

# At the Game

## Youth learning ball handling

The St. Francis Recreation Commission's Little Kids basketball program started the year in November and has been practicing every Monday night. They will continue meeting through March 29.

The coaches for the program are Matt Bandel and Chris Bracelin, both past St. Francis Indian basketball players.

"The program focuses on teaching the youth the fundamentals and concepts of basketball to grades second through sixth for both boys and girls," said Mila Bandel, who helps with the program.

The program has two sessions, one for fourth, fifth and sixth graders which meet at 6 p.m. and one for second and third graders which meets at 7 p.m.

"The kids learn ball-handling drills, passing and catching drills, rebounding, shooting drills and most of all how to play as a team," said Mrs. Bandel. "Basketball is excellent exercise, and helps youth develop large motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

"Playing basketball involves knowing the rules of play, and

learning how to work as part of a team."

The kids participating in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade sessions include: Jenna Confer, Nick Paulson, Taylor Rogers, Travis Rogers, Garrett Brunk, Mandi Cooks, Madison Tice, Hanna Bracelin, Payton Beims, Reagan Beims, Matthisen Witzel, Emileigh Dinkel, Tate Busse, Jylian Laten, Alexis Frink, Danielle Frink, Quinton Cravens, Kylie Sherlock, Journey Lee, Kayla Reed, Jake Faulkender, Jude Faulkender, Luke Lampe, McKinnley Bartels, Kailey Shay, Jeremiah Neitzel, Lane Hobrock, Justin Pacheco, Jessica Pacheco, Eduardo Pacheco, Sayed Fierro, Ryan Grover, Jakob Church, and Katie Schmid,

Those attending the second and third grade session include: Karly Bandel, Cassie Cooks, Cassidy Busse, Lauren Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Jessica Confer, Cody Baxter, Brady Dinkel, Trenton Bartels, Draven Houtman, Adam Krien, Mason Schmid, KC Krien, Reid Shay, Connor Keller, Alex Queen and Seth Mills.

## Junior high team earns fourth place

After defeating Hoxie in an exciting 22-20 basketball game in the first round of the Northwest Kansas League tournament on Feb. 22, the St. Francis junior high girls B-team moved into the championship bracket of the tournament.

The second round of the tournament, which was played at Oakley, took place on Thursday.

"All in all, the girls worked hard against two pretty good teams," Coach Talley Morrow said. Coach Morrow traveled with the B-team as Coach Ted Busse was with the A-team in Goodland.

"We struggled a little on defense and keeping the opponent away from the basket, but there was never a lack of effort or good attitude," said Coach Morrow.

"Offensively, we didn't get into a pattern of running a play, but they successfully broke press after press for six straight quarters.

"The girls did what they have been taught to do and came out of their first basketball season placing fourth in the League."

St. Francis played Goodland in the first game on Thursday and

were defeated 36-18 which moved them into the game for third and fourth.

The high scorers in this game were Brianna Cooks with 6 points and Echo Jones with 4 points.

Ashley Orth had the most offensive rebounds with two and Dallas Reed had the most defensive rebounds with four. Reed had the largest total of rebounds with five. Mariah Beikman collected five steals to lead the team.

St. Francis finished in fourth place when they were defeated by Colby 33-13 in the final game of the tournament.

Brianna Cooks had 11 points out of the total of 13 for the game.

Rebounding saw Cooks with the most for the game with eight out of her total of 10 being defensive rebounds. Reed led in offensive rebounds with four.

Reed had a total of three steals for the team.

"This group of seventh grade girls made a great start to an enjoyable and successful basketball career in St. Francis," said Coach Morrow.



**JORDAN GIENGER, former St. Francis Indian, wrestles for the University of Nebraska - Kearney. The University team competed in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference tournament with Gienger wrestling in the 157-weight class.**

*Herald picture courtesy of Marla Ross*

## College sports report

Jordan Gienger and Derek Ross, members of the University of Nebraska - Kearney wrestling team competed in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference regional wrestling tournament on Feb. 27 in Alamosa, Colo.

Gienger, in the 157-pound weight class, went 1 - 2 on the day. He fell to the number-one seed and the second nationally-ranked wrestler from Adams State by a score of 6-4. He then met a wrestler from Colorado State University-Pueblo and won by a fall. The third match was against Mesa State College wrestler and he fell 12-5. Jordan started for the University of Nebraska - Kearney at 157 pounds.

Ross, at 184 pounds, reached 99 career wins at the regional tournament by placing third. Ross had falls against a Colorado State University-Pueblo and Grand Canyon University wrestlers. He then met Charlie Pipher, Western State College the number-one seed and number-one nationally-ranked wrestler in the semi finals and lost 6-2.

On the back side of the



**99 CAREER WINS - Derek Ross, who wrestled for the Sainty Indians during his high school days, reached 99 career wins at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference regional tournament in Alamosa, Colo., Feb. 27. Ross was named on the All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Third Team by placing third at the tournament.**

*Herald photo courtesy of Marla Ross*

bracket Ross won 7-4 against a Chadron State College wrestler. In the match to place third Ross wrestled the same wrestler from Grand Canyon and won 4-3 in overtime.

