

PREP BASKETBALL

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Warriors outlast Dragons in triple OT

By JOE SKEEL
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Winning basketball games doesn't always come down to which team shoots better or who grabs more re-

WARRIORS 83
DRAGONS 78

bounds. Sometimes it's solely about heart and determination.

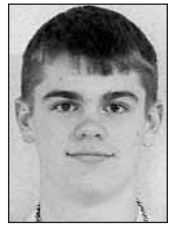
For proof, look at Friday night's triple-overtime boys game at Whiteland Community High School.

The Warriors were outrebounded and regularly beaten to the basket by New Palestine during the first four quarters.

Still, they hung tough. They even had the lead in stretches but allowed the Dragons to come right back each time.

In the end, however, the Warriors out-hustled and out-played their opponent for an 83-78 win.

"We didn't rebound well in the first half, and we had trouble stopping their penetration," Whiteland coach Stacy Meyer said. "We were still giving up that stuff late in the game, but the kids never quit."



SMITHER

The Warriors could have folded at any time, as New Palestine (6-6) scored first during every overtime session.

But Whiteland never let the Dragons lead by more than a basket.

New Palestine's biggest lead during overtime came when it opened the third session with a 3-pointer by junior Aaron Cavin.

The Warriors answered on the next possession when senior Adam Money hit a 3-pointer for a 74-74.

Reserve guard Brian Meiser gave the Dragons the lead on the next possession with an uncontested layup.

But Whiteland senior Nick

Smith took control of the game for the Warriors with a series of spectacular plays down the stretch.

Following Meiser's layup, Whiteland (3-11) ran its offense and hit Smith in the low post. The 6-foot forward was fouled as he hit a turnaround jumper.

He sank the ensuing free throw, giving the Warriors a 77-76 lead.

On the next possession, Smith collected a missed New Palestine jumper and was fouled with 40 seconds remaining.

He stepped to the line and calmly knocked down both free throws to give Whiteland a 79-76 lead.

Fifteen seconds later, Smith

deflected a New Palestine pass, dove to the ground and forced a jump ball, giving possession to the Warriors.

Junior guard Marcus Hanger sealed the game by knocking down both free throws following the inbounds pass. He added a couple more for good measure two possessions later.

"The thing I was most pleased with is that it was a total team effort," Meyer said.

"Nick was great down the stretch. A lot of the time ... the ball was in his hands, and he made things happen.

"Adam hit a big 3-pointer; Marcus hit free throws down the stretch. Everyone on the team took

their turn, and that's what it takes."

Smith, who came off the bench, paced the Warriors with a game-high 24 points and 10 rebounds. Money scored 20, and Hanger tossed in 17.

Cory Alter led the way for New Palestine with 23 points.

The victory snapped a four-game losing streak for Whiteland, which beat someone other than Indian Creek for the first time this season. New Palestine has now lost four of its past five.

"You hope a game like this can be a springboard," Meyer said. "We will find out (tonight)."

Whiteland plays tonight at Southwestern (Shelby).

Lancers can't overcome first quarter in defeat

By ERIC KILMARK
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Edinburgh boys basketball team bounced back from a woe-

JACKETS 60
LANCERS 35

ful first half against Mid-Hoosier Conference foe Morrystown

to compete in the second half the way they had hoped.

However, the turnaround was much too late, as the host Yellow Jackets held off the Lancers to win 60-35 Friday night.

"We got ourselves into a hole and spent the rest of the second

"At least if anything we finished strong."

Steve Todd
Edinburgh boys basketball coach

half trying to get ourselves out of it," Edinburgh coach Steve Todd said. "Morrystown is too good of a team to allow ourselves to get into that position. At least if anything we finished strong."

The loss drops Edinburgh to 5-8 overall (0-3 in the conference), while the win helps Morrystown improve to 11-3 (5-1 in the MHC)

to keep pace with conference leaders Hauser and North Decatur.

The Yellow Jackets started the game on a 17-0 run and shut out the Lancers in the opening quarter. Edinburgh had turnovers on its first four possessions.

Edinburgh managed only five points in the second stanza, giving Morrystown a 29-5 halftime edge. The Lancers hit only 1 of 13 shots from the field and committed 14 turnovers during the half.

