

Jan. 4 Boys Basketball

Spartans 'Lock' down another tight one with win over Northern Burlington

Jan. 4: Say whatever you want about the Steinert boys' basketball team, but never say it doesn't know how to win the close ones.

The Spartans got 12 points – many of them thunderous – from James Locklear tonight to take a thrilling 47-46 home victory over Northern Burlington.

The win raised Steinert's record to 2-3 while NBC dropped to 3-4. The Spartans previous triumph came on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Ryan LaMarca in double overtime against Hightstown.

According to part-time Fish4Scores correspondent AJ Mostrangeli, Locklear had "four dunks in the second half. . . maybe five, I'm not sure. But it was a great game."

The Spartans took their one-point lead with 40 seconds remaining then held on defensively to clinch the victory.

Shane Plunkett and Jason Varanyak each chipped in with nine points, while LaMarca added seven and Nick LaBelle and Devon Smith added five each.

The victory snapped a two-game losing streak for Steinert and gives the Spartans some momentum entering Friday's grudge game with Hamilton West.