

The Bandera PROPHECY

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Bulldog basketball tournament report

By Brady Keane

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The Bulldog varsity basketball team has played in two tournaments in the past two weeks with fairly good results. Bandera moved to 6-4 on the season after playing five games in three days at Hondo and went 4-0 at Comfort this weekend to win that tourney.

Add in the win over Ingram at home last Tuesday night, the Bulldogs are 11-4 on the year.

Hondo Tournament

Southwest Legacy

SW Legacy won the Hondo tourney with a 5-0 record and proved to be a real test for Bandera in the opening game.

The Titans broke the game open early in the second, forcing Bandera into catch up mode. The Bulldogs did close to within four points but couldn't hold on.

Bandera scoring:

Tyler Moore, 11, Ryan Perez 11, Gavin Ortiz, 8, Noah Barnett, 7, Kayden Brown, 5, Braden Cox, 2

Hondo

The Bulldogs got a win Thursday night with an impressive win over the Owls that was highlighted by great team defense from start to finish. The Bulldogs held the Owls to a season low 45 points and tallied 18 assists on the offensive end.

Bandera scoring:

Ryan Perez 16, Noah Barnett 12, Gavin Ortiz 9, Joseph Kennedy 8, Tyler Moore 6, Kayden Brown 5, Braden Cox, 2, Kyle Morgan, 2

Lee Academy

Lee jumped out to an early lead that forced the Bulldogs to play from behind. Bandera trimmed the deficit to four points with a minute to go before the Wolfpack were able to finish the game from the free throw line.

Bandera scoring:

Tyler Moore, 22, Noah Barnett, 18, Ryan Perez, 8, Gavin Ortiz. 7, Kayden Brown, 3, Luke Barnett, 2

San Antonio Burbank

Burbank also got off to a strong start in the second game Friday morning before the Bulldogs clawed back, ultimately falling short in a seven-point loss.

Bandera scoring:

Tyler Moore, 16, Gavin Ortiz, 12, Luke Barnett, 9, Noah Barnett, 7, Kayden Brown, 6, Kyle Morgan, 5, Ryan Perez, 5, Braden Cox, 2, Eli Salas, 2

San Antonio Kennedy

Bandera finished tournament play Saturday on a high note, turning up the defensive intensity to defeat Kennedy, 65-39. The Bulldogs held the Rockets to just 13 first half points and came up with 16 steals in the win.

Bandera scoring:

Tyler Moore, 20, Kayden Brown, 10, Ryan Perez, 10, Noah Barnett, 9, Eli Salas, 8, Cale Barnett, 4, Gavin Ortiz, 2, Kyle Morgan, 2

Bandera point guard Noah Barnett was selected to the All-Tournament Team, posting an average of 11 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists per game.

Tyler Moore also had a strong showing, averaging 15 points and 8 rebounds. Ryan Perez was the third Bulldog player to average double digits over the weekend, posting 10 points, 4.6 rebounds and 2 assists per game.

Coach's Notes: "Tournaments are always a good way to learn about your team early in the season and there was a lot for us to take away from this weekend. We saw some good things, especially in the wins over Hondo and Kennedy, but we also saw how much a slow start in the first half can affect us and make things more difficult than they need to be. On Saturday, we started talking about playing with the mentality that we start the game down by 10 points. The guys bought into that mindset and it made a huge difference in our intensity from the opening tip. That is something we'll carry with us as we move forward this season."

Comfort Tournament

For the first time in more than a decade, the Bandera varsity boys basketball team brought a tournament championship home after claiming first place in the Comfort Tournament over this past weekend. The Bulldogs posted a perfect 4-0 record and defeated the host Comfort Bobcats 46-38 in the championship game to secure the first place plaque. Noah Barnett earned Tournament MVP honors for his performances and seniors Tyler Moore and Ryan Perez were named to the All-Tournament team as well.

Mason

The weekend started with a dominant 78-35 win over Mason Thursday afternoon in a game where nine Bandera players contributed to the scoring effort. Bandera scored 11 points in the first quarter before exploding for 26 in the second and 25 in the third enroute to the 43-point win. The Bulldogs had an impressive 23 assists in the win, with Ryan

Perez, Joseph Kennedy and Tyler Moore finishing with 4 apiece. Noah Barnett and Kayden Brown had 3 assists each, Cale Barnett and Braden Cox had 2 each and Gavin Ortiz finished with one assist.

Bandera scoring:

N. Barnett, 18, K. Brown, 14, T. Moore, 13, G. Ortiz, 10, C. Barnett, 8, R. Perez, 6, J. Kennedy, 5, B. Cox, 3, Eli Salas, 1

Ingram

The Bulldogs' championship run continued early Friday morning against Ingram.

Bandera had a strong defensive performance, holding the Warriors scoreless in the second quarter and to just 17 total points.

Moore finished with 15 points, Noah Barnett had 13 points, 7 rebounds and 7 assists, Perez had 8 points and 4 steals, Kyle Morgan had 8 points and 3 rebounds, Cox had 6 points and 6 rebounds for the Bulldogs.

Bandera scoring:

Moore, 15, N. Barnett, 13, Perez, 8, Morgan, 8, Cox, 6, Salas, 4, Ortiz, 3, Brown, 3, Kennedy, 2, C. Barnett, 2

Knippa

The Bulldogs survived their biggest scare of the tournament Friday afternoon against a hot-shooting Knippa squad that knocked down 11 3-pointers. Bandera buckled down defensively in the fourth quarter to secure the win and advance to the championship game, picking up a number of key stops down the stretch on the defensive end. Noah Barnett had 17 points, 5 rebounds and 6 assists, Moore had 14 points and 9 rebounds, Liam DeMarchi had 10 points and 11 rebounds, Perez had 6 points and Brown finished with 4 points.

Comfort

In the championship game against Comfort, the Bulldogs battled through their worst shooting performance of the season by playing one of their best defensive games of the year.

Bandera held Comfort to just 38 points, the Bobcats' second-lowest total of the season, to secure the victory.

DeMarchi led the way with 17 points and 13 rebounds, Moore had 13 points, 7 rebounds and 4 assists, Noah Barnett had 8 points, 7 assists and 5 rebounds and Perez finished with 8 points, 4 rebounds and 2 steals.

Coach's Notes: "I'm really proud of the way our team played this weekend. We did a lot of good things defensively that allowed us to overcome a couple poor shooting performances. We also produced our highest scoring output of the season and did a really good job sharing the ball in the process. We still have a long way to go to be where we want to be when district play rolls around, but our guys are making progress and playing for each other. We are excited about the opportunity to continue to get better against some tough competition over the next few weeks."

The win over Comfort moved the Bulldogs to 11-4 on the season, surpassing last season's total wins less than halfway through the year. Bandera is on a 6-game winning streak entering the final week of the fall semester, when the Bulldogs will travel to play Hondo on Friday.