

FRANKLIN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Grizzlies bounce back

FC women snap two-game skid with close victory

By RUSS HUGHES
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Franklin College women's basketball team was in the unfamiliar position Saturday of trying to break a two-game losing streak.

The Grizzlies, perennial conference leaders and NCAA tournament participants, needed to beat Anderson to improve on their 3-3 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference record and stay close to the conference leaders.

Although it was a struggle, the Grizzlies got it done with a 69-56 win against the Ravens. The win moved the Grizzlies to 4-3 in the HCAC and dropped Anderson to 5-2.

Franklin coach Kim Eiler was pleased with her team's resiliency after losses to Manchester and Transylvania.

"I wasn't really concerned," Eiler said. "Our last loss (to Transylvania) wouldn't have happened without their last-second 3-pointer. I thought we played well; we just needed to learn to finish. We did that (Saturday)."

Both teams started slowly, and Franklin held a 12-7 lead after 10 minutes of play. Freshman center Heather Harper came off the bench to contribute 7 points during that time.

In the final 8:45 of the half, only one Franklin player scored. Fortunately for the Grizzlies, the player was junior forward Kelly Snider, who scorched the Ravens for 16 points.

Eiler wasn't surprised by Snider's performance, which included two key 3-pointers.

"Anderson knows Kelly is a great player; they recruited her," Eiler said. "In the last month,



HARPER



SNIDER

she's been playing some of her best basketball. I'm happy for her and for us that she was so successful today."

Franklin went to the locker room with a 32-24 lead.

In second half, a couple of runs brought Anderson to within one, but each time, Franklin was able to fend off the Ravens.

"We've talked about responding when teams come back on us," Eiler said.

"We always think that we're going to continue scoring, and the other team won't get their points. But of course the other teams are going to score at some point, and we have talked about being mentally tough."

Anderson found a way to stop Snider in the second half, playing strong perimeter defense to limit her touches. However, the strong defense up top left room for Harper to reassert herself. Harper came off the bench to score 12 points in the post.

"She did a nice job as a freshman," Eiler said. "They swarmed her pretty well, and she stepped up really well for us. She does a nice

"We always think that we're going to continue scoring, and the other team won't get their points. But of course the other teams are going to score."

Kim Eiler

Franklin College women's basketball coach on her team being able to keep a lead during games

job of coming off the bench and giving us a lift. She likes to play with her back to the basket, and she's a good post player."

With 4:20 remaining in the game, Anderson trailed only 53-50. But Franklin jumped to a 59-50 lead with a 3-pointer by sophomore guard Courtney Swain and a basket and a free throw by Harper. The game ended with a parade of Grizzlies to the free throw line, as the Ravens tried to fight their way back.

"The key ... was that we were very physical," Eiler said. "We matched their aggressiveness, and if we did that all of the time we'd do well."

Harper finished the game with 19 points and seven rebounds, while Snider contributed 18 points and seven rebounds. Swain scored 17 points, and senior center Katie Douglas collected 9 rebounds.

Senior point guard Brittany Beehler made three steals, dished out five assists and grabbed six rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Franklin hosts Defiance College on Wednesday.

FC men get much-needed conference win against Ravens

Special to the Daily Journal

ANDERSON

The Franklin College men's basketball team bounced back from a heartbreaking loss against Transylvania with a 79-74 win Saturday at Anderson.

Franklin improved to 4-3 in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and 8-7 overall, while Anderson fell to 8-8 and 1-6 in the conference.

The Grizzlies took a big lead into halftime as Franklin led 37-22 at the break.

The Ravens threatened to upend Franklin with



TUDOR



YOUNG

a little more than five minutes left. Anderson went on a 17-7 run, rallying from a 14-point deficit to pull within four at 65-61.

But the Grizzlies halted the rally by hitting six of eight free throws down the stretch to seal the game. Franklin was 18 of 23 from the free-throw line for the game.

Franklin had four players scoring points in double digits. Senior guard Luke Tudor led the way with 19 points. Junior forward Marty Young tallied 14, sophomore forward Jared Catron scored 16, and sophomore forward John Yochum added 11.

The Ravens were led by freshman guard Ryan Fultz who scored 16 points. Senior guard Nick Cochran added 15, and senior guard Vynsynt Vann scored 13.

Tough mind-set helps athletes perform better

It is only fair to be able to redeem myself after reading Janet Hommel Mangas' column. When she asked me what I do about writer's block when we were hanging out, I really did look at her like I had no clue what she was talking about.



Brad Vest

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

Once she explained, I laughed at myself and took my usual attitude of being too good for that. Although every time I try to write I end up with writer's block, I think my answer to Mangas was just my mentality.

Everyone is different, but swimmers are much different than anyone else. Although it may not be true for all swimmers, I tend to feel that a swimmer goes into a race with a certain attitude.

When I stand behind the block preparing for a race, I think about swimming fast and winning. It does not matter if it is my worst stroke or if I am swimming against the top swimmer in the state, I want to win.

Although winning is not always the outcome, especially for me, I have found that confidence is the first step to winning. It is not being arrogant and cocky but having confidence in one's abilities. It might not even be outwardly acknowledged by some swimmers, but it is the mind-set that counts.

