

Royals freshman heads into holidays on 3-point tear

By Steve LeBlanc

CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Joshua Bascoe has waited a long time to get full credit for his long-range shooting prowess — and is now taking full advantage.

"Yeah, it's nice (to be getting the three points this season)," said the Bishop Reding ninth grader, referring to the fact that his numerous baskets behind the arc only counted for two during his elementary school days at Hawthorne Village.

A jump to high school has done little to curb his three-point success rate, as was witnessed last week — with 20 of them drained in a three-game stretch over 46 hours.

Seven of those came in his one allotted league game with the senior Royals last Tuesday (Dec. 20), when he finished with 25 points to help rout the Assumption Crusaders 79-42.

"Josh fit well into our system. It was a smooth transition," said senior coach Dan Seixeiro. "Anytime a Grade 9 player can come in and contribute with the seniors like that it's very encouraging — a bright spot for the future."

Bascoe's composed play among opponents up to three years older than him wasn't much of a shock to those who know him well.

Explained the 5-foot-7 point guard, "My dad's



Joshua Bascoe heads up court against Notre Dame, closing out a huge week in T-1 basketball play. Frank Ikeman / Special to the Champion

coached a lot of these guys here over the years (in club play). I'd sit on the bench and take in a lot from them. That's really helped me."

While having inherited a natural scoring touch from his parents — with dad having played in Europe and mom having competed at university — the Reding freshman has put in untold hours to boost his consistency from

downtown.

"I've put in a lot of training and practice under pressure... not just taking shots, but shooting while contested," noted the soft-spoken Royal, who began honing his three-point shot at age seven and has a YouTube video of his accuracy that's no doubt caught the attention of more than a few scouts.

Against the Notre Dame Irish last Thursday

(Dec. 22), Bascoe put his junior Royals up 3-0 before the game was 10 seconds old and went on to hit a season-high eight three-points and 28 total points in a 68-48 victory.

That sent Reding into the break at 7-2, good enough for second — behind unbeaten Corpus Christi — in Halton's Tier 1 ranks.

Caesar Feng drained a trio of three-pointers and recorded 15 points overall, while Rico Capanas chipped in eight.

Pulling double duty last Tuesday, Bascoe had 30 points — half from three-point range — in the juniors' 64-56 win over Assumption.

Overcoming a second-quarter lapse last Thursday, Reding's seniors used a 12-4 run midway through the fourth quarter to outdistance the Irish 78-67.

"At crunch time we asked them to step up, and they did," said Seixeiro, whose Royals ride a six-game winning streak into the break and also sit second in Halton Tier 1 at 8-1 — with their lone defeat to 9-1 St. Thomas Aquinas coming by a single basket (58-56).

Aryan Sharma had some key baskets and defensive plays down the stretch and fueled the victory with 35 points.

Jalen Mason had 15 points, while Dom Mitchell-Williams and Hope Agbolosoo delivered spirited play in the second half.

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