Ross was named on the All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Third Team.

The University of Nebraska - Kearney team qualified six wrestlers and the team placed

second in the tournament behind Western State College.

The Division II National Tournament will be held in Omaha on March 12 and 13.

## Sainty teams compete

By Betty Jean Winston  
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Several St. Francis youth formed basketball teams and competed in the Cheylin 3-on-3 tournament held in McDonald on Saturday.

Teams were divided in a combined first- and second-grade bracket, a third- and fourth-grade boys bracket and a third- and fourth-grade girls bracket; a fifth- and sixth-grade bracket for boys and one for girls and seventh- and eighth-grade girls and boys brackets.

St. Francis teams including their age bracket, team name, roster and team placements are listed below.

### First and second grade

Indians: Brady Dinkel, Seth Mills, Trenton Bartels. Placed first.

Pink Cheetahs: Karly Bandel, Cassidy Busse, Cassie Cooks, Emma Johnson. Placed second  
Jayhawks: Kobe Tice, Colton Neitzel, Shadryon Blanka, Adam Krien, Jesse Baxter. Placed third

### Third and fourth grade girls

Flying Eagles: Zoe Sundstrom, Mandi Cooks, Reagan Beims, Matthisen Witzel. Placed first.

Jayhawks: Lauren Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Jessica Confer. Placed third.



**THE CHEYLIN 3-ON-3 basketball tournament was held on Saturday at McDonald. Jude Faulkender, right, played for the Bench Warmers, who came in third in the fifth and sixth grade boys division.**

*Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider*

Lady Indians: Emileigh Dinkel, McKinnley Bartels, Madi Tice. Placed fourth

**Third and fourth grade boys**  
Warriors: KC Krien, Tate Busse, Cody Baxter, Draven Houtman. Placed first.

Taylor Swift: Jake Faulkender, Luke Lampe, Dalton Straub, Martin Beikman. Placed second.

**Fifth and sixth grade girls**  
Tigers: Sydney Sundstrom,

Kayla Reed, Emily Elfers, McKenzie Taylor, Journey Lee. Placed second.

**Fifth and sixth grade boys**  
Bench Warmers: Francisco Fernandez, Payton Beims, Jude Faulkender. Placed second.

**Sappa Valley Shootout**  
The Sappa Valley Shootout Youth 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held in Oberlin on Saturday, April 24. Boys and girls in grades

first through eighth, are eligible to participate. The tournament will be held in the Decatur Community Junior/Senior High School gym and is sponsored by Red Devil Athletics. Registration deadline is April 14.

For more information, visit the website ([www.sappavalleyshootout.com](http://www.sappavalleyshootout.com)) or contact J.D. Johnson at (785) 475-8926.

## A-team plays ball in tournament

The junior high girls basketball season came to a close the week of Feb. 22 when the teams were involved in Northwest Kansas League tournament action.

The junior high girls were divided into members of either the A-team or the B-team. A-team tournament play took place in Goodland on Tuesday and Oberlin on Thursday.

### Goodland 46, St. Francis 18

Goodland defeated St. Francis on Tuesday, moving the Lady Indians into the consolation side of the bracket for the Thursday games.

"We did not run our press breaker the last 2 minutes of the first half and the score went from 18 to 10 to 26 to

10 in a matter of a minute," Coach Ted Busse said.

"When we are focused and ready to play we are a good basketball team.

"Hopefully we will learn from this game and work on getting better."

Bailey Merklin was the high scorer with five points. Five other players also contributed to the 18 points.

Scoring: Merklin 5, McKayla Taylor 4, Karly Bandel 3, Aly Schleppe 3, Justice Wiley 2, Valerie Wurm 1.

Results of Thursday games will be available next week.

## Bowling News

### Ladies Nite Out 2-25

Team standings: Bankwest 18-10, Wray Meat Packing 17-11, Gutter Gals 16.5-11.5, Strikers 16-12, Dundy Ag 15.5-12.5, Wright Carpet 12.5-15.5, Jersey Maids 11.5-16.5.

High game: Kathy Blecha 217, Marlys Poulignot 210, Erica Harlan 188; (handicap): Poulignot 256, Blecha 250, Harlan 241.

High series (scratch): Blecha 508, Terry Yost 473, Tammy Drommond 469; (handicap): Vickie Schliep 636, Dawn Richardson 636, Danielle Cline 632.

### Monday Night Mixed 2-15

Team standings: ABC-Z 15-9, Neitzel Insurance 13-11, Earl's Gals

11-13, Gutter Heads 9-15.

High game: Kale Zimbelman 215, Tammy Zimbelman 191, Eddie Zuege 191, Darren Laffond 180, Amelia Zuege 148, Janice Krien 148; (handicap): Katora Sherlock 245, Laffond 232, T. Zimbelman 227, K. Zimbelman 223, Bill Wilger 219, Connie Wilger 203.

High series (scratch): K. Zimbelman 609, T. Zimbelman 520, E. Zuege 516, JD Hawkins 454, Krien 418, Sally Baird 383; (handicap): Sherlock 662, K. Zimbelman 633, T. Zimbelman 628, E. