

PREP SPORTS

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Cubs use OT to put away Panthers

By KEN SEVERSON

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

NORTH VERNON

Franklin finally got it right in overtime.

Junior guard Adrian Moss' basket with two seconds remaining gave the Grizzly Cubs a 75-73 win against host Jennings County in the regular-season finale for both boys basketball teams Friday night.

The win was a positive in many ways for Franklin.

Not only did it give the Cubs

GRIZZLY CUBS 75

PANTHERS 73

their first overtime win in four tries, but it extended their winning streak to four games, gave them their third straight win against Jennings County and secured at least a .500 record for the season.

Winning also gave Franklin some extra confidence heading into sectional play next week.

"There were a lot of positives in this game," Franklin coach Dave Clark said. "We've had our share

of close games and have been in this situation before. This happened to be our night for the win.

"All our games with (Jennings County) have been tough and competitive."

Franklin's past few games with the Panthers weren't decided until the final minute of play, and Friday's game was no different.

Cold shooting plagued Franklin's start, as it scored only five points in the first quarter. But eventually the Cubs' shots began to fall, especially from the 3-point line.

Clark said the Cubs usually

shoot around 35 percent from the 3-point line, but they bettered that with a 10-for-19 performance (52.6 percent) Friday.

Senior Cody Long hit five of those shots, missing only once. Long tallied 25 points.

"I've shot pretty well all year," Long said. "But tonight we got some good penetration and great passes. It wasn't anything special I did."

Jennings County (9-11) still held the lead going into halftime, but Franklin rallied with 26 third-quarter points. Just as the Cubs

appeared to have taken command, the Panthers' shots started falling.

Franklin (11-10) had a chance to win the game in regulation but couldn't get off a shot and were reminded of past overtime games, albeit with a different mind-set.

"We knew we could win," Long said. "We had our chances before, and knew we could do it."

Franklin held a five-point lead but let it slip away, and it appeared a second overtime was inevitable until Moss hit his shot.

Moss finished with 15 points, while senior Adam Miller added 13.

The Panthers were led by senior Connor Ertl's 25 points, tying Long for game-high honors.

Franklin now enters sectional play at Southport, where the Cubs open up against Decatur Central at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The Cubs will be looking to avenge a five-point triple-overtime loss to the Hawks in early January, a game still fresh in Clark's mind.

"That was a game we could have won," Clark said. "They have a nice team, but right now we're on a hot streak. This should be a wide-open sectional."

Pair of Trojans advance to finals

CG senior moves on despite slowing down

By MIKE BATTREALL

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS

Center Grove's Chris Oleksiak didn't swim his best time Friday night in Friday's IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving State Championships, but it wasn't necessary.

Meanwhile, Paul Brogan had to come from the back of the pack to join his Trojans teammate in today's championship races.

Oleksiak, the defending state champion in the 500-yard freestyle, qualified fourth. His 4:39.86 time was a little more than two seconds off his sectional-winning effort and eight seconds shy of his time in last year's final.

"We've got (today) for Chris, so we'll see how he does," Center Grove coach Jim Todd said. "He swam to get in and lucked out in the 200 (free)."

"We can't control what's going on, so it's up to him now."

Oleksiak, who also took the eighth and final spot in the 200 free final, also will anchor the Trojans' 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams in today's consolation heats.

Brogan zoomed from a No. 20 seed to place sixth in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 58.19. The senior swam 1:00.59 in the sectional.

"He had a great swim," Todd said. "We knew he had it because he wasn't feeling very well last week, and he felt a lot better today."

Brogan also was 11th in the 200 individual medley, securing him a spot in today's consolation heat. He also will swim with Oleksiak in the relays. The ninth-through 16th-place swimmers and teams will participate in the consolations.

The medley relay team, also including Pete Hewitt and Paul Beauchamp, qualified 12th. The freestyle relay team, which includes Hewitt and Cody Adkins, was 10th.

Center Grove diver Nick Swift, who was fourth in Tuesday's regional, also will perform today.