This was a tough task for the team this past week. The team swam against Edgewood on Tuesday night. It just happened to be my 18th birthday, and I went a lifetime best in the 100 freestyle. Along with my lifetime best was a collection of other fast times from the rest of the team. It was a great meet for the team, and it carried over to Thursday night.

We swam against Center Grove on Thursday night. Swimming against Center Grove is always a fun meet, and senior night added even more excitement into the evening. Although the Trojans dominated the meet, they forced us to race, which helped us swim even faster.

Although we knew before the meet that we would not win it, we took it race by race with confidence in our abilities.

This is ultimately the mind-set that I have gained from swimming. It has carried over into other aspects of my life, such as when Mangas asked me about writer's block.

Although the truth comes out, and I let it be known that writer's block is normal for me too, the team and I will take confidence in ourselves and our abilities as we prepare for the sectional.

Brad Vest is a senior on the Indian Creek boys swimming team. His Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

• Trojans

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

We've got senior leadership, and that's all you can ask for."

There is no shortage of senior leadership as four of the Trojans' five starters are upperclassmen. Junior Corey Gray is the only non-senior in the starting quintet.

And while leadership is a prevalent trait with the Trojans' starters, scoring balance has become their key to success.

Three Trojans average in double figures (Kitchel, Bowman and Gray) and senior Louis Kamo chips in nine points a contest.

Kitchel leads the group averaging 18 points a game, but on Saturday it was Bowman and Gray who carried the scoring load in the team's championship victory. Bowman scored a career-high 25 points on 10-of-12 shooting, and Gray added 19 points.

"It's all five guys out there ... We have a nice deep chemistry that we work at constantly," Hawkins said.

"That's what's special about this team. It's going to be somebody every night, somebody different. We're so willing to think about winning versus ourselves. It's the 'we' before 'me' being demonstrated consistently."

Center Grove has won eight games in a row, its longest winning streak in more than a decade. In the Trojans' nine wins this season, their average margin of victory is 18.4 points. On four occasions Center Grove has won by 20 points or more, including a 42-point win against county rival Greenwood.

Center Grove's travails haven't come without drama, though. On Jan. 5, the Trojans needed a last-second steal and layup by Kitchel to defeat Metropolitan Inter-scholastic foe Carmel 63-61.

Saturday night's championship game against Franklin was a tight affair until an 11-0 Trojan run midway through the fourth quarter put the game out of reach.

It was Center Grove's second straight victory against Franklin in the county championship game. The Trojans beat the Grizzly Cubs 67-64 in last year's final. For Hawkins, it's just another win in an attempt to put his stamp on the Trojans' program.

"We want to build a tradition and you can't build a tradition



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE SABA

Franklin senior Jordan King, left, goes up for a shot while Center Grove Junior Corey Gray goes for the block during the Johnson County Tournament championship game Saturday at Edinburgh.

unless you've done something more than once," Hawkins said. "That's two in a row now."

The road for Center Grove only gets tougher as they enter the meat of the MIC schedule.

Of Center Grove's final 10 regular season opponents, only two have losing records (Ben Davis and Decatur Central).

And the Trojans players know their work is far from finished.

"I'm really happy how we started out, but we have to finish off the season well," Kamo said.

In tournament consolation play Saturday, Greenwood defeated Edinburgh in the fifth-place game and Whiteland overcame Indian Creek to capture third place.

DIXIE CHOPPER

The World's Fastest Lawn Mower
Call Now To Schedule A Spring Tune-up!

Indiana Top Gun Dealer
Factory Outlet
All mowers in stock

The dealer that has owned, operated, and maintained Dixie Choppers and our own lawn care business for 20 years.

Not only your BEST DEAL, but a dealer who KNOWS and CARES.

Complete Service Dept.



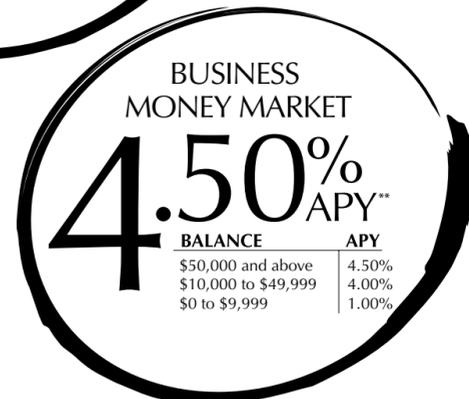
0 Payments, 0 interest
for 6 months (W.A.C.)
Certain credit restrictions apply

WWW.DIXIECHOPPER.COM

PRICE'S Dixie Chopper

1090 Yandes St.
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-0618
or 736-6091

Great rates can make
your New Year brighter.



Take advantage of our everyday great rates
for yourself or for your business.
Make your New Year great at home or at work.

53 Fifth Third Bank

WALK IN any of our 1,100 locations
CALL 1-877-579-5353 | VISIT www.53.com

Returned checks and overdraft fees apply to all accounts with check access. Offers apply to accounts opened with funds not already on deposit with Fifth Third. Rates may change after account is opened. Fifth Third reserves the right to refuse any deposit. Fifth Third and Fifth Third Bank are registered service marks of Fifth Third Bancorp. Member FDIC. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) accurate as of 01/04/07. *\$50 Minimum deposit required to open an account. Fees may reduce earnings. \$25 fee if account is closed within 6 months of opening. **Account available upon qualification. Closed accounts will be charged a \$50 fee.