

Boys basketball: Injury dampens Eagles' win

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Korey MalliEN - Door County Advocate

A Southern Door High School boys basketball player suffered a scary head injury and had to be taken off the court on a stretcher Tuesday night during the team's 57-49 win over Gibraltar in Fish Creek.

Senior guard Jordon Jandrin was hurt with about 6 minutes remaining, when he drove hard to the basket for a layup, bumped into a Gibraltar defender and crashed hard to the floor. He landed on his right side and started convulsing as play continued with a Gibraltar rebound and fastbreak to the other end of the court.

The game was then stopped and Jandrin's parents and others, including Southern Door coach Ben Rikkola, rushed to his attention. Jandrin reportedly suffered a concussion and was on the floor for about 15 minutes before he was stabilized by paramedics and transported by ambulance to the hospital in Sturgeon Bay.

"Obviously a very scary situation," said Rikkola. "I was right down there next to him and he definitely was out. It seemed liked a little seizure thing happening there and then he started to come to. But everything wasn't working properly and he was trying to talk and that's when he was moaning a little bit and then he freaked out a little bit and got scared."

As he was being carted out of the gym on a stretcher, the crowd gave Jandrin a standing ovation and he responded with the thumbs-up sign. "That was encouraging," said Rikkola. "I think at the minimum it's going to be a pretty serious concussion."

While Jandrin was down, the gym was dead silent and players and fans from both teams sat watching with obvious concern about the situation. "It kind of makes you realize that winning or losing isn't so important when something like that happens," said Gibraltar coach Kent Sitte. "The important thing is that hopefully there will be a complete recovery."

The Eagles trailed 44-40 when the incident occurred, but they used Jandrin's injury as inspiration to pull out the win. They outscored the Vikings 11-0 in the final 3 minutes, 24 seconds, including five points from Bradley Schwartz.

"I can't believe we won that game," said Rikkola. "I thought there was no way after that we were going to be able to focus, make shots and play defense. (But) right away when I got back over there (to the huddle to restart the game), the team said, 'We're doing this for Jordon.'"

Riley Bricco scored 16 points and Schwartz finished with 13 for the Eagles (7-11 overall, 5-6 Packerland Conference). Sam Kordon had 17 points and Tanner Biwer 12 for the Vikings (8-10, 2-9).

After the game, players from both teams huddled at midcourt for a moment of silence and prayer for Jandrin.

"That brought a tear to my eye, because you don't see that too often in sports," said Rikkola. "That was our guy, Cal McCarty, who did that. I just looked at him and said, 'You're the man.' That just shows the love for your teammates."