

# At the Game

## Substate boys basketball set here for Tuesday

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The St. Francis Indians and Lady Indians have been placed in the 2A WaKeeney-Trego Community substate basketball tournament along with teams from Rawlins County/Atwood, Ellis, Hill City, LaCrosse, Oakley and Decatur Community. Games will be played the week of March 1.

Action in this eight-team tournament will determine which team will travel to the

state tournament the following week. This is a single-elimination tournament with only the first place team advancing to state where they will meet the winners from other 2A substates.

Other tournament games are taking place in Bennington, Blue Rapids/Valley Heights; Herington, Lebo, Leoti, Oswego and Oxford.

The first round of the tournament is played at the sites of the four highest seeds with the following contests to be played in

WaKeeney.

The official seeding of the teams did not take place until Wednesday which is past the *Herald* deadline for this week but the coaches anticipated who the teams would play even though there were games to be played early this week.

### Lady Indians

The opening round of the tournament for the Lady Indians will be on Monday, March 1, with the semifinals on Thursday and the finals on Saturday.

Coach Larry Flemming is anticipating St. Francis will travel to Hill City or Oakley to take on the Lady Railroaders or Lady Plainsmen. Hill City has an 18-1 record and Oakley a 15-2 record as of Monday.

"We hope to be healed from injury and illness as we do have this week idle," Coach Flemming said. "We will need to be at the top of our game to compete with either of these teams. We are looking forward to the challenge."

### Indians

Because St. Francis is one of the top four boys teams in this substate, they will be hosting a game in St. Francis on Tuesday night. Game time will be 7 p.m. at the high school.

"It looks as though we will host LaCrosse in the first round of substate," Coach Jeff Beims said. "The seedings will most likely be as follows: 1. Hill City (17-2) 2. Ellis (14-6) 3. Oakley (13-6) 4. St. Francis (11-8) 5. LaCrosse (8-11)

6. Rawlins County/Atwood (7-12) 7. Trego County 6-14 8. Decatur Community/Oberlin (1-18).

Trego County (WaKeeney) plays host to the final rounds of the tournament, the coach said.

The Indians have been working hard to be seeded high enough to host a first-round game.

The boys semi-final game takes place on Friday night with the championship game on Saturday night.

## Indians outscore Cheylin

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The regular season ended at home with Quinter taking the final game by a huge 88-28 win over the Indians. Earlier in the week, St. Francis defeated Cheylin 58-52 in overtime.

Four Indian players, Erick Estrada, Matt Raile, Trent Raile and Drew Zwegardt, are seniors, who will end their career following post-season action.

The Indians will be playing a home game on Tuesday night. See related story.

### St. Francis vs Cheylin

All the excitement of an overtime game happened Tuesday night in the Cheylin/St. Francis game. After St. Francis had leads of 11-6, 24-22, 38-30 at the end of the first three quarters, the Indians found themselves in a tie situation when the Cougars outscored them in the fourth quarter and forced the game into overtime. St. Francis came back in the extra period and took the 58-52 victory.

"We won one that we didn't deserve to win Tuesday night," Cheylin outplayed us for 34 minutes," Coach Beims said. "We scored 14 points in the last 2:13 of overtime to steal a victory. It was as if we collectively decided, 'Gee there's 2 minutes left in overtime...guess we better start playing basketball.'"

Trent Raile had 20 points in this

contest and Matt Raile 17. Trent hit seven field goals and then added 6-of-7 free-throw attempts. Matt had four two pointers, two three pointers and hit 3-of-4 free throws.

Cheylin also had two players in double figures. Caleb Keltz scored 21 points and Chris Walden 12.

"I'm constantly talking to our guys about 'court sense,'" Coach Beims said. "Understanding what is happening in the game, what your opponent is trying to get you to do, and what they are trying to do, and then beat them to the punch. A smart player over the long haul will beat an athletic one more times than not."

Other stats saw the Indians have 38 rebounds compared to 27 for Cheylin. T. Raile had 14 while M. Raile had 11.

The Indians had 12 assists and 13 steals. M. Raile had six blocks in the contest.

"There are stretches in games where we just don't play very smart," said Coach Beims. "I thought the best play of the game happened in the locker room. Matt Raile had blood on his jersey so Drew Zwegardt sacrificed his ability to reenter the game by switching jerseys with Matt so he could finish. That was pretty quick thinking and certainly epitomizes 'taking one for the team.'"

