

Sports

Hockinson boys post landmark victory over Mark Morris

First-year coach has Hawks soaring at midseason

Ken Vance
Editor

It didn't take Matt Gruhler long to accomplish something that no Hockinson High School boys' basketball coach before him could achieve. In fact, it's a feat that no other Class 2A Greater St. Helens League coach could boast of accomplishing.

Gruhler guided his Hawks to a 73-66 victory over Mark Morris on Jan. 4. It was Hockinson's first-ever victory over the Monarchs, snapping a skid of nine straight losses to the perennial power. It also was Mark Morris' first league loss since joining the Class 2A GSHL, ending a streak of 43 consecutive victories.

"It's one of those wins that allows you to cement yourself as one of the leaders in the league," Gruhler said. "You may say or may think that you're one of the better teams in the league, but until you knock off the best team, it's just lip service. This proves to ourselves and other teams in the league, that we are a team to be reckoned with."

Hockinson senior forward Joshua Hall led the way in the victory over Mark Morris with 30 points. The Hawks capped off their week with a 59-52 non-league win over Class 4A Evergreen.

"It was an awesome week," Gruhler said. "The Mark Morris win was a little bit like getting a monkey off our back. It sounds like in the past, we haven't played our best game against them. We've been tentative and nervous. Now, we feel like when we play our best game, we should expect to beat them."

Gruhler inherited a program that advanced to the 2A state

tournament the past two years. The 29-year-old spent the past three years as the assistant varsity coach at Tumwater High School. A graduate of Portland's Central Catholic High School, Gruhler played collegiately at St. Martin's University in Lacey.

Gruhler completed his master's degree in school counseling in the past year and he and his wife Sarah, a Mountain View graduate, wanted to move back to the Portland-Vancouver area.

"I was looking for coaching jobs and Hockinson was the only one open that I wanted," Gruhler said. "It was in the same district as Tumwater, so I knew the league and the district. I knew about the success they have had in the past and I was excited about the job because I knew it was a basketball school."

The Hawks didn't return many players off last year's state tournament team but in Hall, a three-year starter, Gruhler knew he had a big piece to build with in the versatile 6-foot-7 forward.

"Anytime you take a job and you know you have the best player in the league and probably the district on your team, you've got to like your chances," Gruhler said.

Hall hasn't disappointed Gruhler either.

"He's a joy to coach," Gruhler said of Hall. "When I got the job, he was one of the first guys I met. I could tell he was a leader and a guy the kids looked up to. When I got to know him even more, I found out he's a really hard worker. He's a three-year starter, but he works as hard as anybody else and he plays as hard. The kids respect him for that."

Justin Schauer, a 6-1 senior guard, has also been a consistent performer for the Hawks,



HOCKINSON POINT GUARD Doug McDonald has been the floor general for the Hawks this season. He has been so valuable to the team that in recent victories over Mark Morris and Evergreen, he played all 32 minutes of each game.

Photo by Mike Schultz

including a 22-point effort in the win over Mark Morris.

"He's our best shooter," Gruhler said of Schauer. "He's got that confidence. He's also really worked hard at putting the ball on the floor and going strong to the rim. When he does both, and makes the defense respect both, he gets good shots both ways."

Greg McGuire is a 6-4 senior post for the Hawks, who Gruhler said does all the dirty work for Hockinson. McGuire isn't a high scorer, but he leads the team in charges drawn and he's one of the Hawks best rebounders and post defenders. In the win over Evergreen, McGuire was a big reason Hockinson was able to hold 6-10 Plainsmen center Caleb Dressler to just seven points.

Gruhler also praised point guard Doug McDonald, a 6-1 junior. Anyone curious about Gruhler's thoughts about McDonald's value to the Hawks need only look at the last two games when the coach couldn't bring himself to take his floor general off the court, not even one time.

"He played 32 minutes in each of our last two games," Gruhler said of McDonald. "He does a good job handling the ball, he makes great decisions

and he's shooting it with confidence. He's played so well, I just can't take him out."

Gruhler carries 10 players on the varsity and he's says most players see action in all games.

"Everybody has a role," the coach said.

Hockinson is 2-0 in league play and 5-5 overall. The season record is a bit misleading because the Hawks have had some competitive non-league losses to larger schools, such as a 3-point loss to 3A Prairie and a 5-point loss to 4A Battle Ground.

"We played a really tough schedule to get started," Gruhler said. "We also played non-league games against Centralia, Chehalis and Tumwater - all district playoff teams from last year."

The 2A GSHL consists of just five teams this year, so teams will play each other three times in league play. That means Hockinson will face Mark Morris two more times.

"I still think Mark Morris is the class of the league," Gruhler said. "They're the champions until we knock them off. After beating Mark Morris, I would like to say we have a good shot at winning the league, but we're not good enough to look past anybody right now."



THE 2ND ANNUAL BATTLE GROUND Resolution Run attracted 187 participants to Battle Ground Village on Jan. 2. Participants completed either a 5K or 10K course and then enjoyed a buffet at Bones Steak and Chop House after the event.

Resolution Run expands to 187 participants

Ken Vance
Editor

In just its second year, the Battle Ground Resolution Run expanded from a field of 45 participants the first year to 187 as organizers celebrated a significant increase in the event's profile in the community.

On Jan. 2, Battle Ground Fitness and Battle Ground Village put on the 2nd annual 5K and 10K Resolution Run. The event, which started and ended in Battle Ground Village, was organized by Karen King of Battle Ground Fitness and assisted by Elba Benzler. It was supported and sponsored by Dennis Pavlina and Carmen Villarma from Battle Ground Village, BG Printing, Clear

Choice Chiropractic, BG Trophy and Max Muscle.

