

Lehigh Valley West boys and girls top Colonial League counterparts at Via All-Star Basketball Classic

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For the majority of participants, Saturday's Via All-Star Basketball Classic was the first time many of them had picked up a basketball in almost a month.

No worries, though.

A practice or two last week and it was as if the high school seniors from opposing programs never stopped dribbling.

That was especially evident in the street-ball-type game between the Lehigh Valley West and Colonial League boys at Northampton Community College.

Parkland standout Jaleel Clark's 21 was tops for the LVW boys, who put up NBA-like numbers, winning 104-101.

The boys kept the Lehigh Valley Conference undefeated on the day after their female counterparts won 59-45 over the Colonial girls earlier in the morning.

"After the loss to Whitehall four weeks ago, I haven't really touched a ball," said Bangor senior Aaron Popovice, who had seven points. **"It felt great to play again. It's probably the last time I'll play competitively -- it was fun."**

The score didn't matter to anyone. At halftime, with the Lehigh Valley West boys up 49-44, both teams put on dunk and alley-oop shows -- practicing new tricks for the second half.

Freedom's Mike Ceron (15 points) and East Stroudsburg South's Gina Steakin (15 points) won the 3-point shootout contest held between games.

Both games were physical with the run-and-gun offenses employed by each team. A shot clock probably wasn't necessary, especially in the boys game -- with its lowest reading of 12 seconds.

"I had to talk to my (track) coaches and ask them to let me play," Wilson's Julissa Muschlitz said. **"I told them I'd be safe and wouldn't do anything stupid."**

Despite the risks, Muschlitz, who had a team-high 10 points, said she was glad she traded in the track cleats for high tops for the day.

"It was fun, especially playing with all these girls in the Colonial League I played against in the regular season," she said. **"I enjoyed myself."**

"Today, we wanted to come out and earn some respect for the Colonial League and I think we did that. We can play with anybody in the area. The Colonial League always gets looked upon like we're lower because we're smaller schools, but I think we earned respect today."

COLONIAL GIRLS (45)

Julissa Muschlitz (Wilson) 4 1-2 10, Sarah Colton (Bangor) 4 0-2 9, Alita Zabrecky (Southern Lehigh) 3 1-2 8, Melissa Degenhart (Notre Dame) 2 0-0 5, Lauren Ellis (Bangor) 2 0-0 4, Sarah Arndt 1 0-0 3, Liz Demko (Notre Dame) 1 0-1 2, Lauren Gerchufsky (Northwestern) 1 0-2 2, Alexa Mish (Northwestern) 1 0-0 2, Jackie Follweiler 0 0-0 0. Totals 19 2-9 45.

L.V. WEST GIRLS (59)

Sequeena Thomas (Parkland) 5 1-4 11, Morgan Taylor (Parkland) 2 6-6 10, Jess Flamm (Central Catholic) 3 2-2 8,

Tanejha Smith (Allen) 4 0-2 8, Jess VanNatten (Whitehall) 2 1-4 6, Jess Hoover (Emmaus) 2 1-2 5, Becky Guman (Central Catholic) 1 2-2 5, Kayla Hassler (Parkland) 1 0-0 3, Michelle Koren (Allen) 1 0-2 2, Nicole Heckman (Whitehall) 0 0-0 0, Chelsea Blake (Dieruff) 0 0-0 0. Totals 21 13-24 59.

Colonial League 20 25--45

Lehigh Valley West 29 30--59

3-point goals -- Guman, VanNatten, Hassler; Colton, Muschlitz, Zabrecky, Degenhart.

COLONIAL BOYS (101)

Cory Schmidt (Southern Lehigh) 6 1-2 14, Todd Dawson (Catasauqua) 6 2-3 14, Anthony Davidson (Wilson) 5 0-0 10, Hadyn Charles (Northern Lehigh) 5 0-0 10, Max Hughes (Notre Dame) 4 0-0 9, Jimmy Grewal (Southern Lehigh) 2 3-4 8, Aaron Popovice (Bangor) 3 0-0 7, Danny Borst (Pen Argyl) 3 0-0 7, Tommy Bonser (Salisbury) 2 2-2 6, Brian Smith (Bangor) 2 1-1 6, Corey Huerta (Catasauqua) 2 0-0 6, Graham Touhey (Wilson) 2 0-0 4. Totals 42 9-12 101.

L.V. WEST BOYS (104)

Jaleel Clark (Parkland) 7 7-15 21, Shae McPherson (Central Catholic) 8 1-3 19, Angel Ayala (Allen) 6 3-6 15, Terrance Talib (Allen) 4 3-4 11, Jon Ward (Parkland) 5 0-0 10, Elliot Gumbs (Allen) 3 4-4 10, Tyler Madouse (Whitehall) 4 0-0 8, Sonny Odom (Dieruff) 3 0-2 7, Matt Muhr (Parkland) 1 0-0 3, MJ Miorelli (Parkland) 0 0-2 0, Timmy Hartwell (Dieruff) 0 0-3 0. Totals 41 18-39 104.

Colonial League 44 57--101

Lehigh Valley West 49 55--104

3-point goals -- McPherson 2, Muhr, Odom; Huerta 2, Hughes, Grewal, Smith, Borst, Schimdt.