

Good day for bench

Warriors' subs get workout in rout

By Ken Severson

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Coming off three difficult games, the Whiteland Community High School girls basketball team could be forgiven for taking it a bit easy in its two most recent games.

Playing an overmatched Indianapolis Public School opponent for the second straight game, the Class 3A No. 9 Warriors defeated visiting Washington 71-18 on Tuesday night.

On Saturday, Whiteland beat Howe 71-21.

Tuesday's victory marked the second straight game the Warriors (13-3) won by 50 points or more. It was also the sixth time this season they've won by 30 or more.

Washington (2-13), which had stopped an 11-game losing streak last week, had been losing games by an average of more than 52 points. Whiteland coach Bill Hogue was aware of that, so he deviated from his usual starting five.

The only usual starter was junior Rusti White.

"Honestly, I'm not sure what you can learn from a game like this," Hogue said. "One advantage is you get to play a lot of kids who normally don't see a lot of time, and that can help you later on this season or next."

"But as I've said before, we still haven't played a decent four quarters since before the Christmas break."

Without its normal starters, Whiteland still roared to a 20-8 first-quarter lead and expanded it to 44-11 at halftime.

But instead of scoring on every opportunity, Hogue instructed the Warriors to run set plays and give ball-handling experience to inexperienced players.

Despite the lopsided outcome, Washington coach Kelin Mark praised Hogue and Whiteland's players for not intentionally running up the score.

"The talent level between our school and schools like Whiteland and Chatard are vastly different," Mark said. "It's tough. On one hand, Bill doesn't want to run it up, and we still wanted to play like it was zero to zero."

Junior Brittney Wilson led the Warriors with 12 points. Senior Renee Albers added 10.

Krystal Killebrew led the Continentals with seven points.

Whiteland's next game is 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Roncalli.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com

Greenwood senior Abby Collier is double-teamed by a pair of Southport defenders during their game Tuesday at Greenwood.

Woodmen pick up fourth straight win

Coach praises progress nearing postseason

By Jaci Keller

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Greenwood Community High School girls basketball team extended its winning streak to four games with a 62-50 victory Tuesday against visiting Southport.

At 10-6, the Woodmen already have more victories than the past two years combined. Little wonder coach Debbie Guckenberger is confident they are heading in the right direction as the regular season winds down.

Sectional play begins in early February.

"I think we're where we need to be," Guckenberger said. "We've really turned the corner this year."

On Tuesday, Guckenberger was pleased with the way Greenwood handled the Cardinals' full-court pressure. In years past, the Wood-

"I think we're where we need to be. We've really turned the corner this year."

Debbie Guckenberger
Greenwood coach on the team's progress this season

men were prone to turnovers against similar defensive attacks.

But this year, they've largely maintained poise against pressure defenses.

"Our smart decision-making made the difference in the game," Guckenberger said.

After a slow first quarter, the Woodmen rallied to take their first lead of the game at 24-22 in the closing minute of the first half.

Guckenberger attributed a tentative offense for Greenwood's slow first-quarter start.

"We were spending too much time on defense and not enough

time concentrating on scoring," Guckenberger said.

Freshman center Tessa Ratliff provided an offensive spark for the Woodmen, scoring all of her 15 points in the second half. Freshman Allie Osen and senior Abby Collier added nine points each for the Woodmen.

Ratliff and Collier also had six rebounds each to lead the Woodmen on the boards.

Junior forward Sarah Bassler led the Cardinals with 20 points. Megan Lancaster added 11 points and seven rebounds, and Melyssa Sylvester had 11 rebounds for Southport (4-10).

Although Bassler had 20 points, Guckenberger was pleased with the defensive effort against the junior. Bassler ranks 12th in the state in scoring at 21.1 points per game.

"You know she's going to score," Guckenberger said. "Our goal wasn't to totally stop her but to contain the rest of the team."

Greenwood plays again Saturday night against visiting Manual.

Franklin coach to team: Keep on shooting

By Greg Doddridge

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

COLUMBUS

The shots still aren't falling for the Franklin Community High School girls basketball team.

But Franklin coach Walt Raines doesn't want his players to stop shooting.

After a 63-35 loss at Class 4A No. 10 Columbus North on Tuesday night, Raines encouraged players to keep putting up shots. Sooner or later, he insists, they're bound to start falling.

"I told the players in the locker room after the game to keep shooting, and the shots will start falling," Raines said.

Franklin has had trouble finding the basket all season, and Tuesday night was no exception.

The Grizzly Cubs (9-9) shot 15 of 44 from the field and were 3 of 9 from the free-throw line. Franklin averages only 39 points per game and is still trying to figure

ways to ignite its offense.

Against Columbus North, the Cubs did a better job of creating shots but couldn't get many to fall.

"I thought we did a nice job of

BULL DOGS 63

GRIZZLY CUBS 35

"We found the open seams in their zone, but we couldn't get our shots to fall."