This year's 187 participants received with their entry fee a T-shirt, goody-bag and buffet at Bones Steak and Chop House in Battle Ground Village, hosted by Dennis Pavlina. The event offered a live DJ, water stations, coat check-in and personal photos as runners came into the finish line.

All runners can view their running times and how they did overall at www.racecenter.com on the internet. Photos can be viewed at www.photorelect.com. Photos from the event can also be viewed on facebook at "Get BG Fit".

Excited by the success of the event, King is devoted to reach-

2011 Resolution Run results

5K men's

1. Justin Ashworth, Battle Ground, 18:17.
2. Bryant Howard, 18:42.
3. John Limpf, Battle Ground, 18:51.

5K women's

1. Malia Carr, Battle Ground, 22:39.
2. Kathy Fockler, Vancouver, 23:36.
3. Misty Wanke, Brush Prairie, 24:38.

10K men's

1. Paul Limpf, Battle Ground, 35:59.
2. Ron Wooding, Battle Ground, 37:04.
3. Rob Rusunen, Camas, 38:27.

involved with the Harvest Days Run July 17th, which will offer a half marathon.

Volunteers who helped make the Resolution Run a success included:

- Battle Ground Mayor Michael Ciraulo announced awards to the overall winners and top winners in each age group for both 5k and 10K.
- Past Mayor John Idsinga helped put out signage making traffic aware of "Runners on Road" and setting up water stations.
- BGHS Fire Cadets showed runners where to go and made them aware to be cautious around icy areas.
- Battle Ground Fitness employees gave runners their bibs, shirts and goody bags.
- Photographer Lisa Vandezande took photos of all runners coming in at the end of the race.

December 2010				Jan.-Dec. 2010	
Weather Source Location	Rain Total (inches)	Avg. Dec. Wet Days	No. of	Rain Total (inches)	Average (inches)
Battle Ground					
City Station	9.63	8.03	23	60.88	50.70
Dan Petersen					
La Center	9.22	6.32	17	56.05	48.45
Portland					
International Airport	8.35	5.71	22	46.18	37.07
Greg Cawley					
Brush Prairie	12.13	7.96	23	71.41	51.10
Don Gaines					
Hockinson	11.15	8.87	26	73.95	62.65
Ron Myers					
Venersborg	11.77	9.51	26	74.35	63.52
Ken McGowen					
CC Fairgrounds	9.71	8.28	23	59.03	49.92
Phil Akely					
Kelly Hill, Yacolt	13.07	11.78	25	84.78	72.07
Jerry Olson					
Yale Valley	18.97	16.73	24	118.11	111.82
Greg Baird					
Fargher Lake	9.29	8.70	23	79.43	63.29
Robert Starr					
Cougar	21.97	20.41	26	139.45	124.20
Doug, Deni Deseive					
La Center	11.65	11.11	23	79.23	74.50

WE SOLVE WATER PROBLEMS!!

Water Softeners • Filters • Purifiers Reverse Osmosis & Bottled Water

Make Your Water "The Way it Should Be"

WATER & AIR WORKS
"The Water Store"
360-696-9287
3110 NE Minnehaha Unit B • Vancouver, USA 98663
Monday - Friday 9am - 5:30pm • Saturday 10am - 2pm • www.waterandairworks.com

GLENWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE SIGN UPS

LOCATION: New Tradition building on 117th Avenue (across from Prairie High School). The address is 11815 NE 113 St., Suite 110, Vancouver, WA 98662

DATES AND TIMES:
Saturday, 1/8 10am-2pm; Saturday, 1/15 10am-2pm
Monday, 1/17 6:30-8:30pm; Saturday, 1/22 2pm-6pm

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION:
Glenwood Field House; Mon. 1/24 and Mon. 1/31 from 6:30-8pm
Registrations received after 1/31 will incur an additional \$25 fee.

FEES: • T-Ball - \$50 • Pee Wee/Minor/Majors - \$75
• Junior/Senior/Big League - \$90
\$10 discount for 2nd child, \$15 discount for 3rd child, 4th child and above is free (if all children live in the same household).

ELIGIBILITY: Any boy who is 4 years old by April 30, 2010 and girl who is 4 years old by December 31, 2009 through 18 years old can play.

WHAT TO BRING: Three proofs of residency and your child's original government issued birth certificate. Address on check is not considered proof of residency. Examples of valid proof of residency include (but are not limited to) utility bills (can use just one), tax bills and vehicle registrations.

Please email questions to the registrar at registration@glenwoodlittleleague.org.

Climate Controlled Application Professional Grade Equipment Call Today for Appointment

Limited Time Offer Complete Bed Liner for **\$299.95**
Most applications - Must present coupon Offer expires Jan. 31, 2010

ONSITE ROLL FORMING

30515 NW Paradise Park Road • Ridgefield, WA
887-4524
www.onsitepolebuildings.com
All Buildings Engineered

POST FRAMED HOMES 1463 Sq.Ft. Total

Kit: \$18,840 Installed: \$29,540

- Includes:**
- 45-year painted metal roof
 - 621 sq.ft. garage
 - 2 bedrooms
 - 30# roofing felt
 - Tyvek
 - 6 windows
 - 3 doors
 - 90 sq.ft. porch
 - 63 sq.ft. bathroom

Optional: • concrete floor

Call Onsite—Office: 360-887-4524 Home Sales: 360-887-0597

Protect Your Investment With A

SPRAY-IN BED LINER

Trucks, RV's, Boats, Trailers, UTV's and More

Pacific Truck Performance
Truck & UTV Accessory Headquarters

I-5 Exit 14
600 South 6th Way
Ridgefield, WA
www.pac-performance.com
360-887-5995