# What a different a few days – and playing on your home court makes!

# After losing on January 29 by 11 points, Newman returned to their home at the spectacular New Balance complex and soundly thrashed Bridgton 112 to 56. This game was never in doubt after the first few minutes had elapsed as the Cardinals,

# behind the pinpoint shooting accuracy of Chase Geremiah and his mates, took a commanding 71-23 lead at halftime. Geremiah, now fully healed from an earlier ankle injury poured in 20 first half points with 18 of his tallies coming on three-pointers. The 6’3 junior marksman hit one of his 2 3-point attempts in the second half to tie his own program record that he shares with his brother Hudson and Luca Toews. The 112 points scored broke the previous scoring record that was set in their last game as Newman has now scored 217 points in their last two games. Reggie Grodin continued his outstanding play of late with 18 points by making 8 of his 9 shots while also notching 3 assists and 3 steals. 6’9 Quinn Costello scored all 14 of his points in the second half while Timmy Bollin potted all 10 of his tallies in the first half. The Cardinals hit the century mark when reserve Donovan Lee nailed a 3-pointer with still more than six minutes remaining in the game. So dominant was Newman that they had committed but 5 turnovers before coach Jackson Johnson emptied his very deep bench for the last 10 minutes of the game as Newman improved their record to 21-8 on the season.

# Newman will have virtually no time to celebrate as they have an early morning wake-up call to face a team from the Czech Republic at 10:30 tomorrow (Sunday) morning in the National Showcase Classic at Rhode Island College.

# Submitted by Jim Moyes

# The ‘Official’ Statistician for Newman Basketball

Newman made the long trip to New York to play a double header with Hoosac and came away victorious in both games. The prep team was a winner in the opener 68 58 with four players in double figures and it was no contest in the featured game as Newman National crushed Hoosac 90-52.

The Cardinals welcomed back Lucas Morillo after his weekend was spent in San Francisco in an NBA invitational. The 6’7 Morillo once again showed his enormous versatility with 13 points, 17 rebounds and nine assists. Morillo’s 17 rebounds was just one shy of the Newman program record of 18 held by current Providence star Ryan Mela.

Reggie Grodin continued his exceptional play with a near perfect performance. The 6’5 Fordham commit scored 18 points on 7 of 8 shooting, snaring 7 rebounds, pilfering 4 steals, dishing off 3 assists while committing just one turnover. Grodin graded out to a near perfect 95% rating, a stat in which he leads all Newman players this season.

6’11 Collins Onyejiaka displayed some nifty footwork coupled with several nice jump hooks to match Grodin’s 18 points while once again posing as a protector of the rim with four blocks and 10 rebounds. 6’4 guard Jalen Harper (Rhode Island) made his 17 points look easy while also filling up the stat sheet.

6’6 junior Timmy Bollin was again the energy bunny with seven points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists and a hustling 4 steals. The game marked the debut of 6’9 senior Riley Deering (Air Force Academy) who has been sidelined all season with a back injury. After playing three games with the Prep team Deering was able to see some last-moments action with the National team.

The win was the seventh in a row for Newman and their 25th win in 32 games against some extremely tough competition. Newman is currently ranked second in the nation behind rival Putnam Science, a team Newman defeated very early in the season.

