

Badgers lack offensive balance, lose to Lions



By CLAY WHITTINGTON
Staff Writer

Badgers head coach Scott Harrelson knows all his players are very talented.

And that is exactly what makes Tuesday's loss to Brownwood all the more frustrating.

"Each player, at the level they are now, could have started on any team I have had here at Lamparas," Harrelson said. "It is very difficult to pick out the last player on the bench because they all have ability."

Unfortunately, senior Heath Hopson was the only Badger to establish any offensive rhythm against the Lions, and the home team lost 57-47 inside Bozarth-Fowler Gymnasium.

Hopson posted 33 points on 11-of-17 shooting (9 of 10 free throws), but his teammates combined to connect on just five shots in 26 attempts.

"He does everything we need him to do, and we just didn't have good shooting from the other players," Harrelson said. "We just need a couple of them to make baskets."

Guard Astin Murray was the team's second-leading scorer with six points, while nobody else tallied more than two.

"You can't win that way," the coach said. "That was the bottom line. I think our defense was good enough to win."

Uncharacteristically cold were seniors Jordy Carnes and Warren Scott, who each went one-of-eight from the floor for a total of four points despite averaging a hair over 15 points between them.

"They played hard, but we need Warren and Jordy to score," Harrelson said.

The duo did, however, help out in other ways. They snatched six rebounds apiece with three coming off the offensive glass to complement Hopson's team-high 11 boards (seven offensive).

Other players chipped in as well. Jonathan VanLiew handed out a game-high four assists and stole the ball twice to match Jorge Mendoza's pair of steals.

Colton Perkins added two rebounds and an assist, and recent addition from the junior varsity squad Secody Howard started and grabbed a pair of rebounds.

Defensively, as a whole, Lamparas was solid except for allowing too many offensive rebounds to be converted into putbacks.

The Badgers took care of the ball too, committing nearly seven fewer turnovers than they average (22.9 per game).

In the end, it is impossible to win if a team cannot score, and nowhere did the Badgers' scoring woes glare more brightly than at the end of the halves, as Hopson was responsible for all but one point in the second and fourth quarters combined.

Although the 6-4 guard is good, he's not good enough to win by himself. He needs his teammates to hit shots, especially uncontested attempts, the coach said.

"It's not like they're shooting over a hand," Harrelson said. "Nobody is forcing shots. They're taking good shots, they're just missing them."

After trailing by just one point at halftime, 26-25, the Badgers gave up 24 points in the third quarter as the Lions drained three 3-pointers during a stretch of five unanswered scoring possessions.

"At halftime, I said, 'You need to come out and be more aggressive. We've got to start out strong,'" Harrelson said. "We had to get somebody else scoring and doing things, and we come right out and we're soft on a couple plays, and they hit a couple of shots."

"We didn't get anything until the end of the third quarter. We didn't get into a flow, and our defense started to falter."



Senior guard Jonathan VanLiew puts defensive pressure on his man.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD AKRIDGE
Eduardo Davila (center) and Vann Millican (left) both attempt to block a Brownwood player's shot during the Badgers' 57-47 loss Tuesday. Despite playing impressive defense, Lamparas players did not provide enough offense to complement Heath Hopson's 33-point performance. The Badgers are off until next Friday when they travel to No 2 Lake Travis for the district opener.

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Enjoy One-year Holiday from Required Minimum Distributions

Although it sounds strange, you may encounter situations in which you have to accept money even if you'd rather not. Such is the case with required minimum distributions (RMDs) from your traditional IRA, 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But thanks to recent legislation, you can ignore the "required" part of RMDs — at least for a year.

2009.

Why did Congress decide to provide this RMD "holiday" for 2009? For the answer, you need look no farther than your IRA or 401(k) account balance. As you are well aware, 2008 was not a stellar year for the stock market. Consequently, as 2008 draws to a close, the market value of your IRA or 401(k) is probably considerably lower than it was in earlier years. This could have been a problem for you if you had to start taking RMDs in 2009, because these distributions are based, in part, on your account balance at the close of the previous year — which means you may well have had to sell some stocks or other investments in your retirement plan when their price was down. To help people avoid having to "sell low," Congress acted.