SF	11	13	14	6	14	58
C	6	16	8	14	8	52

Scoring: T. Raile 20, M. Raile 17, Garrett Figgins 6, Isaac Schiltz 5, Zwegardt 4, Brett Lampe 4, Tyler Lauer 2.

Rebounding: T. Raile 14, M. Raile 11, Lampe 7, Schiltz 3, Figgins 1, Lauer 1, Dylan Peter 1.

### St. Francis vs Quinter

The Bulldogs brought their undefeated record to St. Francis on Friday night and they played like they wanted the undefeated record to continue until the season was finished. They are ranked number one in 1A.

"Quinter is a good team, but I don't think they are 60 points better than us," Coach Beims said. "Friday night was like some sort of dream sequence where your house is on fire and you're standing there with a glass of water. All you can do is watch it burn, so you might as well drink the water."

St. Francis played the game without the help of Trent Raile, who was ill.

Sainty had quarter scores of 3, 9, 6 and 10 compared to Quinter's 25, 27, 25 and 11. The final period had a running clock.

"We turned the ball over the first five times we had it, and Quinter converted each of those into points," Coach Beims said. "We were down 14 before we even had a shot. Granted we were a little short handed, but that's no excuse."



TRENT RAILE (23), Brett Lampe (21) and Garrett Figgins (12) are getting in position to receive the ball from an Indian throw in from out of bounds. Herald staff photo by Betty J. Winston

Eleven players helped Quinter by adding points to the final score while St. Francis had eight player score with M. Raile leading the way with 6 points.

Sainty had 17 total rebounds and three steals compared to 30 board and 16 steals for the Bulldogs.

Seventeen rebounds were pulled down by the Indians and they had a total of three steals, one each by Zwegardt, Raile and Brooks Hobrock. M. Raile

had four assists and one blocked shot along with seven rebounds.

"We need to learn to value the ball," Coach Beims said. "We get flustered when pressured, and proceed to make bad decisions because we don't want the ball. When we did break their press we were out of sorts."

"Essentially we abandoned everything we knew we should do because we panicked. We had 28 turnovers total, most of those in the first half, and almost all

of them resulted in easy buckets for Quinter. That is 28 times we didn't get a chance to score, and 28 times they were able to get transition baskets without us ever getting our defense set up."

S	3	9	6	10	28
C	27	25	11	88	

Scoring: M. Raile 6, Schiltz 5, Peter 5, Figgins 4, Lampe 3, Cody Killingsworth 2, Lauer 2, Zwegardt 1.

Rebounding: Raile 7, Peter 4, Zwegardt 3, Lauer 2, Figgins 1,

## Fifth victory recorded

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

Playing Quinter on Friday night was the final game of the regular season for the Lady Indians. It seemed as if the Ladies were on the road a lot this year, but the last two games were at home as besides Quinter being here, Cheylin visited here on Tuesday night.

St. Francis earned their fifth win of the season against the Lady Cougars and were in the game with the Lady Bulldogs until the final buzzer. Scores for the week include St. Francis 59, Cheylin 31 and Quinter 51, St. Francis 46.

Substate begins March 1. Check related story for details.

### St. Francis vs Cheylin

Four St. Francis Ladies hit in double figures in the 59-31 win over Cheylin on Tuesday. That many players hitting 10 or more points in a game was the most of any time this season. Mikaela Grace scored 12 points by having six field goals fall through the hoop; Jodie Hilt scored 11 points by having five successful field goals and one free throw; Sarah Trembly had 10 points due to four field goals and two free throws while Shayla Hilt also scored on five field goals.

As a team, St. Francis hit 24-of-65 field-goal attempts for 37 percent and 11-of-22 free throws for 50 percent. Beyond the arc they attempted four shots with none of them hitting their mark.

"We had a better start tonight and continued to give a good team effort throughout the contest and was able to secure a victory," Coach Larry Flemming said.

St. Francis led in the scoring in each quarter. They had quarter scoring of 11, 15, 15 and 18. The



EVERYBODY WANTS THE BALL - Kaitlin Figgins (middle) and Aly Marin (next right) are the two Lady Indians in the action to advance the Lady Indians cause. Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

final quarter saw the margin of victory increase as they held the Lady Cougars to 3 points when they had their 18.

Defensively Sainty had 38 rebounds with Grace leading with nine and Figgins adding eight. Eight other players accounted for the remaining rebounds.

SF	11	15	15	18	59
C	8	10	10	3	31

Scoring: Grace 12, J. Hilt 11, Trembly 10, S. Hilt 10, Kaitlin Figgins 9, Jalyn McCauley 2, Aly Marin 2, Ally Northrup 1, Jenna Hill 1, Christina Hilt 1.

