

CDDHS Royals senior boys win District 4 basketball championship

Written By BRIAN LOCKHART

The Centre Dufferin District High School Royals senior boys basketball team are District 4 champions after winning the final game 57-49 over the Erin District High School Raiders.

The game was held at the gym in Erin on Wednesday, March 4.

This was an exciting game between two evenly matched teams that came down to a final three-minute battle at the end.

The Royals led through the entire game, but not by much.

Centre Dufferin was leading 14-12 at the end of the first quarter.

At the half, the Royals had a 5-point lead with 24-19 on the scoreboard.

When the third quarter ended, the Royals were ahead 42-33.

It was a determined and well-played fourth quarter by both teams that decided the game.

The Erin squad put out a huge effort to close the scoring gap. With just over a minute remaining on the clock, the Raiders had closed the gap to three points and were trailing 52-49.

It was in the final minute that the Royals got some insurance points to stay ahead and win the game 57-49 to claim the title.

"We started the season pretty slow and lost our first few games, but overall we kept picking it up, and overcame our ups and downs, and got what we wanted," said Royals point guard Cooper Ferguson after the championship win. "In today's game, the best part of our offence was finding the open space in the middle and getting to the basket. In the first quarter, we got to the basket every time. I think that was probably the best defence we ever played. We tried to limit their drive and cuts."

With a minute left, and the Erin team determined to tie up, the Royals bench called a timeout.

"The coach told us we were meant for this moment and we were waiting all year for this, and we've got to show who we really are," Cooper said. "Our plan was to keep our energy up, get our buckets, and throw the ball down so they couldn't get any fast-break buckets."

As District 4 champions, the Royals will now compete at the regional level at CWOSSA.