

Sunday, January 28, 2007

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Sports: Local

A week to remember

Rapid City Christian star guard Justin DiBona nets 100 points in five games

By Peter Centineo
January 24, 2007

The Rapid City Christian boys basketball team may not be the best around, but they play hard each night and put forth the kind of effort any coach would be proud of.

Individually, there have been a couple of bright spots for the team, including the play of junior guard Justin DiBona.

DiBona, who stands 6-1 and weighs 160 pounds, may not be the biggest kid on the block but he knows the game. And he proved a formidable force when it comes to scoring as he netted 100 points during the week spanning from Jan. 7-13.

After scoring 24 points and 13 points in the team's first two games of the week, he came back and tore it up during the West River Classic. He posted 20 points against Wall, 20 points against Edgemont and 23 against Moorcroft. It was the best week he's ever had on the court, and he's hoping to have similar success in the future.

"I really worked the inside hard that week. I got to the line a lot. I'd say of the 100 points I scored I probably hit 40 from the free throw line," he said.

Last year, as a sophomore, DiBona was more of an outside threat. But with a young team this season he's had to go inside more often.

"We don't have a lot of guys who can penetrate the lane and if you don't do that you're not going to get open three-pointers," he said. "I know how to feel things out inside. It usually takes me a little while to get into the game."

The team didn't have anything to show for DiBona's efforts, as they stood at 0-7 after his hot week. DiBona said it gets depressing not being able to break into the win column but he and his teammates are improving each time out.

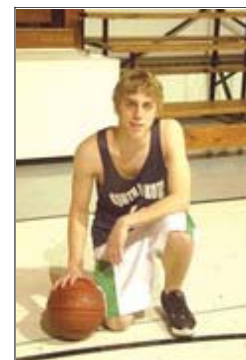


PHOTO BY PETER CENTINEO

Rapid City Christian's Justin DiBona has raised his level of play for the young Comets this season.

“Our games are a lot closer this year compared to last year. It’s tough to keep going sometimes. I try to be a leader but it’s hard to be an example sometimes. I can get pretty emotional on the court at times just because I want to win so bad,” he said. “I think we can win a couple of games this year.”

With such a small school there isn’t a lot of talent to draw from which is one of the problems in fielding a competitive team.

“One thing that’s been great is our fans this year. They really come out and support us, which is good to see,” he said. “I love basketball and we have some good players. Hopefully we can turn it around.”

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