

February 27, 1976

Beaverton 67

Roscommon 65

# Beavers avenge loss

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BEAVERTON — It may not have been Beaverton's prettiest basketball game of the season. Nor could it be considered a dynamic tuneup for upcoming tournament play.

But Friday night's 67-65 victory eeked out over league foe Roscommon may well be Jack Pine Conference champion Beaverton's most satisfying win of the year thus far.

The victory not only upped the Beavers' record to 19-1 going into tournament action, but also avenged their only loss of the season, which occurred at Roscommon January 23. The Bucks nipped Beaverton in that contest, 60-59.

However, the Beavers were not to be denied Friday night despite falling into foul trouble early in the game and being forced to keep two-thirds of their front line on the bench for much of the second half. It was the one-third of their front line that did not get into foul trouble which spelled the difference for the Beavers.

Randy Sroufe popped in 22 points, including 10 of 11 free throws, in helping the Beavers to their 13th conference win of the season. The 6-foot-2 forward also hit one of the most important free throws of the game when he canned a charity toss following a technical foul against Roscommon with only 52 seconds left in the game. The point seemed to take the wind out of the Bucks' sails.

With 3:14 left the score was tied at

63-all, but Sroufe and Jeff Roehrs each hit buckets to give Beaverton a four-point lead with 1:35 to go.

Roscommon's Jeff Cousineau hit the first of a two-shot free throw and then rebounded his own missed second shot to pull the Bucks with one point, 66-65. But then Sroufe followed with his key free throw and from there the two teams traded missed charity tosses as the contest got sloppy near the end.

According to both coaches, there was no key play that won the game for Beaverton. "It was just a good, close game all the way," explained Roscommon coach Jim Engelhard afterwards. "The teams were going up and down the court so fast there at the end I couldn't say one thing made us lose. There were a lot of factors and that's natural when two teams are scrappin' like these two were tonight.

"I thought it could have gone either way at the end," he continued. "But our shots just wouldn't fall.

"It never feels good to lose," Engelhard added, "but I'm satisfied with the way the kids played tonight. Both teams played their hearts out."

Beaverton coach Roy Johnston was looking at the contest from a different angle, however. The second-year Beaver coach did not think the game would have been as close had his squad not gotten into foul trouble.

Roehrs and Ken Neighbors, who along with Sroufe make up Johnston's starting front line, each collected three fouls in the first half which forced them to the bench early. And this, according to Johnston, helped Roscommon mount its comeback bid and keep pressure on his team throughout the remainder of the game.

However, the Beaver coach was pleased with the way his team fought the foul trouble. "I was real pleased with our defensive composure, especially in the second half," Johnston related. "I was also real pleased with the board work of Jeff (Roehrs) and Mike O'Brien's good ballhandling."

Johnston blamed foul trouble for Doyle Durkee's sub-par performance. The senior guard hit 15 points, five below his average. But Engelhard said his team was concentrating on Durkee in an attempt to foil the sweet-shooting backcourt man and this eventually led to Sroufe's productive night.

"We really played Durkee hard," Engelhard admitted. "But if you pressure one guy on this team another will pick up the slack and that's what Sroufe did."

The only other player in double figures for the Beavers was O'Brien as he hit for 14 markers including six free throws.

Four Roscommon players were in double figures, however. Cousineau led the Bucks with 21, while Scott Hess added 18 markers mostly from rebounds and open layups. Jim Engelhard Jr. scored 16, while Pat Emery contributed 10.

Beaverton held a rebounding edge, grabbing 35 to the Bucks' 27.

With Roehrs grabbing six of his game-high 13 rebounds in the first quarter, Beaverton jumped out to a 21-12 lead. But Roscommon whittled away at the margin and Beaverton went into intermission, leading only, 41-38.

And from there it was anybody's ball game.

But Johnston dismissed the possibility that his squad might have been looking ahead to tournament play and emphasized that it is important for his squad to play "one game at a time."

"We just have to get mentally ready," he said. "We can't look past any teams."

Johnston isn't making any predictions about how his team will do in tournament play. Engelhard believes the Beavers have a good chance to make it to the quarterfinals.

While Beaverton finished the regular season at 19-1, Roscommon settled for 12-7 overall mark and 8-6 league record.

In the junior varsity game, the Beavers also won, but by much more overwhelming score of 83-60. The little Beavers were led by Mike Garvin with 23 points, Dave Keeley 13 and Dan King and Scott Loose added 12 apiece. For Roscommon, Mike Michaud had 22, while Doug Taylor scored 20.

Beaverton.....21-20-11-15-67  
Roscommon.....12-26-12-15-65

BEAVERTON: Durkee 7-1-15; O'Brien 4-6-14; Roehrs 4-0-8; Neighbors 1-0-2; Sroufe 6-10-22; Garvin 2-0-4; Russell 1-0-2; Totals 25-17-47.

ROSCOMMON: Cousineau 9-3-21; Emery 4-2-10 Engelhard 6-4-16; Hess 6-6-18; Totals 25-15-65.