However, Edinburgh settled down during the second half. Most notable was the Lancers' improved ball control, as they committed just four turnovers.

Despite the Lancers' third-quarter spark, the Yellow Jackets' lead ballooned to 33 points, at 49-16, at the end of the third quarter.

Edinburgh's bench started the final quarter with increased defensive energy to force six turnovers and hold Morrystown scoreless for the first 3:30.

The Lancers' 11-0 run cut the lead to 22, at 49-27, with 4:20 remaining in the game.

Junior forward Kevin McGaha scored five points during the run. McGaha led Edinburgh, scoring eight of his 10 points during the fourth quarter.

Junior center Brandon Cravens

chipped in with nine points and five rebounds.

Unfortunately for Edinburgh, that surge would be as close as the Lancers would get as the Yellow Jackets' starters returned to the game to preserve the win.

Morrystown was led by junior forward Russ Kuhn's 22 points. Senior center Dustin Dean's 15 rebounds led the Yellow Jackets to a 40-23 rebounding edge.

"This is a game of quarters and halves," Todd said. "You've got to put both halves together. In the first half, it seemed like there was a lid on the basket, which forced us to have to work harder on the defensive end.

"At halftime, we came in and told them to concentrate on the first few minutes of the second half.

"We hit a couple of shots, which gave us more energy on the defensive end. We just can't put two halves together.

Edinburgh finishes the season with five of its final seven games against conference opponents.

"We've got a lot of conference games left to play," Todd said. "We can still make some noise in the conference. These are the types of teams we want to be playing to get ready for sectionals."

The Lancers host New Washington at 7:30 tonight.

Late rally falls short for Indian Creek

By GREG DODDRIDGE
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

If the Indian Creek boys basketball team played the entire game like it did in the third quarter, the outcome might have been different.

BULLDOGS 74
BRAVES 72

Instead of picking up their third win in a row, the visiting Braves lost to Monrovia 74-72 in overtime on Friday night.

The Braves (3-10) tried a late comeback as junior Zach Pindexter hit a rebound put-back shot to pull them within two. But with just 0.2 seconds left, they couldn't get off another shot.

The Bulldogs (2-13) controlled overtime from the free-throw line thanks to the double bonus. Scoring his only points of the game in the extra period, Monrovia sophomore Zach Smith made six of his team's nine overtime free throws.

For the game, Monrovia dominated from the free-throw line, making 24 of 40 attempts. Indian Creek, meanwhile, made just 8 of 14 free throws.

Besides free-throw shooting, Monrovia used an up-tempo style to pressure Indian Creek. Junior Andrew Grismore led the Bulldogs with 18 points as he commanded their fast breaks, which often resulted in baskets in the paint.

"(Monrovia) did things in transition that hurt us," Indian Creek coach Rex Wilson said. "For but a

few lapses in transition, we played hard."

With 6:02 to go in the third quarter and trailing 42-31, Indian Creek stopped having lapses, at least until the fourth quarter. After a timeout during which Wilson implored his team to hustle, the Braves closed the period on 16-2 run and took 47-44 lead into the fourth quarter.

Wilson applauded his team's effort after the timeout, saying the Braves played hard the rest of the quarter.

"But we have to learn how to do that for 32 minutes," he said.

For example, the Braves fell behind 17-10 after the first quarter, and they allowed the Bulldogs to go on a 12-0 run to take a 57-49 lead with 3:46 to go in the fourth quarter.

