kirkwood hit eleven 3-pointers in the game and cruised to victory. Wentzien and Meeker finished with three apiece.

Coach Bryan Petersen thinks the Eagles could be proficient from 3-point range this season.

"We're starting to see it a little bit more," he said after Kirkwood raised its record to 3-1. "Our biggest thing is, we have to take really good ones. If we take really good ones, I trust our shooters a lot and believe we'll be able to make shots this year.

"The biggest thing is, if the guys see the ball go in they get a little confidence. It's starting and hopefully that will continue in the next few games."

Wentzien led Kirkwood with 19 points and nine rebounds. Da'Rion King muscled in 17 points and Meeker scored 13.

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Petersen used 11 players in the first half and all 11 scored in the opening 20 minutes. He liked his team's depth Saturday, but was not jumping to conclusions because Black Hawk was young and outmanned.

"It was good to get some guys in there and give them some more meaningful minutes, not just the last two minutes of a game," he said.

Kirkwood doubled the score, 72-36, on a 3-pointer by Byron Harp with 9:40 left in the game. Kirkwood's biggest lead was 46 points at 91-45 on a bucket by Derrick Howard.

BLACK HAWK (55): Dixon 1 0-0 2, Schwarz 1 0-0 3, Houston 2 2-2 6, Fuller 2 7-8 11, Robinson 4 1-2 10, Morgan 0 2-2 2, Couch 2 1-2 5, Bonner 1 0-2 2, Ingram 2 1-1 5, Swan 3 0-1 6, Phillips 1 1-2 3. Totals 19 15-22 55.

KIRKWOOD (98): Harp 1 1-1 4, Wentzien 5 6-7 19, C.King 3 0-0 7, Marble 1 2-2 5, D.King 6 5-5 17, Triplett 1 0-0 2, Jackson 2 0-0 6, Rice 0 0-0 0, Meeker 4 2-4 13, Howard 1 0-2 4, Oliver 2 2-2 6, Henry 1 3-4 5, Foxbrennen 1 0-0 2, Moore 2 4-4 8. Totals 31 25-31 98.

Halftime - Kirkwood 46, Black Hawk 28. 3-point goals - Black Hawk 2 (Schwarz 1, Robinson 1), Kirkwood 11 (Wentzien 3, Meeker 3, Jackson 2, Harp 1, C.King 1, Marble 1).