Greenwood senior Sam Mysner finished 18th in the 200 individual medley and 19th in the 100 breaststroke, and the Woodmen's medley relay team was 20th.

Whiteland senior Justin Shaw was 19th in the 100 free.

Franklin's medley relay team was 23rd, and its 400 free relay squad was 29th.

BY THE NUMBERS

Trojans 62
Bears 58

LAWRENCE CENTRAL — Devin Williams 2-9 0-0 5, Darin Granger 10-17 0-0 25, Kyle Miller 0-2 0-0 0, Steven Hedrick 4-12 2-2 10, John Baldwin 3-7 0-0 6, Drew Horrmann 0-1 0-0 0, Justin Bonds 3-6 2-2 8, Ronald Billups 2-5 0-0 4, Alex Somerville 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals:** 24-59 4-4 58.

CENTER GROVE — Louis Kamo 2-5 0-0 4, Corey Gray 3-8 3-4 9, Tyler Kitchel 12-23 2-3 29, Jason Kaylor 0-1 0-0 0, Todd Price 5-15 4-8 15, Mitch Deffner 0-2 0-0 0, James Nussbaum 0-2 0-0 0, Eric Hazelbaker 1-2 0-0 3, Joey Clawson 0-0 0-0 0, Danny Gill 1-1 0-2 2. **Totals:** 24-59 9-17 62.

L. CENTRAL (11-6) 20 12 14 12 — 58

CENTER GROVE (12-8) 13 16 12 21 — 62

Three-point shooting: Lawrence Central 6-16 (Williams 1-4, Granger 5-7, Miller 0-2, Hedrick 0-1, Baldwin 0-1, Horrmann 0-1), Center Grove 5-17 (Kamo 0-1, Gray 0-2, Kitchel 3-8, Kaylor 0-1, Price 1-2, Deffner 0-1, Hazelbaker 1-2).

Braves lose see-saw battle with Mohawks

By ERIK KILMARK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WALDRON

Sometimes, if teams are looking to rest and avoid injuries heading into the sectional, the final game of the regular season can be a ho-hum affair.

Not this time.

In a game that featured nine ties and 25 lead changes, visiting Mid-Hoosier Conference rival Waldron edged Indian Creek 66-65 Friday night.

Despite the loss, Braves coach Rex Wilson applauded the effort. Indian Creek's next game is Tuesday against Park Tudor in a Class 2A sectional

MOHAWKS 66

BRAVES 65

opener. Indian Creek hosts the tournament.

"This was an important game for us to springboard ourselves into the sectional," Wilson said. "Again, this group doesn't quit. I think if we don't get down on ourselves, we can come back and play Park Tudor."

"The sectional is at our place, so the kids need to understand that we need to take advantage of that."

The Braves (5-15) tied the game at 47-47 in the first minute

of the fourth quarter. The Mohawks jumped to a 51-47 lead before senior center Mark Dunn pulled Indian Creek to within one with a 3-point play with 5:51 remaining.

And when the Mohawks went back up 56-50 with 5:32 to play, the Braves didn't go away.

Indian Creek used an 8-1 run to take the lead 58-57 with 3:25 remaining.

But Waldron made three of four free throws down the stretch, including technical foul shots, to give the Mohawks momentum again.

After Indian Creek battled back to cut the lead to 64-60 in the final minute of the game,

junior guard Kyle Ray hit a 3-point basket with 15 seconds left on the clock.

Waldron's Ty Perry converted both free throws when the Braves were forced to foul on the ensuing possession. Ray took the ball baseline to baseline and hit a quick two-pointer with four seconds left.

A mental mistake by the Mohawks allowed Indian Creek one last gasp.

With the Braves out of timeouts, Waldron could have allowed the clock to expire without inbounding the ball, but Cody Hurst quickly inbanded the ball, and Zach Tharpe stole the pass.

Tharpe's off-balance desperation attempt fell short of the mark, and the Mohawks prevailed.

Ray led all scorers with 29 points.

Senior forward Ryan Denton chipped in 14 points and six rebounds.

