

Jennings wins Palco tourney

The Jennings Coyotes conquered Eastern Heights, Natoma and Palco to be the tournament champions of the Palco Basketball Tournament from Dec. 8-12.

The Coyotes went up against Eastern Heights first, demolishing the Mustangs 73-33.

Adam Miller led scoring for Jennings with 8 two-pointers for 16 points. He was followed by Grant Bailey with 14 points; Marcus McKenna, 11; Nick Wahlmeier, 10; Adam Wahlmeier, 8; Brett McKenna, 6; Brian Miller, 4; and Seth Ritter and Josh Vahling, 2 apiece.

Rebounding honors went to A. Miller with 7 and B. McKenna with 5. The team grabbed a total of 33 rebounds.

Bailey and M. McKenna were on top of steals as they both snagged 5.

Leading the team's assists was Bailey, who found 8 teammates open to score.

Next in the tournament, Jennings outplayed Natoma 78-32.

A. Miller and Bailey were the top dogs in scorings with Miller making 9 two-pointers and 1 foul shot for 19 points, and Bailey making 5 two-pointers, 1 three-pointer and 5 free throws for 18 points.

They were followed by A. Wahlmeier with 10 points; B. McKenna, 9; Ritter, 6; B. Miller and Kyle Kinser, 4 each; and M. McKenna, N. Wahlmeier, Andy Coiner, and Justin Meitl, 2 apiece.

Rebounding honors went to B. McKenna with 6. Bailey led steals with 4 and assists with 8.

In the championship game, the Coyotes edged Palco 56-51.

A. Miller led scoring with 7 two-pointers and 4 foul shots for 18 points. He was followed by Bailey, 13 points; A. Wahlmeier, 11; N. Wahlmeier, 6; Kinser, 4; M. McKenna and B. McKenna, 2 apiece.

B. McKenna led rebounds with 9, while Bailey led steals with 4. B. McKenna found 5 teammates open for a basket.

Jennings 73, E. Heights 33 Jennings (73)

Adam Miller 8 0 2-0 16, Grant Bailey 4 1 3-3 14, Marcus McKenna 208-711; Nick Wahlmeier 304-410, Adam Wahlmeier 0 2 2-2 8, Brett McKenna 30 1-0-6, Brian Miller 00 4-4 4, Seth Ritter 1 0 0-0 2, Josh Vahling 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 22 3 26-20 73.

Eastern Heights (33)

Totals 13 1 8-4 33.

Jennings 78, Natoma 32 Jennings (78)

Adam Miller 9 0 1-1 19, Grant Bailey 5 1 6-5 18, Adam Wahlmeier 3 12-1 10, Brett McKenna 304-39, Seth Ritter 0 14-3 6, Brian Miller 200-04, Kyle Kinser 2 0 1-0 4, Marcus McKenna 100-02, Nick Wahlmeier 00 2-2 2, Andy Coiner 1 00-02, Justin Meitl 1 00-02. Totals 27 3 20-15 78.

Natoma (32)

Totals 10 1 25-9 32

Jennings 56, Palco 51 Jennings (56)

Adam Miller 7 0 8-4 18, Grant Bailey 407-5 13, Adam Wahlmeier 1 2 4-3 11, Nick Wahlmeier 1 0 6-4 6, Kyle Kinser 2 0 0-0 4, Marcus McKenna 1 00-0 2, Brett McKenna 10 0-0 2. Totals 17 2 25-16 56.

Palco (51)

Totals 16 3 18-10 51.



Senior Garth Gebhard (No. 11) stretched for the ball in the game against Smith Center. Also looking on for Northern Valley are (from left) Clarke Nelson, Jesse

Hilburn and Cole Kinderknecht. The game was played Tuesday night in Almena.

— Telegram photos by Susie Marble

Northern Valley boys lose to Smith Center

The Northern Valley Huskies were outscored 68-45 by Smith Center on Dec. 16.

"Smith Center caused us fits with their pressure man to man defense," said Coach Jason Dibble. "Some of the time they made good jumps on the ball and sometimes, especially in the first half, we didn't come to the ball and force them to foul us.

"We struggled getting from our offensive entries into the offense and it was almost too late by the end of the second quarter to be in much of a position to win the game. Smith Center outscored us 23-6 in the second quarter and broke the game open by hitting five threes in that quarter. We stayed out of foul trouble, but we were getting a little gassed and I decided to stay in our zone defense, for better or worse.

"At half-time, we made some adjustments to simplify getting into our offense and as a credit to Coach Fessenden we came out and played a lot more controlled and were able to knock down some shots that we weren't getting in the first half. We also played fairly good man defense down the stretch even though we started to get into some late foul trouble.

"If you take away the second quarter, it was a five point game, so I feel good about that as well as the fact that we only had the one single digit quarter on offense.

"Our two-point field goal percentage increased to over 40 for the first time and we shot a high percent at the free throw line, so all in all I think we, as a team, are starting to figure out what we need to do to be successful and now just need to put it all together for four

quarters."

