
MIAA Jamboree; Central girls; BTW boys post wins

By Pete Wickham

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Central's girls and boys squads flashed their inside games during the second night of the MIAA Jamboree Thursday at Northside. Also, the Booker T. Washington boys showed they can play big.

Jasmine Cincore, one of two touted freshman inside players, racked up 15 points and an outstanding player award in her debut as the Central girls pummeled the BTW girls, 60-15, in their 20-minute scrimmage.

"The speed of the game is something I'm still getting used to, but there's a lot of support on this team," said Cincore, who must hold down the inside along with veterans Jalen O'Bannon and Darianne Butler, and fellow rookie Tia Wooten for Central to stay a national and state power.

Meanwhile, 6-3 senior Martavious Newby of Washington racked up 14 points and helped neutralize 6-8 junior Jarnell Stokes (11 points) and Central's big front line for a 32-30 confidence building win for the Warriors.

"I played with Jarnell all summer with the YMCA team, and I told the guys we've just got to pack it inside and play big with our zone," Newby said.

After spotting the Washington girls the night's first two baskets, two quick buckets by Cincore sandwiched around a Wooten putback got the Central girls off and running at the usual warp speed. Junior Aaliyah Whiteside had 11 points, sophomore Nina Davis had 10 – and junior Danielle Ballard took the night off nursing a strained shoulder that will keep her out of action until early next week.

"We're still really young, but everybody has committed to playing hard and that's been good to see," said Niki Bray of her squad, which has just one senior (Butler) and five freshmen that will be tested by the annual Turkey Jam at home next week, and back-to-back tournaments in Hawaii and Phoenix in December. "Jasmine and Tia are both very level-headed, very mature for their age and that's important for what we need to do."

Laquaris Harris had eight points to lead BTW, trying to bounce back from a sub-.500

campaign a year ago.

Newby quickly established himself early, and the BTW boys built a 32-24 lead against Central's reserves.

"I think some of our guys were a little nervous going in, but we did enough good things tonight," said Stokes, who came up with a steal under his bucket and a coast-to-coast drive for a slam that made the gym's collective jaw drop.

Stokes and the big boys came back in with five minutes to go and rallied to get within two.

"Any time you win anything it's great for your confidence," BTW coach Fred Horton said. "You play zone, you can frustrate a big team. And we've got four guys who can put it on the floor which will help us. A year ago, nobody thought we'd get back to substate, but we did. This year, nobody knows about anyone in our lineup but Newby. But they will soon enough."

Central coach Andre Applewhite, whose team was upended early in last year's packed regional field, said, "It's good to get some work in at this type of speed against a quality opponent. I've been pretty happy with what I've seen of our kids so far, and for the most part we were good tonight."



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