

Island Sports

Boys basketball team considers season a success

By Adrienne Downing

With 30 seconds to go in the game against Curtis Middle School on Monday afternoon, the Lawn School boys' basketball team looked like they might pull off a second straight tournament win and extend their season at least one more game.

"It was back and forth the whole game. We would get down and then come back," Eric Bush, head coach, explained. "They (Lawn) did not let down the whole game. Unfortunately, our downfall was that we did not shoot well from the free-throw line and we usually do."

The Warriors started out in an 8-0 hole, but after a timeout, they settled down and hit two consecutive 3-pointers to put them right back in the game. After being down by 10 points in the third quarter, the Warriors went on their own 8-0 run to bring them within 2.

"From there it was up 2, down 2 for the rest of the game," Bush

said.

Ben North's 3-point shot put the team up by 2 with 30 seconds remaining in the game, but after a timeout Curtis answered with their own 3 and took a one-point lead.

"We were down by one with 20 seconds to go, and we had to foul them. They made 1 of 2 and were down by 2," the coach explained. "We got the ball back with 10 seconds left, but we just couldn't put them away."

Curtis took the game with a final score of 54-52.

The boys ended regular season play with a 3-11 record, a mark which Bush says belies the teams success this year.

"We made a lot of progress from last year. In 8 out of our 11 losses, we lost by 6 points or less," he explained. "It was very nice to still be in it at the end of the game."

Maturity was part of the reason the team made strides this season, with eight of 16 players being eighth-graders who had played on the team last year and four of those



The boys are all smiles despite a close season ending loss. In back, from left, are Coach Eric Bush, Drew Waddington, Matt Baptista, Christian Tiexiera, Ryan Southworth, Steve Santos, Will Spar, Ben North, Ben Thompson. In front, from left, are Owen Heath, Dan Harpool, Kevin, Danny Bailey, James Chamberlain, Christian Elerbee, Jacob Morris, Dylan Vogel. Photos by Julie Bailey

having played since sixth grade.

Bush really noticed what a difference this made in the team's first game of the second half of the season against Thompson Middle School.

Thompson had beaten the Warriors by 32 points in the first matchup of the season, but Lawn did not let them off so easily the second time around.

"We only lost that second game against them by 2 points and that was because we just ran out of time. That was when I really think they started to understand their ability," Bush explained.

Rebounding was also a key for the team this year, with Ben Thompson pulling in 20 rebounds for the season.

"Ben was one of those kids who started the year not really knowing how good he really was," Bush said. "He is very tall and he poses

a big mismatch for the other team and he is very athletic."

Also helping out with rebounding was Steve Santos, the team's all-round, go-to player.

"He was good inside and out and he rebounded very well," the coach said.

It is hard to pin down an offensive leader for the team because, Bush said, that everyone was a contributor.

"It was someone different every game. For instance, in our first tournament game we had four different players in double figures," he noted.

The defensive leader for the team was Christian Tiexiera.

"He is a really good defender and he would just give everything that he had out there," Bush said.

Although the free-throws just would not go in for the Warriors on Monday night, the team did en-

joy practicing them this season.

Bush continued an annual tradition by having the team turn their practice free-throws into new uniforms for the team.

Each player collected sponsors to make a donation based on how many throws they would complete out of 100.

"It worked well because it was something that they were already doing as part of practice," Bush said. "They would shoot 20 free-throws during each practice and then record the number that they had made."

Danny Bailey, a seventh-grader on the team, said "It was a great way to earn money and it definitely helped our game."

The coach noted that it was good for the team to feel that they had earned the uniforms while improving their game.



Head Coach Eric Bush coaches his team during a time out in Monday's game against Curtis Middle school.

Scholarship Exam



for Students Entering
Grade 5 and 6
for the 2007-2008 school year

To be administered on

February 15, 2007
February 20, 2007
February 21, 2007

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Admissions Open House
Thursday, February 22, 2007 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 24, 2007 9:00 - 12:00 Noon

A scholarship in the amount of \$5000 will be awarded to a student seeking admission to Grade 5 and to a student seeking admission to Grade 6. The awards will be made based on academic merit. Recipients are invited to apply for additional financial assistance, based on need.

To register for examination, please contact:

Polly Meadows, Director of Admission, The Pennfield School
110 Sandy Point Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871
(401)849-4646 pmeadows@pennfield.org www.pennfield.org

The Pennfield School does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, color, creed, non-disqualifying handicap, sexual orientation, family composition, ethnic or national origin, in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational policies, hiring or any of its school practices.

SCOTT A. LUTES

ATTORNEY AT LAW

"Achieving outstanding results for clients for 20 years"

Criminal Defense, Domestic Assault,
Driving While Intoxicated, Juvenile Offenses

www.scottluteslaw.com

One Turks Head Place
Suite 1440
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 861-1142 Office

(401) 741-7525 Cellular

(401) 861-1141 Fax

Summer at The Pennfield School

Fun and Educational Camps for Children
Pre-K Through Grade 8

Summer Arts, Lego Robotics Camp, Young Scientists Club Camp,
Drama Camp, Woodworking Basics, Summer Fun Camp



Register Now!!!

For more info visit www.pennfield.org
or call Heather Strout at 401-849-4646 x 123



110 Sandy Point Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871

SEASIDE OIL

**CALL FOR THE
LOWEST PRICE
AROUND!**

**24/7 BURNER
SERVICE &
SERVICE PLANS**

847-7775