Avery Thalheim led scoring with 4 two-pointers, 1 three-pointer and 3 free throws for 14 points. He was followed by Thomas Ostmeyer, 10 points; Joey Copper, 8; Jesse Hilburn and Garth Gebhard, 5 apiece; and Cole Kinderknecht, 3.

Rebounding honors went to Copper and Ostmeyer with 6 apiece.

Hilburn led assists with 7, while Ostmeyer led blocks with 3.

The junior varsity lost 50-20.

"We struggled a lot in the first quarter adjusting to the size advantage they had on us," said Coach Chuck Fessenden. "They had about four players who were 6'2" or taller. We also had some sickness we were dealing with.

"Both teams agreed to play three eight-minute quarters instead of

the normal four six-minute quarters and after only scoring one point in the first quarter we settled down on offense.

"They pressured us a lot to cause some turnovers, but we were able to score around 10 points in each of the last two quarters to give the kids some confidence. We are still struggling with the offense, but we did start to play a lot harder defensively in this game."

Clarke Nelson and Andrew Sheley led scoring with 7 points apiece, followed by Kinderknecht with 4 points and Cody Lowry with 2.

Chase Miller led rebounds with 4, while Nelson led steals with 3.

The Northern Valley Huskies will host Bertrand tonight in their final game before Christmas break. Play is set to begin at 4 p.m.

Wrestlers head for Goodland

Norton Community High School's varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete Saturday in the Holiday Classic Dual Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

Competing in the varsity Pool A will be teams from Chapman, Goodland, Hill City, Norton, Ulysses. In Pool B will be teams from Burlington, Holton, Hoxie, Leoti and Scott City.

Norton's first dual will be at 10:30 a.m. Central Time versus

Hill City. The Blue Jays will wrestle Goodland at 12 noon and Ulysses at 2 p.m. Norton's final pool dual will be at 3:30 p.m. versus Chapman.

The championship finals will be at 5:30 p.m. Each team will wrestle the team in the other pool which finished in the same position, first against first, second against second, etc.

The junior varsity teams will wrestle a round robin in the Junior High Gym.



Northern Valley junior Lindsey Graham (No. 35) and senior Regan Fessenden watch as the Smith Center girls bring the ball down court on Tuesday night in Almena.

Lady Huskies fall to Smith Center

The Northern Valley girls basketball team was defeated 57-24 by Smith Center on Dec. 16.

"Smith Center is an outstanding team; they put a lot of pressure on our ball handling ability," said Coach Bill Johnson. "I was pleased with the way we handled the press and felt that the girls continued to work hard throughout the entire game.

"We still need to reduce turnovers and box-off better on the

defensive boards."

Jena Jessup led scoring with 2 three-pointers and 1 free throw for 7 points, followed by Lindsey Graham, 6 points; Regan Fessenden, 5 points; Lindsey Jessup, 4 points; and Alasia Eagleburger, 2 points. Northern Valley made 28 percent of their field goals.

Rebounding honors went to Eagleburger with 8 and Graham with 7. The Lady Huskies captured

30 rebounds.

As a team, Northern Valley made 3 steals and 3 assists. They had 30 turnovers.

The junior varsity lost 29-27. Graham led scoring with 14 points, followed by J. Jessup with 7 points and Jessie Redeker with 4 points.

The Lady Huskies will host Bertrand tonight for their final game before the Christmas break. Play is set to begin at 4 p.m.

Logan loses three at Phillipsburg

The Logan boys basketball team was 0-3 at the Phillipsburg Round Robin. They were defeated 73-39 by Plainville, 65-34 by Stockton, and 73-56 by Phillipsburg.

The Trojans played Stockton on Dec. 9. They trailed in every quarter: 21-4, 23-10, 51-22, 65-34.

Bryant Reese and Tyson Triplett led scoring for Logan. Reese made 1 two-pointer, 2 three-pointers and 2 foul shots for 10 points, while Triplett made 5 two-pointers for 10 points. They were followed by Taylor Archer, Troy Babcock and Zach Sammons, 4 points each; and Kyle McClurg, 2 points.

Rebounding honors went to Triplett with 8.

Logan went up against Plainville on Dec. 12. Plainville led in every quarter: 19-8, 36-23, 50-32, 73-39.

Triplett led scoring with 14 points, followed by McClurg, 12 points; Reese, 5 points; Seth Diggs and Babcock, 3 points apiece; and Shawn Kachel, 2 points.

Rebounding honors went to Triplett with 12, and McClurg and Reese with 10 each.

The junior varsity was outscored 52-39 by Plainville.

The Trojans played Phillipsburg on Dec. 13. They trailed in every quarter: 24-9, 31-23, 50-33, 73-56.

Triplett led scoring with 26

points, followed by Reese, 8 points; McClurg, 7 points; Kachel and Diggs, 5 points apiece; Babcock, 3 points; and Lee VanLoenen, 2 points.

Rebounding honors went to Triplett with 11.

McClurg led steals with 4 and assists with 5.

The junior varsity was beaten 64-29 by Phillipsburg.

Tim McElroy led scoring with 12 points. He was also the leading rebounder with 10.

The Logan Trojans will travel to Kensington tonight for their final game before the Christmas break. Play is set to begin at 4:30 p.m.

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