Hurst led Waldron with 21 points and 14 rebounds.

"We're making too many mental mistakes this late into the season," Wilson said. "That's something that's a little disappointing. We need to play smarter than that."

"I never fault the kids' hustle or their work ethic. We just keep battling and go from there."

• Trojans

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

momentum, having won three of its past four games. The Trojans have a first-round bye and will play the winner of Tuesday night's Southport/Perry Meridian game.

The Trojans hope Friday's second-half momentum will carry over into the sectional.

Center Grove outscored Lawrence Central 21-12 in the fourth quarter and benefited from sound defense. The Trojans outrebounded the Bears 36-28 for the game and stole the ball twice in the final two minutes with their trap defense.

Hawkins mixed the defense up in the second half in an effort to make players play tougher. The strategy worked.

"We played very good defense for a long period of time tonight," Hawkins said. "It was a huge victory for us. We beat a team with great quickness, rebounding and shooting abilities."

"It gives us confidence heading into the tournament."

Center Grove also ended Lawrence Central's three-game winning streak. Senior Darin Granger led the Bears with 25 points. He scored 14 of his team's 20 first-quarter points. But was he limited to just 11 points the rest of the game.

Junior Steven Hedrick also scored in double figures for Lawrence Central (11-9) with 10.

Bears coach Mike Miller criticized his team's fourth-quarter performance, especially their rebounding.

"We had problems on the boards," Miller said. "And having 10-2 on fouls was tough to overcome. (But) we're playing well. We're shooting the ball fairly well and taking pretty good shots."

"We're patient. (Center Grove) just competed better."

With the win, Center Grove seniors James Nussbaum, Joey Clawson, Eric Hazelbaker and Price finished their home careers in style.

"It just hit me today that this is my last game at Center Grove," said Price, who had one of the Trojans' two late-game steals. "It's a great feeling."

"Now, we've got to go out next week and get better. We just need to get a win."

• Woodmen

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

6-10 kid, but we'll have to overcome that."

The Woodmen and Flashes are scheduled to tip off about 7:30 p.m. at Southport High School.

Their game will follow Franklin vs. Decatur Central, which starts at 6 p.m.

Wednesday's winners will face each other Friday.

If there was any worry of overlooking Class 3A New Palestine (7-13) on Greenwood's Senior Night Friday, the thought was erased midway through the first quarter when the Woodmen (17-4)

hit six unanswered field goals, including two 3-pointers.

Greenwood continued to build on its lead, limiting the Dragons to just one field goal and five points during the second quarter.

By halftime, the Woodmen held an insurmountable 31-11 lead. By the end of the third quarter, the lead had ballooned to 55-19.

"We tried not to talk about (sectionals) too much after the draw came out on Sunday," senior Evan Checkeye said. "We really tried to focus on our last two games."

Mission accomplished.

Including Tuesday's 40-point win against Indian Creek, the Woodmen beat their final two opponents by a combined score of 149-78.

Allee led the offensive charge for

Greenwood on Friday, scoring a game-high 15 points. Checkeye tossed in 13, as did senior A.J. Edds, who also grabbed a game-high nine rebounds.