Newman beat the snow and all their competition as they concluded a very successful week with a 90-61 victory over an all-star team from the Czech Republic. With an early start time of 10:30 AM on Super Bowl Sunday Newman Head coach Jackson Johnson called a rare time out with scarcely two minutes gone in the game to awaken his lethargic starting five. His speech (rant might be more appropriate) certainly was effective as Newman quickly jumped out to an early 15-point lead. The Cardinals survived some excellent three-point shooting for the Europeans as they tightened their defense to hold the lads from Czechoslovakia (thank you spell-checker) to but 61 points for the entire game. Newman had their offensive game working on all cylinders as they poured in 307 points during the week while holding their opponents to 179. This barrage of points will surely keep the Cardinals near the top of the rankings in USA prep basketball. Coach Johnson used 15 players in the contest with 11 etching their name in the scorebook with points. Leading the way with a modest 14 points was 6’3 junior Chase Geremiah. 6’7 junior Lucas Morillo again filled up the stat sheet with 13 points, eight rebounds, four assists and four steals. 6’9 senior Carson McDonald (American U commit) had 12 points while two other seniors: 6’5 Reggie Grodin (Fordham) and 6’4 Jalen Harper (Rhode Island) were also in double figures with 11 and 10 points respectively. The Cardinal will next play a pair of game next weekend with a Saturday battle with perennial prep power Brewster Academy on Saturday and league rival South Kent on Sunday. Both games will be played at the spectacular New Balance complex, the home court for Newman basketball.

The Newman Cardinal shared the wealth as 12 players scored with 6 in souble figures as Newman routed Covent College Prep 105-62 in the National Prep Showcase held at Rhode Island College. Coach Jackson Johnson, with three games on the docket in four days was able to rest many of his players as tougher competition looms ahead this weekend. Louis O’Keefe paced Cardinal scorers with 16 points, but he had plenty of company who reached double figures. Chase Geremiah, Quinn Costello and Collins Onyejiaka each had a dozen tallies while Jaden Harper, Aiden Losiewicz and Timmy Bollins each contributed 11 points as Newman reached the century mark for the second time this season to improve their record to 20-7 on the season. The Cardinals will play their next Saturday at the New Balance contest in hopes of atoning for recent loss to Bridgton. Newman will return to Rhode Island to play an early Sunday game at the Showcase against a team from the Czech Republic.

Newman continued their difficult gauntlet over the weekend with again playing some of the top teams in the nation. After dropping a 73-61 decision to CATS Academy on their home court on Saturday, the Cardinals had little time to mope as they made the journey to ‘Nowheresville’ to compete against an always tough South Kent team. Newman showed their toughness with a convincing 75-56 win over their hosts in a game in which the Cardinals were never challenged after taking the lead for good at 12-9 early into the contest. Newman led 39-28 at the break at halftime and steadily pulled away from South Kent. Lucas Morillo, who played all 40 minutes for Newman led the way with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Rhode Island signee Jalen Harper played a huge role in the victory with 18 points with Fordham signee Reggie Grodin also in double figures with 11. Grodin was big on the offensive boards with four of his tallies coming on two of the five rebounds he garnered during the game. Newman was in foul trouble during the first half necessitating coach Jackson Johnson to take use of his deep bench liberally during the first 20 minutes of action. 6’10 Collins Onyejiaka, after sitting out much of the first half, scored all eight of his points in the second half while protecting the rim with 5 rebounds and 3 blocks and an untold amount of altered South Kent shots. Newman copped the win despite making but 4 of 20 shots from 3-point land but South Kent would not fare any better against the hard-nose Cardinal defense.

There are no easy games in the highly competitive NEPSAC AAA conference, especially when one must go on the road. Using a game plan to perfection that saw a patient St. Thomas More squad take a six-point lead at halftime, the hosts held on to post a 80-75 win over Newman National. It was a frustrating second half for Newman as they consistently scored two-point buckets that were often countered with two free throws by the Chancellors. It was a parade to the throw line in the second half for the hosts from St Thomas More as most of their second half points came at the charity stripe following numerous Newman fouls.

Lucas Morillo, after missing all six of his field goal attempts and scored but two points on a pair of free throws in the first half, nearly put the Cardinals on his back as he scored 23 of his game high 25 points in the second half. After missing his first seven 2-pointers, Morillo then hit his next seven shots, along with a pair of 3-pointers and five free throws. Newman guards, other than Morillo were bothered by the constant 94-foot pressure applied throughout the contest and were able to muster but 15 points among four guards, 10 of those points coming from Jalen Harper. Newman played without the services of hot shooting Chase Geremiah, who did not play due to reason’s unknown by your author who watched the game from his ‘digs’ in chilly North Florida.