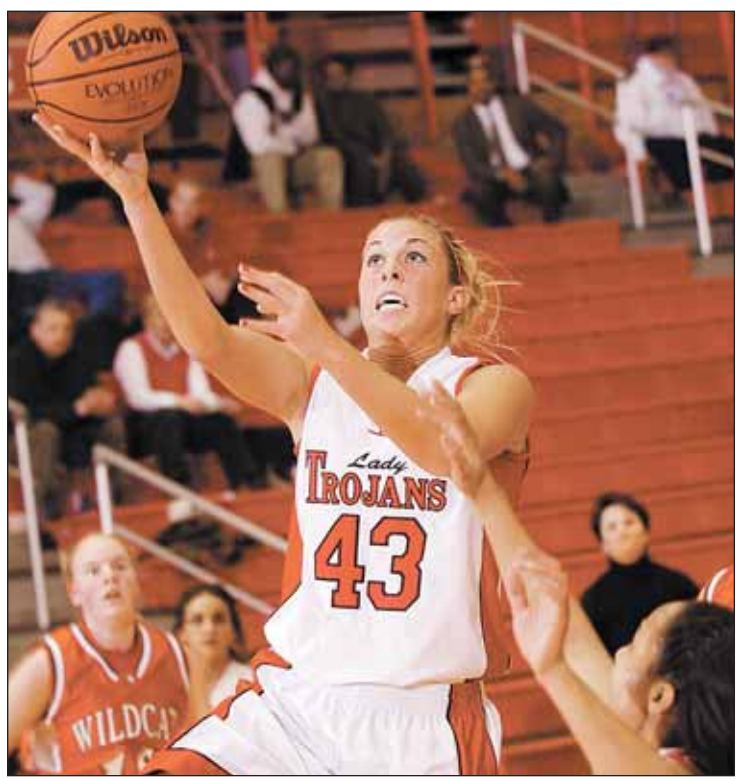
Only after junior Kyle Ray scored seven points, including a 3-pointer with 10 seconds left in regulation, did the Braves have a shot at overtime.

Monrovia senior Sam Brooks missed two free throws with five seconds to go in regulation. But the Braves were unable to get off a clean shot before the buzzer.

Ray led Indian Creek with 24 points on 10-of-22 shooting from the field. Senior Mark Dunn added 20 points on an 8-of-15 effort from the field.

Ray and Dunn each had a game-high eight rebounds. But the Bulldogs won the overall battle of the boards 40-29.

Indian Creek hosts Triton Central at 7:30 tonight in a Mid-Hoosier Conference game.



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Lawrence North's Azjah Ehret, right, can't stop Center Grove's Jenny Gray as Gray goes to the basket during the first half of their game Friday.

Cubs can't hang on as Roncalli pulls away

By JACI KELLER
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

For most of Friday night's game at Roncalli, the Franklin Community High School girls basketball team

REBELS 44
CUBS 42

was poised and in control.

Unfortunately for the Grizzly Cubs, a fourth-quarter rally allowed the Rebels to outscore Franklin 20-16 and take the lead in the closing seconds of the game.

The result was a 44-42 win for Roncalli.

A layup by Roncalli's Amanda Allen put the Rebels up 43-42 with 13 seconds to play. But the Cubs

"We need to hit those down the stretch, and we haven't all year."

Walt Raines
Franklin girls basketball coach

"We stayed in this game, and this is a good team," Raines said. "We've lost to six extremely good teams, and we've played them tough."

Raines cited Franklin's tough schedule as a reason for recent losses. But he acknowledged that poor free-throw shooting is a concern.

"It's something we've struggled with," Raines said. "We need to hit those down the stretch, and we haven't all year."

Friday's game was no exception. The Cubs made only 8 of 15 attempts.

Both teams' offenses got off to sluggish starts. For the night, each shot 41 percent from the field and took only 34 shots.

But Roncalli pulled it out at

the foul line, where it made 16 of 21 attempts.

Allen, who led Roncalli with 17 points and 10 rebounds, was 7 of 8 from the line. Brittney Miller added 10 points and seven rebounds for the Rebels.

For Franklin, junior Nancy Miller led the way offensively with 12 points. She also had five rebounds, as did junior teammate Kristin Chaney.

Despite the loss, Raines is confident the Cubs can pull things together in time for sectionals. The draw is Sunday night.

"This is a game we need to learn from," Raines said. "We'll be OK."

Franklin's next game is Tuesday night against visiting Shelbyville.

It's time for tourney pairings

The pairings for the 31st annual IHSAA girls basketball state tournament will be announced Sunday.

The pairings will be broadcast statewide on the IHSAA Championship Radio Network starting at 6 p.m. Sunday. At the conclusion of the 90-minute pairings show, the tournament matchups will be posted on the IHSAA Web site at www.ihsaa.org.

In the Indianapolis area, pairings can be heard on WIBC-1070 AM.

The girls tournament starts with sectionals the week of Feb. 6.