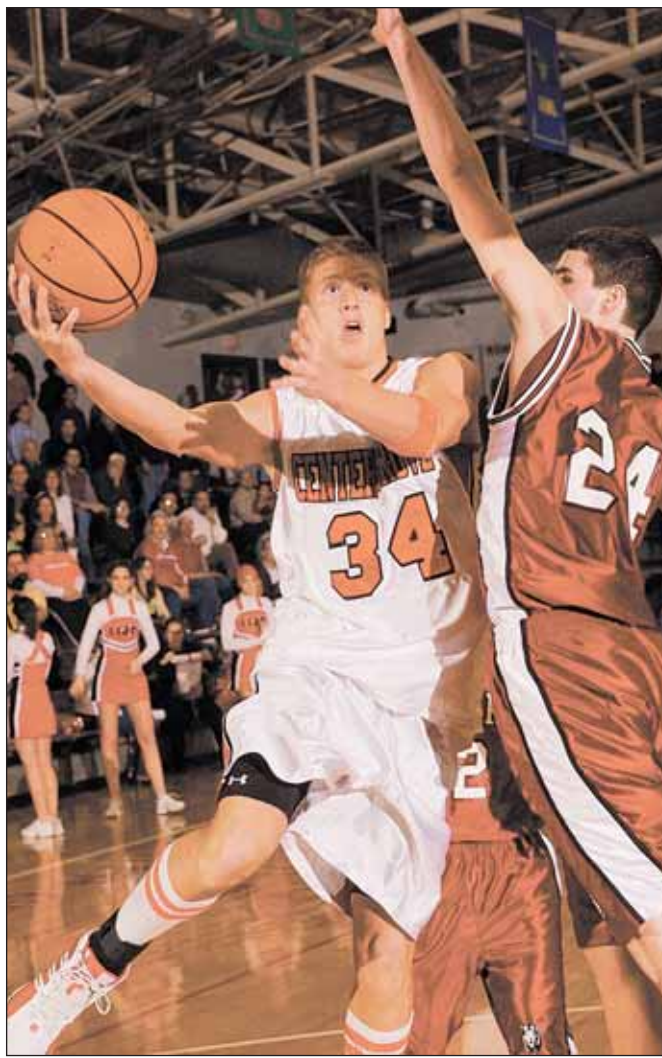
The Woodmen hit 28 of 50 field goals, including 11 of 19 from the 3-point arc.

New Palestine, which has lost eight of its past nine games, hit just 14 of 53 field-goal attempts. They had no player score more than six points.

Before the game, Greenwood's seven seniors were honored.

Those who played their final home game Friday are Allee, Checkeye, Edds, Jeff Geoghegan, Adrian Kellams, Robbie Newbold and John Pfifer.

Pfifer also received special recognition for breaking the school's career assist record of 245, previously held by Clint Ferguson.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT DOOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove senior Todd Price, left, tries to get a shot off while being guarded by Lawrence Central's John Baldwin during Friday's game.

Warriors can't overcome slow start vs. Hornets

By KIRK STEISEL

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Although Whiteland found some success late in the season, it dropped its final regular-season game Friday night 51-41 to visiting Beech Grove.

The Warriors (7-14) started the season with just two wins in their first 13 games, with their only two victories coming

HORNETS 51

WARRIORS 41

against Indian Creek. Whiteland was able to mount a comeback late in the season though, winning five of its past seven games coming into Friday's game and gaining the confidence and momentum it needed before postseason play begins.

Their final game of the season, against the non-conference Hornets (9-10), was a chance for the Warriors to finish strong and keep the winning drive going.

But the Warriors came out flat against the Hornets, scoring only four points in the first quarter and committing numerous turnovers.

"At this time of the year, so much of it is focus and execution, and we didn't do either tonight," Whiteland coach Stacy Meyer said. "We didn't do it well from the tip-off until the buzzer rang in the fourth quarter."

By the end of the first quarter, the Warriors had fallen behind 10-4 and were never able to recover.

Throughout the game, the Warriors struggled with their shooting, hitting only 35 percent from the field, including just three of 15 3-point attempts.

Marcus Hanger led the Warriors' attack with a game-high 21 points, but was unable to pull his team back into the game. Hanger, however, feels confident in his team heading into sectionals.

"Aside from tonight's loss, I feel like we are one of the strongest teams in the sectional, but we have to come out mentally prepared," Hanger said.

The Warriors have the next three days to put the loss behind them and get ready for the first round of sectionals.

They will face Chatard on Tuesday and will have the advantage of playing on their home court.

"You have to pick up the pieces," Meyer said. "And that's what I told the boys."

"Did we want to end the season like this? No. But we have a sectional game on Tuesday, and we have to come out ready to play."