Specifically, lawmakers recently placed a one-year moratorium on taking (RMDs) for 2009. If you're not familiar with the rules governing RMDs, here's a little background: Generally, the IRS requires you to begin taking RMDs in the year in which you turn 70-1/2, or no later than April 1 of the following year. For example, if you turn 70-1/2 in 2009, you would normally be required to take your first RMD by April 1, 2010. You must also think about RMDs if you are a beneficiary of someone else's IRA, 401(k) or other retirement account, because when the account owner dies, regardless of age, you must generally begin taking RMDs. And this is also true if you are the beneficiary of a Roth IRA, even though Roth IRA owners are never required to take RMDs.

But thanks to the new legislation, you can skip the required 2009 distribution if you reach 70-1/2 in 2009 or if you're a beneficiary currently required to take RMDs. You also have until Dec. 31, 2010, to accept the 2010 RMD, which will be based on your retirement account balance at the end of

Ultimately, you will have to end up taking distributions again. But before that happens, take some time to decide how large a distribution you should accept each year. If you need the money, you might have to take out more than the RMD. But if you can get by on just the minimum distribution, you may want to do so, thereby keeping as much of your retirement account as possible in a tax-deferred account.

But for now, if you have any questions about taking RMDs in 2009, contact your financial and tax advisors.

SPORTS SHORTS SUBVARSITY BASKETBALL

The Badgers' subvarsity basketball teams both squeaked out two-point wins Tuesday against Brownwood.

After building a 10-point lead in the fourth quarter, Lamparas' freshman squad almost let the game slip away as the Lions roared back to go ahead by a point, 23-22, in the contest's final minutes.

Luckily, Tanner Swinford found Dalton Moore on a pick and roll, and Moore converted the basket while being fouled. Moore connected on his free throw, scoring all three of the Badgers' fourth-quarter points and clinching the victory for the home team.

Swinford scored eight points in the game while Moore finished with a team-high 10.

The victory improves the Badgers' record to 4-11 overall.

Lamparas' junior varsity team overcame 29 turnovers to defeat Brownwood 43-41.

In the game's final minutes, with the outcome still in doubt, J.T. Edwards crashed the offensive glass to help keep the Badgers' hope alive.

After pulling down an offensive rebound, Edwards was fouled, sending him to the line where he connected on a free throw to tie the game at 41-41.

Shortly after, Edwards put back another offensive rebound for the game's final score.

Brandon Scott finished the game with a team-high 18 points while Edwards tallied 14 as the Badgers (6-10) climbed out of a five-point halftime hole.

Colt revolvers: the firearm enthusiast's favorite handgun

If there is one handgun that stands out in the minds of gun enthusiasts, history buffs, cowboy-action shooters or Western movie lovers, it would be the Colt single-action Frontier model.

Beginning in 1873, Colt produced 312,000 revolvers of this type. About 2,000 of them were rimfire, and 90 percent of these were the 44 Rimfire caliber. The rest were center-fire in calibers such as .45 Colt, .44-40, .38-40, .41 Colt, .38 Colt, .450 Eley and .32-20.

Among the first orders were approximately 37,000 "single-action Army" revolvers in .45 Colt caliber, and they sported 7 1/2-inch barrels.

An interesting version of the

Gun Talk with Harold Harton



single-action Frontier model were the approximately 45,000 Bisleys, which used a different grip configuration, but the rest of the parts were interchangeable. This version ended in 1913.

During the years of production, several versions were made, such as the 16-inch barreled version with a removable shoulder stock, and a short-barreled version that had no ejector rod and was referred to as a "house" or "store keeper's"

version.

Today, these revolvers are highly sought after and bring rather strong prices, depending on their condition and year of manufacture. The earlier the year, the pricier they get if the condition warrants top dollar.

Pictured is an earlier model Bisley made in 1906. In fair condition, it has four marks on the grip, which may or may not mean a thing but in earlier days those represented someone killed for each mark.

Unfortunately, I am not aware of the history of this particular piece.

Harold Harton is a veteran outdoorsman and photographer, and a longtime contributor to the Lamparas Dispatch Record.



The Colt revolver is one of the most popular handguns ever made. Pictured is an early model Colt revolver made in 1906.

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