

# Beaverton Running Wild in Jack Pine

BEAVERTON — Beaverton High now has two team leaders.

The Beavers are running away with the Jack Pine Conference basketball championship. That's nothing new.

The junior varsity squad will probably claim that title. That's old hat, too.

But now, Doyle Durkee, the guy who has been the mainstay on this year's club, is also No. 1. Durkee, the senior

sharpshooter, is now the top scorer in the league.

Durkee entered the Meridian game Friday night tied with Houghton Lake's Erig Drog. Each had 240 points.

But Durkee got 29 points in a 70-45 victory over Meridian, while Drog hit for 24 in a 64-61 Houghton Lake victory over Coleman.

In the other two contests, Evart bombed Harrison, 89-70, and Roscommon took Farwell, 66-45.

That leaves Beaverton with a 12-1 record in a race where the runnerup spot is the only question.

Roscommon is 8-5, Harrison, Houghton Lake and Coleman are 7-6. But Roscommon plays at Beaverton next week and Houghton Lake and Coleman play each other.

Durkee got a dozen points in support from Ken Neighbors for Beaverton now 17-1.

Bill Fillmore scored 24 points in a

respectable effort for the Mustangs.

Dave Musser and Neil Pritchard combined for 47 points for Evart with Musser getting 25. Jim Yost had 20, Robin Huber 14 and Mark Smith 11 for Harrison.

Behind Drog for Houghton Lake were Ed Smyk with 12 and Mike Newsum with 10.

Paul Brugger scored 17, Dean Johnson 14 and Dud Strauch 10 for Coleman which managed only seven points in the fourth quarter as the Bobcats clinched the victory.

Farwell also managed only seven points in the fourth quarter but the game was pretty much decided by then.

Jim Engelhard had 19 points, Jeff Cousineau 17 and Charles Cherven 11 for Roscommon. Ron Staton got 14 and Rob Robbins 12 for Farwell.

In jayvee play, Meridian upset Beaverton, 60-55. Evart took Harrison, 62-54, Coleman blasted Houghton Lake, 70-49, and Farwell outlasted Roscommon, 58-48.

## No Beaverton letup

By STEVE MORSE  
Daily News writer

SANFORD — If Meridian basketball fans thought a league championship would quench Beaverton's thirst for Jack Pine Conference victories, they were in for a surprise here Friday night.

Utilizing a leak-proof defense and some nifty shooting, the Beavers quickly squelched any Mustang upset dreams by jumping out to a 22-2 first-quarter lead and handily dousing Meridian, 70-45.

It was the sixth straight conference win for the Beavers, who clinched the JPC title last Friday night with a 83-76 victory over Evart. Beaverton now stands at 12-1 in the league and 16-1 overall.

Meridian, on the other hand, suffered its second straight loss and 13th defeat of the year against just six wins. The Mustangs are now 4-9 in the JPC.

With Doyle Durkee leading the way in that first quarter, the Beavers showed partisan Meridian fans as well as a large crowd of Beaverton backers that they were not going to become complacent simply because they already had the league title in hand. Hitting on six of six shots and throwing in a free throw to boot, Durkee scored 13 of Beaverton's 22 first-quarter points.

The 6-foot-1 senior guard made shooting 20-footers look easy as he dropped in three long, high-arching jumpers from that range in the first eight minutes of the game. Finishing with 29 points for the night — despite not scoring at all in the second quarter due to foul trouble — Durkee also turned a pretty three-point play in the first stanza to help his team jump out in front.

"He's definitely an all-conference guard," said Meridian coach Al Harvey afterwards. "He's probably the best pure shooter in the league.

"If he's open, it's a better than even chance that he'll make it," Harvey added.

But Durkee was far from a lone star for Beaverton as several other players contributed to the win.

Beaver coach Roy Johnston was especially pleased with senior forward Ken Neighbors, who pulled down 12 rebounds for the night, and center Jeff Roehrs, who added 10 caroms. "They really played well," he said.

In addition, Johnston couldn't help but be pleased with the overall team effort. "We were hitting the open man real well and I thought we played some real good defense," he said. "Our defense really shut them down in the first quarter.

And that it did.

While the Beavers were busy hitting 10 of 14 shots in that first stanza, Meridian could only manage one of 11 from the floor. "There's no doubt about it," Harvey said, "They played good defense against us. We just couldn't get into our offensive pattern.

"What can you say when you get down by 22-2 in the first quarter?" he continued. "That was the ball game.

They shot very well and they were very physical."

Despite the shellacking in the first quarter, however, Meridian forward Bill Fillmore led the Mustangs in a surge to respectability. Scoring 19 points in the second and third quarters, Fillmore kept Meridian from embarrassment.

"He made a ball game out of it," Harvey admitted. "He's been a real steady ball player for us all year and tonight he really did a good job."

While Fillmore was the only Meridian player in double figures with a total of 24 points, Neighbors joined Duggee in the double figure category for Beaverton with 12 markers.

All told 10 Beavers scored during the game as Johnston emptied his bench as early as the second quarter to give his substitutes some playing time.

The Beavers jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead with 6:07 left in the first period as two Meridian turnovers helped the cause. At the outset it appeared as if Harvey was attempting to use stall tactics as the Mustangs played out around the top of the key on offense.

However, the Meridian coach said his team was just working for the good shot. "When you get that far behind though," he quickly added, "you just have to start bombing from the outside."

Meridian's bombs weren't dropping, however, as they could only hit on 14 of 50 shots for 28 per cent. Meanwhile, the Beaverton squad was shooting 51 per cent, hitting on 28 of 54 attempts.

In the junior varsity contest, some nifty free throw shooting lifted Meridian past Beaverton, 60-55.

The little Mustangs hit 20 of 25 from the charity stripe as Tom Gordon and Jamie Chamber led Meridian in scoring with 19 and 17 points, respectively. Meridian finishes the regular season next Friday night when the Mustangs travel to Evart for a JPC contest. Meanwhile, Beaverton has two more regular season games before making their bid for a district tournament title.

The Beavers travel to Gladwin Tuesday for a non-league game before returning home to host Roscommon in a league game Friday. The Beavers will be looking to avenge their only loss of the season as Roscommon nipped Beaverton 60-59 January 23.

Beaverton.....22-12-18-18-70  
Meridian.....2-12-14-17-45

BEAVERTON: Durkee 12-5-29; Stubbs 1-0-2; Roehrs 4-1-9; Neighbors 6-0-12; Sroufe 3-2-8; Dull 0-2-2; McLean 0-2-2; Zdrojewski 0-2-2; Kebler 1-0-2; Graham 1-0-2; Totals 28-14-70.

MERIDIAN: Fillmore 9-6-24; McGinnity 0-2-2; Van Nortwick 3-1-7; Jankowiak 2-1-5; Cay 0-7-7; Totals 14-17-45.

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Beaverton 70  
Meridian 45