### St. Francis vs Quinter

Quinter dominated the scoring in the first half of the game, but the Lady Indians came back in the third quarter and made up a lot of the deficit by outscoring the Lady Bulldogs 15 to 5.

They also kept pace with their opponents in the final period.

It all came down to the final minutes of play after St. Francis came within two points and then tied the score at 45.

Quinter went up by four points and held on for the win. Their victory was guaranteed when they hit two free throws following a Sainty foul with just seconds remaining. The final score was Quinter 51, St. Francis 46.

Trembly had 13 points on five field goals and was a perfect 3-for-3 at the line. S. Hilt added 10 points for three field goals and was 4-of-5 at the line and Figgins had 10 points from three field goals and four points at the line.

The Ladies, as a team, were 67 percent from the line with 16-of-24 going through the hoop. Also being 100 percent was J. Hilt with 2-of-2.

Fifteen field goals connected

out of 56 attempts for a 27-percent average. Trembly had the best percentage with 5-of-10 for 50 percent.

"We had to make many adjustments in this contest due to our knack of committing fouls," Coach Flemming said. "We hope to play smarter in the future."

St. Francis had a total of 22 personal fouls, with two players leaving the game with five each.

Sainty had 11 steals, lead by Trembly with three and 26 rebounds. Figgins had the most rebounds with 12, which was close to half of the balls recovered.

S	11	11	15	9	46
Q	15	20	5	11	51

Scoring: Trembly 13, S. Hilt 10, Figgins 10, J. Hilt 8, C. Hilt 2, Marin 2, McCauley 1.

Rebounds: Figgins 12, Grace 3, Hilt 3, S. Hilt 3, J. Hilt 2, Trembly 1, C. Hilt 1, Marin 1.

## Junior varsity plays short game

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The junior varsity girls had only one game the week of Feb. 15, as there was no game with Cheylin on Feb. 16. The Ladies played Quinter at home on Friday night, ending the season with a shortened contest. The final score was Quinter 28, St. Francis 6.

Clarice Neitzel was the only Lady Indian to score in this contest, as she put the entire 6 points on the scoreboard.

"We stepped on the court not ready to play," Coach Susan Dinkel said. "I was very disappointed in our effort. This was a team that we should have been able to compete with, but just didn't."

"Hopefully, this off-season, the girls will get into the gym, shoot some hoops, and work on their dribbling.

Just continue to keep the ball in their hands to try and improve.

On Friday night, Feb. 12, St. Francis and Rawlins County competed in junior varsity action. Sainty lost to the Lady Buffs by a score of 51-35.

"We played pretty well, but just shot ourselves in our feet with our turnovers," Coach Dinkel said. "We need to relax and take care of the ball instead of hurrying all the time. We are still improving, hitting some shots, and getting some great rebounds."

Neitzel accounted for 17 points in this contest. Five other players helped compile the final total of 35 points.

Scoring: Neitzel 17, Laura Brunk 8, Aly Northrup 3, Jacquelyn Ketzner 3, Aubrey Mills 2, Krissy Harris 2.

## Team wins two contests Thursday

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The final action before the junior high girls' Northwest Kansas League tournament took place on Thursday night with Decatur Community in St. Francis. Since the season began in January, St. Francis had played each league team, Colby, Decatur Community, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Oberlin and Rawlins County.

The Sainty Ladies ended the season with each squad, the A-team and the B-team, earning a win. The A team had a 29-12 victory and the B-team won 19-14.

### A-team

"I felt we played hard and it led to a victory," Coach Ted Busse said. "We had 28 steals versus 26 turnovers and when that happens usually you put yourself in a position to win."

The final score of the game was

29-12. The coach said he was pleased with many areas of the game.

Scoring: Justice Wiley 11, Kyla Bandel 7, McKayla Taylor 6, Bailey Merklin 3, Brianna Cooks 2.

Rebounds: Aly Schlepp 10, Cooks 7, Wiley 5.

Steals: Wiley 9, Schlepp 7, Taylor 5, Bandel 3..

### B-team

In this 19-14 season-ending victory, six team members recorded either a score, a rebound or a steal in the game.

"We had trouble finding the basket in the first three quarters of this game, but finally got things going in the fourth quarter," Coach Busse said.

Scoring: Cooks 6, Aby Fernandez 4, Taylor 4, Bandel 3, Wiley 2.

Rebounds: Cooks, 5, Wiley 4. Steals: Echo Jones 5.