Walt Raines
Franklin coach on his team's shooting against Columbus North

attacking on offense," Raines said. "We found the open seams in their zone, but we couldn't get our shots to fall."

Meanwhile, the Bull Dogs (13-2) shot a blistering 60 percent (24 of 40) from the field.

Columbus North essentially put the game away in the third quarter, when junior Brittany Bowen scored six of her game-high 24 points during a 13-3 run that fueled the Bull Dogs' thrust to the finish.

After three quarters, Bowen had more points (18) than

Franklin's team total (19).

For Franklin, the challenge is to find a way to avoid discouragement until shots start falling consistently.

"The players get demoralized when we execute well but the shots don't fall," Raines said.

Junior Nancy Miller and sophomore Sarah Walden led Franklin with eight points each. Junior teammate Kristin Chaney had seven points.

Franklin's next game is 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Mid-State Conference rival Mooresville.

Cold shooting, turnovers combine to sink Indian Creek

By Erik Kilmark

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

FAIRLAND

Poor shooting and a lack of ball control led to the Indian Creek girls basketball team's 43-33 loss at Mid-Hoosier Conference leader Triton Central on Tuesday night.

The win drops the Braves' record to 7-9 overall and 4-2 in the conference play, while the Tigers improved to 11-4 overall and 5-0 in the conference.

Indian Creek's defense started strong as the Braves broke out to a 7-0 lead in the first four minutes

of the game. However, the Braves' quick pace led to committing several turnovers as the Tigers finished the quarter with a 9-4 run.

Triton Central took a 14-13 lead with 4:50 to play in the first half and never let go, outscoring Indian Creek 15-4 during the second quarter.

The Braves committed 19 turnovers during the first half. They also committed several fouls leading to a 7-1 scoring edge for Triton

Central from the free-throw line.

"We've tried to emphasize to the girls the difference between being quick and being in a hurry," Indian Creek coach Andi Ferris said. "Sometimes we get into such a hurry that we force things that aren't there instead of having a little more patience, yet being quick with our actions."

"We were playing so hard defensively that we were having some defensive breakdowns that allowed them to score some easy layups."

Indian Creek started the third quarter strongly to cut the lead to five points at 28-23 midway through the quarter.

The Tigers then went on a 12-2 run during the next eight minutes to open their biggest lead, 40-25, with 5:30 remaining in the game.

The Braves continued to fight back, forcing several turnovers with their press defense but could get no closer than eight points, at 41-33, with less than a minute to play.

Both teams shot poorly. The Braves shot only 28 percent from the field, while Triton Central sank only 32 percent of its attempts.

"We took some good shots," Ferris said. "They just weren't going in for us. We weren't getting calls on the drives."

Junior center Olivia Wells' per-

formance was one bright spot for the Braves. She scored a game-high 13 points, while pulling down nine rebounds.

Wells also had a strong defensive performance by holding the Tigers' leading scorer, Kayleigh Dye, to only nine points.

"I think Olivia did awesome," Ferris said. "She always comes out and plays hard against Kayleigh. She did a heck of a job for us. We're always proud of Olivia when she comes out and plays hard on Dye."

Indian Creek hosts conference foe Southwestern (Shelby) at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

"I'm ... disappointed. I don't know what else to say. This is the girls' worst loss in four years. We got beat by a poor team in my opinion."

Bob White
Edinburgh girls basketball coach

Defeat at hands of South Decatur knocks Lancers off winning track

By Steve McClure

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

After winning its past two games, the visiting Edinburgh girls basketball team fell to Mid-Hoosier Conference foe South Decatur 66-29 on Tuesday.

The Lancers (4-11 overall, 1-5 in the conference) got off to a rough start and didn't kick things in gear until midway through the

second quarter.

By then, the Cougars had built a 21-4 lead. Edinburgh was pressured into 14 first-half turnovers by way of a half-court pressure defense that the Lancers couldn't answer.

The Cougars (6-9, 2-2) blistered the nets on 13-of-26 shooting and 7

of 9 from the free-throw line, while Edinburgh could manage only three field goals and 6 of 12 from the line in the opening half.

The two teams went to intermission with the Cougars dominating on both ends of the court and owning a commanding 33-13 advantage.

Although the Lancers put together an 8-0 run in middle of the third quarter, the Cougars responded quickly and stretched their lead to

47-24 before the period ended.

With 3:31 left and the game out of reach, Lancers coach Bob White had seen enough as he emptied his bench and sat down his starters.

"I'm very disappointed," White said. "I don't know what else to say. This is the girls' worst loss in four years. We got beat by a poor team in my opinion."

South Decatur finished with 48 points in the paint while hitting 29

of 53 from the field and 11 of 15 from the line.

The Cougars' backcourt of senior Rachel Allen and sophomore Jamie Huff combined for 42 points, each with 21 for the winners.

Junior Heather Dowell led the Lancers in scoring with eight points.

Edinburgh's next game is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday against visiting Mid-Hoosier Conference opponent North Decatur.

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