

# Phelps leads Oriskany to 11th straight win

## Senior guard drains a career-high eight 3s for CSC Division IV leaders

By Ron Moshier

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HAMILTON - It looked for a while like the Oriskany boys basketball team's 10-game winning streak was going to end Monday night.

Ricky Phelps had other ideas.

Hamilton's Emerald Knights led 18-13 after one period, but Phelps made three of his career-high eight 3s and scored 11 of his 29 points in the second quarter and Oriskany grabbed sole possession of first place in the Center State Conference Division IV standings with a 57-49 win at Hamilton Central School.

"We came out dead," Oriskany head coach Chris Mahoney said. "But Ricky woke us up and got us out of our funk."

Phelps, a senior guard, also had six rebounds and five assists for Oriskany. It was the 11th straight win for the defending CSC Division IV champions, now alone in first place with an 11-1 league record.

Oriskany, 16-2 overall, has two CSC Division IV games remaining - at home Thursday against Old Forge on Senior Night at Keith Davis Gym and on the road next Monday at Morrisville-Eaton. Oriskany also beat Hamilton 66-53 on Dec. 19.

Hamilton, 10-2 in the league and 14-3 overall, had won eight

in a row. The Emerald Knights travel to New York Mills on Thursday night and host Owen D. Young on Senior Night next Monday.

Mahoney said Monday's win "wasn't pretty - it was a dogfight the whole game," but Phelps' big night and 9-of-20 foul shooting by Hamilton helped Oriskany pull away in the fourth quarter.

"Phelps is just a great player," Hamilton head coach Tom Blackford said. "He lets the game come to him. He doesn't force the issue, but when he needs to, he takes over the game."

Those career-high eight 3s didn't help Hamilton's cause.

"And every one of them was bigger than the one before," Blackford said. "We just couldn't get over the hump."

Hamilton made 3 of 10 free throws in the fourth quarter, and after tying it up at 45-45, the Emerald Knights were outscored 12-4 down the stretch.

Aaron Warcup scored 14 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Oriskany. Brother Mykal Warcup had eight rebounds and six assists and Brandon Reid had seven rebounds for the winners.

Senior Trevor Dowled Hamilton with 25 points and eight steals. Ryan Hunt added seven points and five assists and Tarik Cigeroglu had 12 rebounds and four steals for the Emerald Knights.

• P.J. Mahoney scored 14 points, Dylan Miller had 12 and Jordan LaSalle added 11 to lead Poland (4-6, 7-0) to a 50-48 win

over Owen D. Young (2-10, 4-12) in another CSC Division IV game.

• Freshman guard Jaeden Beam made four 3s and scored a career-high 20 points as West Canada Valley (5-2, 15-3) ended a two-game skid with a 63-59 CSC Division II win over Little Falls. Jacob Smith scored 11 points and Cory Collard added 10 for the Indians, who had won 10 straight and was ranked No. 8 in the state before dropping two straight league games to Herkimer and Frankfort-Schuyler.

• Jacob Vaccaro scored 21 points and John Jones had 19 to lead Oneida to a 56-44 Tri Valley League win over New Hartford. Joe Murray led the Spartans with 16 points.

• Tanner Deveans scored 19 points and Josh Wilcox added 13 in Clinton's 60-52 CSC Division I win over Sherburne-Earlville.

## Girls Basketball

• Cassandra Wardle scored 17 points, Charlotte Rodio had 11 points, nine steals and four assists, and Sophia Simmons added 10 points in Frankfort-Schuyler's 61-21 nonleague win over Poland.

• Tess Maxam's 13 points led Clinton to a 46-41 nonleague win over Hamilton.

• New York Mills (7-10) was outscored 28-9 in the second half of a 44-26 nonleague loss to Fabius-Pompey. Abbey Copperwheat scored 14 points for the Marauders.