

# The Bandera PROPHEET

November 25, 2024

Bandera boys basketball off to best start since 2013-2014

Bandera Prophet Staff

The Bandera boys basketball team improved to 4-0 on the season with a pair of double-digit wins over New Braunfels Long Creek and Hondo last week, continuing to build momentum heading into Thanksgiving Break and tournament season.

The Bulldogs took down Long Creek 61-37 in their first road game of the year on Tuesday before traveling to Hondo and defeating the Owls 64-46 on Saturday.

“We’ve done a good job of jumping out to a big lead in the first half of most of our games so far,” Head Coach Brady Keane said. “We are still working toward playing a complete game, but our guys have taken care of business and really accepted the challenges we’ve given them defensively.”

Bandera got off to a strong start in both games and outscored the Dragons 21-9 after eight minutes Tuesday night. Eli Salas finished with a game-high 19 points, six assists and three rebounds while Beau Bergfeld added 10 points, seven rebounds and three steals. Gattlin Winkler had nine points and five rebounds, Anden Tentis-De Grote had eight points and five rebounds, Jeffry Thomas had seven points and 11 rebounds and James Bower finished with five points, six rebounds and three assists.

“We set the tone on the defensive end and created some good looks in transition,” Keane said. “Eli and Beau led the way offensively, but we had a great supporting effort that really opened things up for everybody. We continue to share the ball well, and the Long Creek win was another great example of that.”

Against Hondo, Bandera led 18-5 after the first quarter and 34-17 at the halftime break. Salas and Bergfeld each posted a double-double in the win, as Salas finished with 22 points, 10 steals and six assists while Bergfeld had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Thomas had seven points, four assists and four rebounds, Tentis-De Grote had seven points and three rebounds, and Cooper Franklin finished with five points in the win.

“Hondo is always a rivalry game and for the most part we did a good job of staying focused on the task at hand,” Keane said. “It was a physical game and we had some guys go down with injuries, but we did what we needed to in order to take control early and really never let up on the defensive end.”

The Bulldogs, now 4-0 for the first time since 2013-2014, will be back in action this week on Wednesday at the Frost Bank Center against San Antonio Kennedy. Bandera will return home to play Uvalde on Dec. 3, with the JV and Freshman teams playing at 5 p.m., and the varsity team set to tip-off at 6:30 p.m.

“We have a lot of work ahead of us,” Keane said. “We have bigger goals than our non-district record, and our guys know and embrace that. We’re going to continue to take it one day at a time. This group is a lot of fun to coach, and we’re excited to keep building on what we’ve done so far this year.”