

# Ashford

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made free throws. An impressive slam dunk by the senior with 5:38 to play in the first half upped the Yellow Jackets' lead to 29-15.

"At halftime, we talked a lot about balancing the scoring in the second half," Lewis said. "We talked about making sure to get everybody in a rhythm, because he (Knight) can't carry the load all night. He needs help."

Other Yellow Jackets did help pick up the slack in the second half, as Tyler Griggs finished with 18 points, JaCorey Underwood scored 13 and David Hollinger added 12. Knight, who

has signed with Campbell (N.C.) University, finished the game with 30 points. The Yellow Jackets shot 51 percent from the field.

Petrovic scored his 36 on 12 of 31 shooting from the field, including hitting two 3-pointers, and made 10 of 11 from the free-throw line. Harrison Rudd followed with 12 points, all of those coming in the first half as the Raiders shot just 37 percent from the field.

Lewis said Underwood was given the defensive assignment of staying close to Petrovic.

"JaCorey stayed around him and did a great job keeping him out of the lane and making him earn those points at the free-throw line," Lewis said. "We didn't want him to get

rolling offensively."

Houston Academy couldn't find a solution to slow down the red-hot Ashford offense.

"They're a tough team to play when they're shooting from the outside," Houston Academy coach Ron Watson said. "It kind of takes away things you can adjust to. We had to adjust to try and stop the penetration and make him (Knight) kick it out, and they had several made threes tonight."

"I thought defensively we gave up a lot of offensive rebounds and they came in chunks. That hurt us a couple of times when we were trying to make a run."

Despite being down 13 at halftime, Watson believed his team was in decent po-

sition to make a game of it.

"Our goal coming out at halftime was to make them work every possession," Watson said. "We made a good run there at the end to get the score back respectable. I was proud of the team."

**Rehobeth 72, Dothan 65:** The Rebels started hot, weathered every Dothan run, were clutch from the free-throw line down the stretch and earned a big victory in the Day 1 finale.

The Rebels led 20-12 after the first quarter, 40-27 at halftime and 53-43 going into the final quarter.

"Remember last year we came here and couldn't throw it in the ocean, but we got out to a good start," Rehobeth coach Larry Easterwood said.

Rehobeth shot 57 percent from the field in the first half and 48 percent for the game. In contrast, Dothan shot 34 percent from the field in the game.

Dothan aggressively pressed in the second half and made a strong run, but the Rebels kept their composure and weathered the storm.

"We've got a mostly a senior team, so you kind of expect that in those situations, but they did play well down the stretch," Easterwood said. "I thought we handled the little adversity there and did what we were supposed to."

Dothan got within 57-50 with 4:20 left in the game following a Kylan Swain basket, but Jordan West then hit a free throw for Re-

hobeth and Spencer Ward got a big tip-in when the second free throw by West was off the mark.

The Tigers were still within striking distance at 66-56 with 1:43 left when Elijah Allen got a steal and a layup, but Rehobeth then hit six of seven free throws and iced the game.

Ward led Rehobeth with 19 points and 11 rebounds, while Cam Ginn-McKinney followed with 17 points, Brady Herring scored 11 and Sam Mounce 10.

Dothan was led by Buddy Holt with 15 and 10 rebounds. Allen scored 11 for the Tigers and Eric James chipped in nine.

Rehobeth never trailed in the game and had its biggest lead at 17 with 3:16 to play in the first half.

# Abbeville

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the floor for loose balls."

After the timeout, Abbeville's Jaylan Coxson received the pass on the in-bounds and was eventually fouled with 27.5 seconds remaining. He made the first of two free throws to make it 52-50, but missed the second.

However, the ball bounced off the hands of a Headland player out of bounds and Abbeville retained possession. Jaquon Kincey was fouled and hit both free throws with 17.7 seconds left to make it a four-point game.

After Headland couldn't convert on its end, Coxson iced the game by making two free throws with seven seconds left. Calen Murry hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer for Headland as time expired.

While Abbeville struggled offensively in shooting just 31 percent from the field, the Yellow Jackets scrapped their way to 46 rebounds – 26 of those coming on the offensive end.

"That could be good in ways, but maybe it's bad because we can't shoot," Brown said of the offensive

boards. "We're not a good shooting team this year at all. It's just a mental part of the game that's really getting us right now."

It was Abbeville's third win in four tries against Headland this season.

Jaquon Kincey led Abbeville (10-3) with 18 points, while Jermaine Glover followed with 14.

Headland (11-5) was led by Murry with 19, K'Shun Stokes with 16 and Jesse Kinsey with 14.

Abbeville hit 16 of 27 free throws, while Headland hit 3 of 6.

The lead went back-and-forth early as Headland led 14-12 after the first quarter and extended the lead to 20-14 when Stokes scored on a drive.

Abbeville then scored the final 12 points of the half to lead 26-20 at the break – getting two baskets by Jaquon Kincey, a putback by Glover and a couple of free throws while taking the lead.

Abbeville maintained the lead at 36-31 going to the final quarter and led 51-45 when Glover scored cutting to the basket following a nice assist by Coxson with 2:20 left.

The Rams made it interesting when Stokes scored on a drive and Murry drained a 3-pointer from

the wing to make it 51-50 with 1:22 left.

Abbeville then was whistled for a traveling violation on its end of the floor and Murry was held on a drive with 1:07 left. But Murry missed on the 1-and-1 free throw opportunity and the Rams never had another opportunity to tie or take the lead.

"I've got guys who are going to play hard every night, but we've got to learn to play smart and play together," Brown said. That's the motto that we have this year – play smart, play hard, play together.

"If we do those three things we'll be OK."

**Daleville 62, G.W. Long 51:** The Warhawks dominated the first quarter and raced out to a 24-5 advantage before G.W. Long made a valiant effort in battling back and making a game of it.

The Rebels began the second quarter on a 12-2 run and were within 28-21 after Kamryn Faria nailed two free throws. But Daleville scored the final seven points of the half, punctuated by a 3-pointer by Tyler Presley, and took a 35-21 lead to the dressing room.

The Warhawks led 43-29 in third quarter and appeared about to put the game on ice before G.W. Long got back-to-back

baskets by Braxton Whitehead and Faria and then two made free throws by Kobie Stringer to make it 43-35 going into the final quarter.

Jerry White scored the first basket of the final period while being fouled and made the free throw,

and then Presley scored on a drive to boost the lead back out to 13 points en route to the victory.

White led all scorers with 24, while Presley followed with 15 and Shemar Dixon added 13 for Daleville.

The Rebels were led by Faria with 21 points, while

Matt Snell contributed 12 on four 3-pointers and Braxton Whitehead added 10.

Both teams struggled with turnovers – losing the ball 16 times each. Daleville won the rebounding battle 37-22 led by Dixon with seven.

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