

## Strong finish for Bridgman

Fifth-ranked Bees stay undefeated

By AL AREND - H-PSports Writer

BRIDGMAN — Bridgman coach Mike Miller wasn't happy with his team's play in the first half, but he was all smiles at the end.

The Class C fifth ranked Bees improved to 10-0 on the season and 6-0 in the Lakeland Conference with a 49-31 victory, after the Bucks went over seven minutes without scoring a point in the last quarter.

"We didn't play very hard in the first half. We let their physical play bother us," Miller said. "But we played outstanding defense in the second half." Bridgman led 19-16 with 2:39 left in the second quarter as Buchanan was patient on offense. But Zac Nemitz got a rebound bucket for Bridgman, and then in the final six seconds of the half Nemitz and Dan Ponegalek were both fouled shooting 3-point shots, much to the ire of Buchanan coach Reid Mc Beth.

Nemitz and Ponegalek each hit two of their three charity tosses, and suddenly the Bees led 25-16 at intermission.

"I don't know when boxing out became illegal," said Mc Beth, in reference to the fouls called on the Bees' two late first-half 3-point attempts. "It was just kids doing what they were told to do, putting a body on them." Bridgman lead 39-26 after two free throws by Buchanan's Jeff Kyles to start the final frame. But the Bucks wouldn't score again until Kyles hit two more free throws with 36 seconds left. In between, the Bees scored 10 unanswered points to put the game away.

"I was really pleased with our effort in the second half," added Miller. "They only scored 10 points in a 15-minute stretch." "I thought our kids played hard," Mc Beth said. "We played as physical as we could.

"But they have so many weapons, it's hard to keep track of them all," added Mc Beth. "They have five guys who can put it in the basket. We hung around as long as we could." Neither team shot well, as Bridgman hit 18 of 57 (32 percent) from the floor to Buchanan's 12 of 40 (30 percent). But the taller Bees out rebounded the Bucks 36 to 23 and committed only six turnovers, five less than Buchanan.

Dan Kunde led Bridgman's balanced scoring attack with 12 points, while Ponegalek and Nemitz added 10 apiece and Nick Sweet nine. Kunde and Sweet grabbed 10 rebounds each, and point guard Todd Hendricks had seven assists. Craig Mc Nees had six blocks.

Senior guard Kyles led Buchanan (4-3, 6-6) with 14 points, including a 3-pointer in the closing seconds, the Bucks' only field goal of fourth quarter. Marquis Hall added nine points and along with Kyles pulled down five rebounds apiece.

Buchanan once again played without Jordan Lee (17 point-per-game average). When asked if Lee was still on the team, Mc Beth responded: "No comment. I'm not going to talk about it."

## No. 5 Bees Batter Buchanan

HIGH SCHOOL: BOYS BASKETBALL

At Bridgman : **Dan Kunde's 12 points** helped Class C No. 5 Bridgman remain perfect (10-0, 6-0) by downing Buchanan (6-6, 4-3), 49-31, in Lakeland Conference boys basketball action Tuesday night.

Dan Ponegalek and Zac Nemitz each netted 10 points for the Bees. Jeff Kyles led the Bucks with 14 points.

BRIDGMAN 49, BUCHANAN 31

BUCHANAN (31): Avery Brown 0 0-0 0, Damian Bryant 1 0-0 2, Brad Burns 0 0-0 0, Eric Cole 2 0-0 4, Marquis Hall 4 1-1 9, Taylor Johnson 1 0-0 2, Jason Kuntz 0 0-0 0, Jeff Kyles 4 4-4 14, Tirrell Tucker 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 12 5-5 31.

BRIDGMAN (49): **Dan Kunde 5 1-2 12**, Craig McNeas 3 0-0 6, Todd Hendricks 0 0-0 0, Dan Ponegalek 2 4-6 10, Nick Sweet 4 0-0 9, Jon Malm 1 0-0 2, Zach Welsher 0 0-0 0, Zac Nemitz 3 2-3 10, Seth Coffing 0 0-0 0, Boo Ott 0 0-0 0, Blake Ivers 0 0-0 0, Casey Burli 0 0-0 0, Pat Kading 0 0-0 0. TOTALS: 18 7-11 49.

Buchanan	6	16	24	31
Bridgman	10	25	39	49

3-point goals: Bridgman 6 (Ponegalek 2, Nemitz 2, Sweet, **Kunde**), Buchanan 2 (Kyles 2). Total fouls: Bridgman 11, Buchanan 12. J.V. score: Bridgman 64, Buchanan 37. Varsity records: Bridgman 10-0 (6-0), Buchanan 6-6 (4-3).

## Harbor Country News

The Class C fifth-ranked Bee varsity squad improved to 10-0 on the season and 6-0 in the Lakeland Conference on Tuesday, Jan. 24, with a 49-31 victory over Buchanan.

"We didn't play very hard in the first half. We let their physical play bother us," Miller said. "But we played outstanding defense in the second half."

**Kunde led Bridgman's balanced scoring attack with 12 points**, while Ponegalek and Nemitz added 10 apiece and Sweet 9. **Kunde and Sweet grabbed 10 rebounds each**, Hendricks had 7 assists and McNeas finished with 6 blocks.

The Bees are scheduled to play at Brandywine on Friday, Jan. 27, and to visit Cassopolis on Tuesday, Jan. 31.