

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Already looking good

Kunde, Bridgman post season-opening victory over South Haven

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Bridgman 56 S. Haven n 37

SOUTH HAVEN — It looked like midseason form for Bridgman Tuesday night.

“They just looked more ready than we were tonight,” said South Haven coach Sam Cornett as Bridgman defeated South Haven, 56-37, in a non-league opener for both teams.

“I’m disappointed in a few things but we rebounded really well in the second half and that makes me happy,” said Bridgman coach Mike Miller.

Bridgman led wire-to-wire but a dominating third quarter really put the game away. The Bees outscored the home team, 14-2, in the third quarter as the Rams were a frigid 1-for-13 from the field.

“We got good shots,” said Cornett, “but they weren’t dropping.”

Bridgman scored the first six points of the third quarter in less than a minute and Dan Kunde, who would lead all scorers with 16 points, punctuated the rally with a one-handed slam after taking a weak-side alley-oop toss.

Kunde also grabbed 11 rebounds, to share game-high honors with Craig Mc Nees.

“We had two offensive rebounds in the first half and 10 in the second half,” Miller said. “To me, that was the story of the game.” Bridgman, coming off a 19-4 season, looked like they hardly missed a beat from last year. Mc Nees and Todd Hendricks each scored 12 points and sophomore Nick Sweet had 10.

Hendricks was a perfect 10-for-10 from the free throw line and ran the team well at point guard. Bridgman attempted 32 free throws while South Haven made only seven trips to the stripe.

“We got in foul trouble early and that hurt us,” said Cornett.

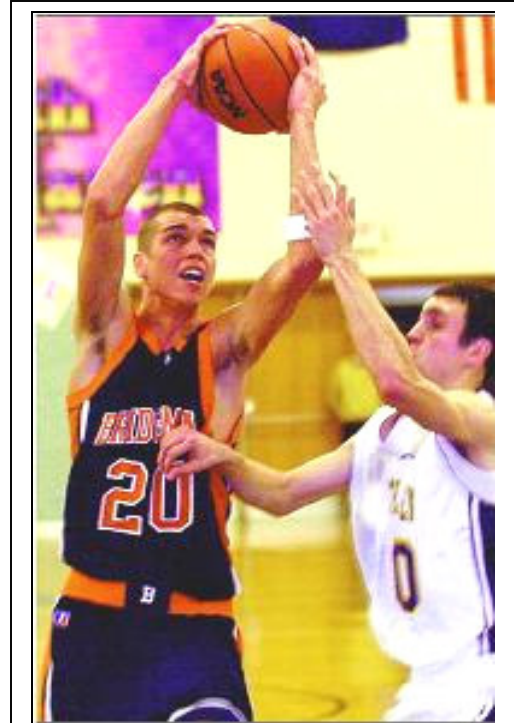
It was a physical game from the start.

Bridgman took a 16-7 lead after the first quarter. The Bees led by 19 after three quarters, 39-20 and the Rams had a strong fourth quarter to cut the lead down to within 10 points but they could come no closer.

“We got complacent,” Miller said. “And that’s very disappointing.” Cornett is hoping South Haven can take something from it’s fourth quarter rally.

“We can build from that,” the coach said. “What pleased me the most tonight is that we never quit. We were down quite a bit but we kept coming. Bridgman has a great program and they’re very strong. We are a work in progress — hey, it’s only the first game.” Johnny Bolden led the Rams with nine points. South Haven hit just 15 of 52 shots.

The Rams were 9-12 last year but have five returnees from last year.



BRIDGMAN’ S DAN KUNDE shoots over South Haven’s David Barden during Tuesday’s game

BRIDGMAN 56, SOUTH HAVEN 37

BRIDGMAN (56)

Todd Hendricks 1 10-10 12, Dan Kunde 6 2-4 16, Joe Malm 0 2-4 2, Nick Sweet 4 2-4 10, Zac Nemitz 1 1-2 4, Craig McNees 4 4-8 12. Totals: 16 21-32 56.

SOUTH HAVEN (37)

Caleb Grimes 3 0-0 7, Johnny Bolden 4 1-2 9, Brian Powell 1 0-0 3, Daniel Jackson 3 0-2 7, Tarail Sutton 1 0-1 2, Larnell Wroten 0 1-2 1, Kale Waaso 2 0-0 6, Killian Hamlin 1 0-0 2. Totals: 14 2-7 37.

Bridgman 16 9 14 17 — 56

South Haven 7 11 2 17 — 37

3-point goals — Bridgman 2 (Kunde 2), South Haven 5 (Waaso 2, Jackson, Powell, Grimes).

Total fouls — Bridgman 16, South Haven 26.

Fouled out — Barden. JV — South Haven 46, Bridgman 42.

Records — Bridgman 1-0, South Haven 0-1.