

At the Game

St. Francis has exciting 55-54 victory over Idalia

*By Betty Jean Winston
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The Lady Indians split their games the week of Jan. 11 as they won a very close game with Idalia 55-54 on Tuesday and then suffered a 61-32 loss to Northwest Kansas League opponent Oakley on Friday.

Next on the calendar the Ladies will travel to Hayes Center, Neb., on Friday for the one contest scheduled this week.

St. Francis 55, Idalia 54

A great comeback effort by the Lady Indians turned a defeat into a victory Tuesday night in Idalia. St. Francis began their turn around near the end of the second quarter and continued gaining ground in the second half to bring home an exciting 55-54 victory. This was the third win in a row for the team.

"We continue to play better each game and this was again the result of another great Team effort!" Coach Larry Flemming said.

"Idalia has a very good team and gave us a big challenge and we were able to answer that challenge by playing good team defense and making free throws!"

The challenge did not end until the last minute of the game. The fourth quarter saw the teams trade the lead. Even when Saintry was ahead by one point in the final seconds, Idalia had one more attempt, which fortunately for the Lady Indians, didn't succeed, giving Saintry the victory.

Two players, Kaitlin Figgins and Christina Hilt, hit in double-figures in this contest. Figgins hit 44 percent from the field making eight shots out of 18 attempts plus adding one free throw for a total of 17 points. Hilt's scoring

was helped by good free-throw shooting as she made 7-of-8 for 88 percent. To that she added six points from the field for 13 points.

Seven other players helped with the combined score. Nineteen of the team's points came from the free-throw line, where they hit 58 percent. Besides C. Hilt's seven points at the line, Sarah Trembly was 5-of-6.

Scoring is not the only thing needed in a game though. Saintry collected 40 rebounds, which was important and added 10 steals and 10 assists to round out the action.

As far as the rebounding was concerned, 24 of the 40 were defensive and 16 of them offense, allowing for put-backs. Figgins accounted for 17 boards with 11 of them defensive. As with the scoring, eight other players were also battling for the ball.

"We will continue to work hard in practice on team concepts and that will help us to compete in future games!!!" Coach Flemming said.

SF	9	17	13	16	55
I	15	20	10	9	54

Scoring: Figgins 17, C. Hilt 13, Jodie Hilt 7, Trembly 5, Shayla Hilt 5, Mikaela Grace 3, Jalyn McCauley 2, Jenna Hill 2, Aly Marin 1.

Rebounding: Figgins 17, McCauley 5, Grace 3, J. Hilt 3, Hill 3, C. Hilt 3, Marin 3, Trembly 2, S. Hilt 1.

Oakley 61, St. Francis 32

The Lady Plainsmen's solid defense kept St. Francis scoreless most of the first period while their offense poured 20 points through the hoop. The period saw Oakley's best scoring frame of the game at the same time St. Francis had their



smallest output.

By half time the Saintry Ladies were down 33-13. Turnovers also played a part in the game as the Lady Indians had 28 of them compared to six steals.

With a 23-percent success from the field, St. Francis hit 10 of 44 attempts. They also attempted four three-pointers, none of which were successful.

The best area was at the free-throw line where they accounted for 12 of their 32 points. McCauley led the way at the line with an 8-of-8 evening. Also being 100 percent was Figgins with 2-of-2. Grace and C. Hilt each added a point at the line for the total of 12. S. Hilt had the best field goal percentage with 4-of-8.

Figgins pulled down seven boards with Grace adding six out of a total of 26. Only eight of them were offensive rebounds, so the Lady Indians did not have the opportunity for many second shots.

SF	4	9	11	8	32
O	20	13	12	16	61

Scoring: S. Hilt 8, McCauley 8, Figgins 6, C. Hilt 5, J. Hilt 4, Grace 1.

Rebounding: Figgins 7, Grace 6, McCauley 4, Trembly 4, C. Hilt 3, S. Hilt 1, Marin 1.



LADY INDIAN Kaitlin Figgins is attempting to block opponents from moving down the court in recent home action. Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

Varsity boys lose two ball games

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The Indians' record fell to 6-4 following the 69-36 loss to Oakley Friday night. Earlier in the week, they had also had a low-scoring game against the Wolves at Idalia. They were defeated 48-24 in this game.

Saintry has only one contest this week, a Friday night trip to Nebraska to play Hayes Center.

Idalia 48, St. Francis 24

"We got blind sided Tuesday night by a very good defensive team in Idalia," Coach Jeff Beims said. "During the game I remember thinking they play defense the way I want us to play defense: A kind of in your face, pressure style that we struggled to score against."

St. Francis could not get started offensively due to the pressure put on by the Idalia defense and ended the first quarter with only four points. Things did improve in the second period with 15 points but after half time Saintry just could not compete in the scoring department having only two points in the third period and four in the final frame. The Indians finished with a low score of 25 points.

"Even though we only traveled a few miles west, it may as well have been a different planet," Coach Beims said. "Colorado plays a much more physical game than we do. Personally I kind of like that type of basketball, but we weren't prepared for it. It stunned us early on and we never really recovered."

Offensively Saintry had four

players, Garrett Figgins, Matt Raile, Trent Raile and Isaac Schiltz, account for the total St. Francis score. Even at the free-throw line, the percentage was much lower than usual. Saintry was 11-of-28 from two-point range, 1-of-7 from beyond the arc and 2-of-6 from the line. Twenty-eight attempts is low for St. Francis.

Rebounds totaled 30 with 19 of them defensive. M. Raile had 12 for the evening.

