

Fourth-quarter run lifts Boca Ciega by Riverdale

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(Photo: Kin fay Moroti/news-press.com)

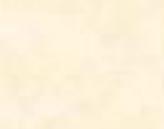
Highlights from the New Year's Shootout at Lehigh High School, including a triple-overtime thriller between Oasis and Fort Myers Bryan Cooney



Playing in their first game since Dec. 14, the Riverdale boys basketball team took an eight-point lead into the final eight minutes against a strong Boca Ciega team and seemingly on its way to continuing their upstart season with another

win.

Game action between Riverdale High School and Boca Ciega on Friday during the first annual Lehigh Lightning New Year's Shootout at Lehigh Senior High School. Boca beat Riverdale 59-51. [Kin fay Moroti/news-press.com](#)



But the Raider legs simply went away in the fourth quarter as the Pirates closed with an 18-2 flurry to overtake Riverdale and win 59-51 at the New Year's Shootout at Lehigh High School on Friday.

Dating back 17 days since a 51-49 road victory over district foe Gulf Coast, the Raiders came out strong defensively to hold the Cougars to just seven points to lead 12-7 after the first quarter.

The Pirates closed to 20-18 to open the quarter, but thanks to 12 second-quarter points from sophomore Jadrian Tracey, who helped fueled an 8-0 Raider spurt with two baskets and assisting on another, Riverdale moved ahead 31-22 at the break.

The Pirates (8-1) used a 12-5 run to start the third quarter to close to 36-34, but the Raiders countered with a 7-0 run with baskets from Jacob Tracey, a three-point play from Jadrian Tracey and a Carson Palmquist layup to take a 49-41 lead to the fourth quarter.

It was all Pirates to open the quarter, as eight quick points in the first minute knotted the score up at 49 and three more baskets pushed the run to 16 straight points before a Jadrian Tracey layup closed the margin to six at 57-51 with 1:30 to go, but it was too little, too late for the Raiders (8-2).

"I thought our first half was great, we came out with the energy we needed to hold Boca Ciega to just 22 points," Raider head coach Athan Laskaris said.

"I should have done a better job during this break we've had with our practices and workouts, we just tired in the fourth quarter. We've got to learn to be a little tougher when teams make runs, we got into the bonus in the third quarter and weren't aggressive enough attacking the basket."

Boca Ciega High School's Dakota Moore blocks Riverdale's Joseph Ojeda's shot on Friday during the first annual Lehigh Lightning New Year's Shootout at Lehigh Senior High School. Boca beat Riverdale 59-51. (Photo: Kin fay Moroti/news-press.com)

With another quality opponent in Oasis, who defeated Fort Myers 66-59 in triple overtime in an earlier game in the day, on Saturday, Laskaris is hopeful he and his team will learn from their mistakes.

"I know our guys and myself are going to learn a lot from this one. We have to play four quarters."

Jadrian Tracey had a game-high 25 points, but was the only Raider in double figures as Neslon Ortiz added eight points and six rebounds and Jacob Tracey finished with six points and four assists.

Jerroda Briscoe led Boca Ciega with 20 points.

