

By Steve Oliver
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With their state-ranking and position atop the Southwestern Conference basketball standings challenged in virtually every game in the past two weeks, junior guard Roy Bullock III has elevated his game accordingly. In O'Fallon's two most recent court appearances against Madison (WI) Memorial in the Highland Shootout and East St. Louis this past Friday evening, the talented OTHS junior has been virtually unstoppable. Scoring on slashing drives in the full court, spotting up for three-pointers from the perimeter and calmly sinking pressure free throws have become standard operating procedure for Bullock.

Against Madison Memorial, Bullock's clutch shooting from the charity stripe help stave off a late rally by Wisconsin's number four ranked team and helped the Panthers secure a 65-62 victory. Last Friday in East St. Louis, Bullock teamed with fellow guard Josh Buie to keep the Panthers within striking distance before O'Fallon fell 82-81. Bullock scored a career high 31 points against the Flyers, displaying a full array of offensive skills to keep O'Fallon close.

"Roy's effort was exceptional," said OTHS coach Rick Gibson. "He was able to score critical baskets when we were in danger of falling too far behind to have a chance at the end of the game. His court awareness and ability to score a variety of ways makes him a very important part of our team. I think everyone saw that Friday night when we were unable to get anything out of our interior players."

"I've played basketball since I was five years old," said the 16-year-old sharpshooter, the son of Brenda and Roy Bullock. "My parents played when they were growing up, and they got me started young. I continued playing because I love the game and love competing against other people. My success is due to my parents teaching me all I know and keeping me motivated.

"I am also successful because I have great teammates. Athletics are a part of every day of my life because it affects me every day. Everything I do in school and life I think about because I want to make sure the decisions I make in life benefit me and don't prevent me from continuing to compete in athletics."