Here's where Johnson County's teams will play in sectionals:

Class 4A

Center Grove, Franklin and Greenwood will play at Greenwood

Class 3A

Whiteland will play at Beech Grove

Class 2A

Indian Creek will play at Triton Central

Class A

Edinburgh will play at Southwestern (Shelby)

Woodmen still seeking conference victory

By KEN SEVERSON
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

PLAINFIELD For the second straight game, the Greenwood Community High School girls basketball team was overmatched

QUAKERS 72
WOODMEN 42

by a larger and faster opponent. Mid-State Conference rival Plainfield utilized its size and speed to earn a decisive 72-42 win against the visiting Woodmen on Friday night.

Greenwood's loss follows a 31-point defeat Tuesday night at county rival Center Grove.

The Woodmen, who had won five straight before the two blowouts, left coach Debbie Guckenberger searching for answers.

"We hit them on a bad night," Guckenberger said. "That's the best (Plainfield) has played. It seemed as though they couldn't miss, and we couldn't score when we had to.

"We just made a lot of unforced errors."

Debbie Guckenberger
Greenwood girls basketball coach

"We knew coming in they were going to be tough. We just made a lot of unforced errors, and we didn't block out on the rebounds."

Plainfield raced to an 18-8 first-quarter lead and efficiently increased it to 41-16 at halftime. The Quakers repeatedly converted turnovers into layups and baskets in the paint.

Plainfield's 6-foot-1 junior center, Jessica Wolfe, did much of the damage. She had 14 of her game-high 20 points in the first half.

Plainfield (15-4, 2-2 Mid-State) shot 55 percent from the field compared to 28 percent for the Woodmen (11-8, 0-3).

"They didn't capitalize on our turnovers," Guckenberger said.

Shots

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

with shooting the entire game.

The Trojans made just 18 of 65 field-goal attempts (.277 percent) and hit only 4 of 15 (.267) of their 3-point attempts.

Their free-throw shooting wasn't any better. Center Grove made just 12 of 24 (50 percent) free throws, including just 9 of 14 in the fourth quarter. Lawrence North made 34 of 42 free-throw attempts.

"We had mental lapses in the first half and a shooting problem in the second," Lentz said. "In the second half, we rushed and didn't just play. We wanted to relax and play."

Bass picked apart the Trojans, throwing over-the-top passes inside to senior Kala Dickerson and 6-foot freshman Darress McClurg. Both totaled 11 points and provided an inside presence.

But Lawrence North coach Jodie Whitaker praised Bass for

Clinic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Newbold for a deadly perimeter attack in the game's opening half. The pair nailed 8 of 11 3-point shots and helped Greenwood shoot 50 percent from the floor during the first two quarters.

"Kellams is capable of shooting the ball like that all the time," Hensley said. "He played inside for us while A.J. was hurt, but he's obviously more comfortable on the perimeter."

Edds, who sat out a couple of early-season games with a foot injury, was a major reason why Plainfield connected on only 17 of 52 shots in the game.

Edds' positioning in the paint

taking over in the fourth.

After Center Grove cut the lead to 53-52, Bass scored six of the Wildcats' final nine points. All came from the free-throw line.

"Azjah's a leader," Whitaker said. "She's our go-to person, and we have to have her score. If we win, she has to put points on the board. She's not only a good scorer. She plays her guts out at the defensive end of the floor, too. The kids stepped up. We needed something like this to beat a good team with the tournament around the corner."

Center Grove has just two more MIC games remaining before the tournament, at conference leader Carmel and at home against Warren Central.

Lentz hopes the Trojans learned a lesson from Friday's loss.

"We don't need to dwell on this loss. We need to learn from it," he said. "We need to have no mental lapses and not panic."

"We need to take the lesson that we have to be mentally in the game for 32 minutes. We're not used to playing from behind."

often forced the Quakers to take off-balance outside shots, and his rebounding tenacity prevented many second-chance opportunities.

"As far as rebounding goes, this was the most comfortable I've felt since coming back," Edds said. "My role is to be a post defender and to grab rebounds.

"If I can score, too, that's great. But that's not what I'm looking to do out there."

Newbold scored 15 points for the Woodmen, while senior Evan Checkey added 13. Senior Matt Allee chipped in 11 points and nine rebounds.

Greenwood senior John Pfifer also grabbed nine rebounds. Sophomore Jameson Wheeler led Plainfield with 14 points.

The Woodmen are back in action tonight at Roncalli.