Quinn Costello, when he was able to free himself from the very tight Chancellor defense, chipped in with 15 points while Collins Onyejiaka netted 13 points while collecting 11 rebounds. Newman will again face a pair of prominent foes this weekend when they first host New Hampton on Saturday at 4PM and then will have a chance to redeem themselves with a second matchup up with St. Thomas More Sunday at 2:00 PM. Both games will be played at the spectacular New Balance Headquarters in Boston.

Newman, led by the torrid shooting from junior Chase Geremiah rallied in the second half to down Perkiomen School (PA) 86-76. The Cardinals took a 41-38 lead into halftime at the Hoophall Classic, held in the birthplace of basketball in Springfield, Massachusetts, only to see the pesky group from Pennsylvania take a 61-56 lead over Newman midway through the second half. It was then that the 6’3 Geremiah began knocking down three pointers to give Newman a 67-65 lead and the Cardinals kept their foot on the gas pedal to pull away to victory. One of the trademarks of this 2024-25 Newman powerhouse is their depth. With Lucas Morillo having a rare off shooting day with five points, 10 below his average, it was Geremiah who took up the slack ---and then some. The junior marksman fired in six three pointers and five two-pointers and concluded his 30-point career high barrage by sinking a pair of clutch free throws in the game’s final moments. The junior from nearby Connecticut is a breath of fresh air as he doesn’t pound his chest, let out a blood curdling scream, nor puts up three fingers when he nails one of his long bombs. Instead, he does a Barry Sanders impression and just jogs back on defense with a look on his face that it was ‘no big deal.’

Reggie Grodin continues his fine play of late with another big game for Newman with 19 points. Grodin got off to a great start in the contest by scoring 11 of Newman’s first 15 points. However, his biggest basket came late in the contest when he took a pass from Geremiah and calmly connected on

a three-pointer inside two minutes to play in the game that put the nail in Perkiomen’s coffin.

Jalen Harper held scoreless in the first half scored all ten of his points in the second half while Newman’s Mr. Energy, Timmy Bollin chipped in with 11 points and,as usual, led the team in floor burns. 6’11 dynamo Colllins Onyejiaka was a rim protector on defense as he swatted away six Perkiomen shots while pulling down eight rebounds. Although the 6’7 Morillo didn’t have his best shooting eye in this contest, he did his usual stellar job of filling up the stat sheet with a team leading nine rebounds, five on the offensive end while passing off for seven assists.

The Cardinals will play but one game in Springfield but will travel to the New York to play Hoosack School on Sunday. (Let’s hope they have a heater on their bus --- brr!) Newman’s prep team will also play in Hoosack and will precede the National game with a noon tip off with the National team, boasting of a 17-3 record, will tip off at 2:00 PM.

Newman vs Cushing on Saturday January 11, 2025

Game Played at the Boston Garden

Newman picked a bad time for their poorest shooting game of the season as they lost 61-57 to Cushing in the feature game on Saturday, January 11 at the TD Garden. Its perhaps better late than never to pen my thoughts on this game as I just recently received a link to this game from Newman’s ‘veteran’ head coach. After watching this video, it appears this just might have been the same camera that was used by a fan to film Babe Ruth’s ‘called shot’ from the 1933 World Series. (It was not a film in HD quality),

Newman came into the game with an offense that averaged nearly 90 points per game. Either playing on the big stage at TD Garden, or some very good defense by Cushing, Newman couldn’t put the ball into the nearby Atlantic Ocean, especially in the late stages of the game. Newman connected on but one 3-pointer in the second half, and that didn’t happen until the game’s final stages when a long tom by Newman’s Reggie Grodin swished through the net.

