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Constance carries College Park

Senior hits 19, helps Cavaliers stop Woodlands

By JASON MCDANIEL For the Chronicle

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Billy Smith II Chronicle
College Park's road win over The Woodlands keeps its district record perfect at 6-0.

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The pressure that College Park put on The Woodlands on Tuesday night was constant — and it started with Garrett Constance.

The senior set the tone by aggressively attacking the basket early. That carried over to the defense, where wave after wave of Cavaliers overwhelmed the Highlanders for a 62-40 road victory.

“We shot very well, but defense was the key because we really got out and pressured them, and that created opportunities for us on the other end,” College Park coach Clifton McNeely said.

“And Garrett got hot early, and we just kind of rode his shoulders.”

Constance finished with a game-high 19 points on 6-of-13 shooting, helping College Park (23-10, 6-0) sweep rival The Woodlands in District 14-5A play and move one step closer to a second straight district title.

“I’m trying to be a team captain, so I wanted to get my team going because it was a big game for us — us coming in 5-0 and them at 4-1,” Constance said.

“I knew if we got the victory, we wouldn’t necessarily clinch the district but it would help us in the long run to come out on top.”

Constance scored nine points in the first quarter, including his team’s first three baskets. His spinning drive through the lane started an 8-0 run that put College Park up 13-5.

The Cavaliers closed the first on a 6-0 run to go up 19-6, shooting 8-of-14 from the field in the period.

The Highlanders (17-10, 4-2) tried to battle back in the second and third quarters. They got within 10 points twice in the third but no closer, and leading scorer Emmanuel Rivera never got on track.

Rivera, a senior, went 0-for-10 before leaving early in the fourth with an apparent ankle injury. He and the rest of The Woodlands guards struggled to keep the ball away from College Park.

“Guards are the main thing in a high school basketball game, so offsetting their guard play, because that was their main strength, was our main focus coming into the game,” Constance said.

Aaron Porter led the Highlanders — who hit just 23 percent of their shots — with 10 points. Michael Williams added eight.

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