0-1 0-0 0, Patrick Kinman 0-1 0-0 0, Corbin Mitchell 2-2 0-0 6, Ryan Mathis 0-0 0-0 0, Daniel Lipp 0-0 1-2 1. **Totals:** 28-50 3-11 70.

N. PALESTINE (7-13) 6 5 8 20 — 39

GREENWOOD (17-4) 18 13 24 15 — 70

Three-point shooting: New Palestine 3-10 (England 0-1, Meiser 1-2, Litteral 2-5, Carnes 0-1, Cavin 0-1), Greenwood 11-19 (Newbold 3-4, Checkeye 3-7, Allee 1-2, Geoghegan 1-1, Kellams 0-2, Baughman 1-1, Mitchell 2-2).

Rebounds: New Palestine 31 (Fralee 5, Carnes 4, Collier 4), Greenwood 30 (Edds 9, Geoghegan 5, Allee 5). **Fouls:** New Palestine 13, Greenwood 13.

Reserve score: Greenwood 40, New Palestine 30.

Mohawks 66

Braves 65

INDIAN CREEK — Kyle Ray 10-15 7-7 29, Ryan Denton 6-7 2-3 14, Mark Dunn 4-10 2-3 10, T.J. Saint 2-3 0-0 5, Logan Scott 1-3 2-2 4, Zach Tharpe 0-1 2-2 2, Brad Strope 0-1 1-2 1, Zach

Pointexter 0-0 0-0 0, Kyle Bradley 0-0 0-0 0, Brett Brunson 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 23-40 16-19 65.

WALDRON — Cody Hurst 5-8 11-13 21,

George Miller 5-10 4-8 16, Ty Perry 4-11 5-6

14, Josh Kelsay 2-4 2-2 6, Peter Nieman 1-2

2-4, Derek Gahimer 1-4 1-3 3, John Nieman

1-2 0-2, Brandon Larrison 0-1 0-0 0, Evan

Wallace 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals:** 19-42 25-34 66.

INDIAN CREEK (5-15) 8 20 15 22 — 65

WALDRON (7-12) 7 19 21 19 — 66

Three-point shooting: Indian Creek 3-9

(Ray 2-4, Saint 1-2, Dunn 0-1, Scott 0-1,

Tharpe 0-1), Waldron 3-9 (Miller 2-3, Perry 1-5,

Gahimer 0-1).

Rebounds: Indian Creek 19 (Denton 6, Saint 4), Waldron 28 (Hurst 14, Perry 4).

Fouls: Indian Creek 23 (Scott fouled out), Waldron 16 (none fouled out). **Technical fouls:** Scott, Indian Creek.

Reserve score: Indian Creek 37, Waldron 34.

Hornets 51

Warriors 41

BEECH GROVE — David Sanders 2-4 2-2

7, Kellen Brown 0-0 0-0 0, JD McClary 0-0 0-0 0, Chad Barkdull 5-12 0-1 10, Jordan Storey

1-2 0-0 2, John Hart 4-6 2-2 11, James

Gibson 4-6 1-2 9, Curtis Clem 2-2 3-4 7, Ben

Walters 0-4 3-5 3, Austin Eagan 1-3 0-0 2. 2.

Totals: 19-39 11-16 51.

WHITELAND — Nick Smither 0-5 0-0 0,

Marcus Hanger 8-18 3-3 21, Adam Money 2-8

2-2 6, Donovan Drake 0-0 0-0 0, Bret Moore 0-

1 0-0 0, Billy Patrick 0-0 0-0 0, Cam Richards

1-1 0-0 2, John Worley 3-8 0-0 6, Joey Shipp

0-1 0-0 0, Seth Tichenor 1-1 2-2 4, Reid

Meador 1-1 0-0 2. **Totals:** 16-46 7-7 41.

WHITELAND (7-14) 4 10 14 13 — 41

BEECH GROVE (9-10) 10 10 19 12 — 51

Three-point shooting: Beech Grove 2-5

(Sanders 1-1, Barkdull 0-1, Storey 0-1, Hart

1-1, Walters 0-1), Whiteland 3-15 (Smither 0-1,