

January 15, 2006 6:59AM

Bridgman's Kunde helps sink Adams

BOYS BASKETBALL

MATT KOPSEA
Tribune Staff Writer

SOUTH BEND -- **Dan Kunde put his size to good use Saturday night.**

The 6-foot-7 senior forward came up big with 12 points and 13 rebounds, helping No. 8 (Class C) Bridgman rally for a 47-44 victory over Adams in high school basketball action at The Eagles' Nest.

Down by as many as eight points in the first half, the Bees (8-0) used an 8-0 run in the third quarter to grab the lead and then used 13-of-18 shooting from the free throw line in the final period to maintain control.

"We came out tentative in the first quarter, and it showed because we made seven turnovers," said Bridgman coach Mike Miller. "What I was happy about, though, was how mentally tough we were after that. Instead of playing not to lose, we started playing to win."

It looked like Adams (7-5) was going to cruise to its second straight win as the hosts jumped out to a 12-6 lead after the first period.

Trailing 20-12 with just under three minutes left before halftime, Bridgman finally woke up.

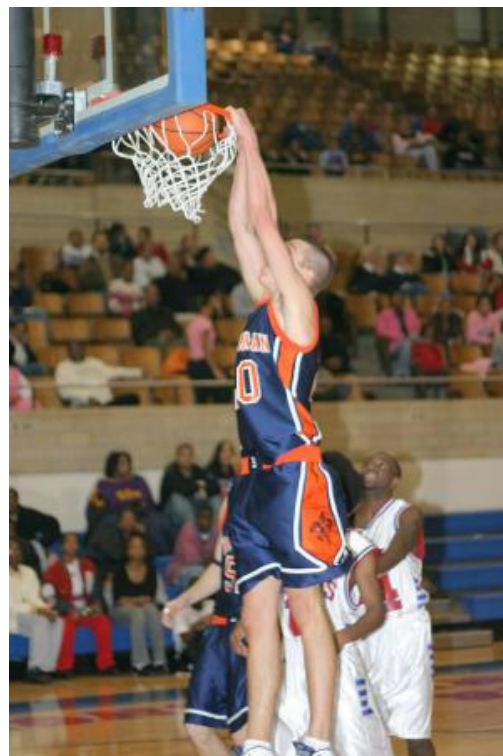
A 6-0 run, highlighted by a slam dunk by Kunde and a blocked shot by Craig McNees, gave the Bees new life heading into the second half.

"Those last couple of minutes in the first half proved to be huge for them," said Adams coach Pat King. "Until that point, we had done a good job defending them. After that, though, they realized they could play with us."

King was right on target as Bridgman outscored the Eagles, 13-6, in the third quarter to open up a three-point lead.

A 3-pointer by Mark Stevenson to start the final period tied the game at 29, but Zac Nemitz answered right back with one of his own to put the Bees back on top to stay.

It proved to be the start of a 16-7 spurt to help the visitors build their margin to as many as nine points.



Thanks to 17 points by the junior Stevenson, the Eagles were able to keep it close.

However, Nick Sweet's six free throws allowed Bridgman to keep its perfect mark intact.

"Except for Mark, we just didn't have anybody step up or come through for us offensively," said King. "What's disappointing, though, is this is the third game out of the last four that we've not played very well. Hopefully, we can put it back together before it's too late."

Stevenson finished with 28 points and nine boards for the Eagles, who host Riley on Thursday.

BRIDGMAN 47, ADAMS 44

At South Bend

BRIDGMAN (47): Dan Kunde 6 0-0 12, Craig McNeas 3 0-0 6, Todd Hendricks 2 4-7 8, Dan Ponegalek 2 3-4 7, Nick Sweet 2 6-7 11, Jon Malm 0 0-0 0, Zach Welsher 0 0-0 0, Zac Nemitz 1 0-0 3. TOTALS: 16 13-18 47.

ADAMS (44): Tyrome Jones 0 0-0 0, Trent Bonds 1 0-0 2, Mark Stevenson 10 3-3 28, Martell Harris 1 0-0 2, Landon Booker 1 1-2 3, Carl Steen 2 3-4 7, Aaron Williams 1 0-0 2, Maurice McDonald 0 0-0 0, Will Winston 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 16 7-9 44.

Bridgman	6	16	29	47
Adams	12	20	26	44

3-point goals: Bridgman 2 (Sweet, Nemitz), Adams 5 (Stevenson 5). Total fouls: Bridgman 11, Adams 20. Shooting: Bridgman 16-of-42 (38 percent), Adams 16-of-52 (31 percent).

Rebounds: Bridgman 36 (Kunde 13), Adams 28 (Stevenson 9). Turnovers: Bridgman 18, Adams 12.

Varsity records: Bridgman 8-0, Adams 7-5. Officials: Jim Weinberg, Dave Spencer.