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SCHOOL ROUNDUP: Waltham, Watertown boys hoop teams earn first victories

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By Staff reports

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Senior Tony Frimpong had 12 points, four rebounds and two steals as the Waltham High boys basketball team survived a late Weston comeback for a 54-50 victory in Dual County League action last night.

Frimpong led the defensive effort that spurred the Hawks to a double-digit lead most of the game. Then it was junior Mike Bonhomme's free throws with 45 seconds left that helped stave off a Weston rally after the Wildcats cut an 11-point deficit with 1:42 left in the game down to just three points.

Bonhomme had 11 points and six rebounds, and A.J. Prince had 10 points to spark the Hawks (1-1).

"We played very good defense at times," Waltham coach Joe Cacciatore said. "Tony Frimpong did an excellent job of taking their guards out of the game. We put a lot of pressure on their backcourt and didn't allow them to get into what they like to do offensively."

Waltham had 13 steals against only 11 turnovers.

The Hawks head to Newton South Friday night.

Watertown 52, Melrose 40

Junior Marco Coppola had a game-high 29 points as the Watertown boys basketball team began its Division 3 state title defense with a Middlesex League victory over Melrose.

Junior Connor Stockdale had 10 points and 12 rebounds, and junior M.J. Bagdasarian hit a pair of big shots in the second half to help propel the Raiders.

Watertown took a 25-18 lead into the half and was up nine after three quarters. Melrose began a comeback in the second half when Bagdasarian gave Watertown some breathing room with a 2-point basket and 3-pointer.

"It was a good way to start the season," Watertown coach Steve Harrington said. "We are going to need to play better as we get into our schedule. But this was a good way to get some guys' feet wet."

Watertown next hosts Burlington on Friday.

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St. Clement 79, Trinity 67

Senior Chiziem Egesionu had 22 points and six rebounds, and senior John Lopes had 21 points, seven rebounds, five assists and four steals in the Trinity Catholic boys basketball team's 79-67 loss to the defending Catholic Central League champion at home.

The Falcons held a two-point lead after one quarter, but allowed 30 points in the second quarter, and trailed 45-31 at the half. TC couldn't put a serious dent in the Anchoorman lead from there.

TC (0-1) travels to Lowell Catholic Friday night.

Gann 57, Waring 13

The Gann boys basketball team made it three in a row to open the season, cruising to a 57-13 victory over the Waring School.

The game opened with the Heifers quickly sprinting to an 8-0 lead and never looking back. A swarming man-to-man defense and a lightning-quick fast break helped the Heifers take a 32-8 lead into halftime. The opening of the second half saw more of the same tough Gann defense that limited the hosts to single-shot possessions.

A well-balanced attack paced the Heifers, as 10 players joined the scoring parade. The team got great contributions off the bench from Mike Herman (6 points) and Richard Moffatt (6 points, 4 blocks.).

Gann travels to Brookline Saturday night to take on Maimonides with an 8:15 p.m. tip off.

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