

Zachary leads way for Racers

By Scott Miller

SPECIAL TO THE COURIER NEWS

ELGIN — The Elgin Racers have plenty of potential scoring stars, and on Friday night it was Nick Zachary's time to shine.

The Rockford native poured in a game-high 37 points to lead the Racers to their third straight win 133-124 over Waterloo in front of another packed house at Judson College. Zachary hit 11-of-20 shots from the field, including seven 3-pointers.

"I was able to finally get in a rhythm tonight," Zachary said. "The hoop started looking like an ocean. We've got a lot of guys who can score on this team, but they saw I had it going and started getting me the ball more."

The Racers led most of the way. The defense set the tone early, forcing 14 first-quarter turnovers as Elgin pulled ahead 26-19.

"Coach has been preaching 'D' since day one," Zachary said. "We finally bought into it. Defense wins games. Offense brings fame."

The Jaguars briefly took 45-44 lead in the second quarter and later tied the game at 63 in the third quarter. A Zachary 3-pointer with just under 9:00 left in the third put the Racers up for good 66-63. Corey Brown's 3-point with just over 5:00 to play gave the Racers a 115-106 advantage to match their largest lead of the second half.

Larkin grad Sherick Simpson, who had 43 points in the Racers' last home game last Friday, was quiet for much of the game, scoring just four points in the first three quarters before exploding for 14 in the fourth.

The Jaguars had pulled within 123-120 with just over a minute to play. Simpson answered back, hitting a spectacular shot while falling down on a drive to the basket with 49 seconds left. Simpson went on to score eight points in the final minute to seal the win.

"Sherick really came through for us there in the end," Elgin coach Jim Condill said.

Elgin grad Marcus Smallwood, who just joined the team this week and has practiced only twice, did not score in very limited action.

Brown finished with 25 and Frank Richards had 16 for Elgin (3-1).

Racers 133, Waterloo 124

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