Turnovers hindered the offense as the team collected a total of 24, the same number as points scored.

"We can take some valuable lessons from this game, and hopefully apply them later in the season," Coach Beims said.

S	4	15	2	4	25
I	17	14	11	6	48

Scoring: Figgins 8, M. Raile 8, T. Raile 6, Schiltz 3.

Rebounding: M. Raile 12, T. Raile 6, Figgins 5, Cody Killingsworth 3, Tyler Lauer 3, Schiltz 1.

Oakley 69, St. Francis 36

The Indians had another slow start in the game with Oakley on Friday night and never did recover to challenge the Plainsmen.

Due to two good scoring quarters by the Plainsmen, Oakley had a 41-13 advantage by half time.

"I don't know who that was in the green jerseys in Oakley Friday night, but they weren't the team I've been watching all year," Coach Beims said. "We got devastated on the boards



PLAYING DEFENSE – Matt Raile (left to right) Brett Lampe (21) Garrett Figgins and Trent Raile (33) are alert to preventing a possible opening for their opponent to break to the basket for a score. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

against Oakley, we just seemed to quit defending altogether, and all that may have been the result of our inability to hit a shot early.

"Oakley was simply on fire for the first 16 minutes of the ball game, and we found ourselves in a significant hole midway through the first quarter."

The Indians scoring did improve in the second half but not enough to overcome the Oakley lead.

"I'm disappointed that we don't respond better to those situations," Coach Beims said. "Instead of pulling ourselves off the deck, determined to play

respectably, there is an almost visible foreboding that begins, with a slight slumping of the shoulders, and culminates in an acceptance of the inevitable blowout."

T. Raile led the scoring in this contest with 13 points. He had one three-point shot, three other field goals and was a perfect 4-of-4 from the free-throw line. M. Raile was also in double figures with 10 points from three field goals, one three-pointer and one free throw.

Saintry was 12-of-29 from the field and 9-of-14 from the line.

Oakley dominated the boards as Saintry had its lowest amount

of rebounds for the season. Ten boards were accounted for with M. Raile having five of them. Figgins led in assists with four out of a total of eight.

"I know our guys are better competitors than that, but I've yet to actually see it," Coach Beims said.

S	6	7	13	10	36
O	21	20	16	12	69

Scoring: T. Raile 13, M. Raile 10, Schiltz 7, Figgins 2, Lauer 2, Brooks Hobrock 2.

Rebounding: M. Raile 5, Schiltz 2, Figgins 1, Brett Lampe 1, T. Raile 1.

Ladies compete

On Tuesday night, Jan. 12, in Idalia, the junior varsity girls were defeated by the score of 23-14.

"We started the game like we hadn't played a game in a month," Coach Susan Dinkel said. "By the end of the game, we were finally starting to play better basketball, but it just came too late in the game to get a victory."

"Hopefully, now that we finally have played a game again, we will continue to improve and play a higher quality of basketball at the beginning of the game, not just the end. Four players contributed to the 13 point total for the Ladies including Laura Brunk 5, Clarice Neitzel 4, Krissy Harris 3 and Aly Northrup 2.

vs. Oakley

Oakley defeated St. Francis by the score of 53-15.

"We started out pretty slow," Coach Dinkel said. "Unfortunately, we only took five shots in the first half, and they shot 41. When you do that, you aren't going to score a lot of points. That puts you at a huge disadvantage."

"On the plus side, we don't give up when we are behind. We played a much better second half."

Scoring: Neitzel 5, Northrup 4, Brunk 4, Jacquelyn Ketner 2.

–Bowling News–

Monday Night Mixed 1-11

Team standings: Neitzel Insurance 4-0, ABC-Z 3-1, Earl's Gals 1-3, Gutter Heads 0-4.

High game (scratch): Kale Zimbelman 258, Eddie Zuege 184, Earl Hankins 180, Tammy Zimbelman 169, Dorothy Hankins 150, Janice Krien 147; (handicap): K. Zimbelman 266, E. Hankins 230, Josh Sullivan 222, Shauna Jones 219, D. Hankins 215, Vicki Cox 147.

High series: (scratch): K. Zimbelman 666, E. Zuege 485, T. Zimbelman 470, Arrie Cox 461, Amelia Zuege 399, Krien 387; (handicap): K. Zimbelman 690, Sullivan 616, A. Cox 602, Jones 594, T. Zimbelman 575, A. Zuege 561.

Junior high girls play Goodland in opener

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The junior high girls began their basketball season on Thursday when they traveled to Colby. Both teams, the A-team and the B-team, suffering a loss, although the B-team was defeated by only four points, 29-25. The A-team game ended Colby 32, St. Francis 17.

The home opener will be at 4

p.m. this afternoon (Thursday) in the high school gym. Hoxie will be the opponent.

"These young ladies worked hard and competed hard," Coach Ted Busse said. "We will continue to work and get better."

The A-team had trouble finding the basket the first minutes of the game but by the time the second quarter began

they were ready to score. It was a team effort with no player in double figures.

S	0	8	6	3	17
C	10	2	8	12	32

McKayla Taylor 7, Kyla Bandel 4, Aly Schleppe 2, Justice Wiley and Valerie Wurm 2.

B-team

Scoring came easier in the B-team game, although Saintry still had a non-scoring first

quarter. The Lady Indians made all of their points in the final three quarters and still nearly captured the win.

Wiley had 11 points in this contest.

S	0	6	10	9	25
C	11	6	8	4	29

Wiley 11, Taylor 8, Bandel 4, Ashlee Orth 2.