The key point in this game occurred about 13 minutes into the second half when Newman took a five-point lead and appeared to be headed towards victory. It was at this point when Cushing’s point guard Ryan Moesch came up with his best Caitlin Clark impression as he drilled a trio of three pointers from well back of the NBA three-point stripe to break the hearts of the Newman faithful. Moesch, whose physique more closely resembles that of Don Knotts than of Dick Butkus, scored 12 of his 16 points in the game’s final minutes as Newman was able to score but five points down the stretch.

Although heroics, and most importantly the win, was earned by the lithe Moesch and his mates, the player of the game was Newman’s Lucas Morillo. While many, if not all, of his teammates, were having a sub-par night, Morillo nearly single handedly carried Newman to victory. The 6’7 junior muscled in 26 points, pulled down 12 rebounds, while dishing off five assists in a losing effort.

Thankfully the Cardinals have righted the ship and rebounded to pull off a pair of AAA league victories with convincing wins since Saturday over Darrow (82-63) and Vermont Academy (93-70)

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NEWMAN WINS AAA CHAMPIONSHIP

It was the high school game that brought back memories of the Duke-Kentucky classic in 1992 when Christian Laetnter’s buzzer beater sent Duke into the final four.   Newman School survived and won a thrilling 107-100 game vs. New Hampton to win the AAA NEPSAC championship in a game that had all the thrills one would want in a basketball game.

The first half was a blueprint of how to play basketball at its finest, with brilliant shooting, passing, dunks and thrills as both teams played to a 49-49 draw at the halftime break.

The second half was just as good, and even more electrifying as the fans, who were all on their feet in the game’s final minutes, would be treated to an overtime.  An improbable overtime it would prove to be.  Newman had taken what appeared to be a commanding 16-point lead with 3:32 left in the game.   New Hampton then applied some furious pressure that led to some costly Newman turnovers, coupled with some outstanding shooting to go on a 14-0 run to close the gap to 88-86 with still nearly two minutes to play.  Newman was holding on to a 91-90 lead with 0:12 left in the contest before New Hampton forced another turnover and a chance to win the game.

With less than a second left on the clock the Huskies Nasir Meyer put up a shot that fell short of the rim that prompted a brief celebration from the Newman faithful.  But wait – a foul was called on a Newman player which sent Meyer, who scored 19 points in the games first few minutes of the game and had made seven three pointers during the game.  Meyer made the first but missed the second that gave Newman new life as the game went into overtime.

The overtime belonged to Newman as they did not lose their poise and regrouped for the four-minute extra session.  The Cardinals scored the first eight points and then held off New Hampton as a wild celebration featuring players, coaches, fans and included many parents who traveled to the championship game in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Cardinals hoisted two trophies at the exuberant post-game ceremony. One was the first ever NEPSAC team trophy to the Newman team playing in only its third year of basketball at its highest prep level, the second was the tournament MVP trophy awarded to Newman’s Lucas Morillo.

Morillo poured in 35 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and did a masterful job of bringing the ball up the court late in the game against the intense pressure defense applied by the Huskies.  Jalen Harper (Rhode Island commit) had a season high 25 points, with 12 of his tallies coming on three-point bombs. 6’11 Collins Onyejiaka scored 14 points but was the human eraser on defense with seven blocks shots while altering countless others Huskie attempts. The product from Nigeria who has many high level D1 offers on the table joined Morillo with a double-double with 10 boards.  Steady Reggie Grodin (Penn State) produced another of his routine games with 13 points, six assists and zero turnovers. Louis O’Keefe had 10 points with six of his points coming on timely 3-pointers in the second half.

The win was a program record 30 wins in only the third year for the fledgling Newman program under their youthful head coach Jackson Johnson. And if you’re looking for an anomaly to this reference to the Christian Laettner historic bucket from yesteryear. Laettner current lives in Ponte Beach, Florida and had a son who played for Ponte Vedra High School last school year; the same high school that produced Newman coach Jackson Johnson.

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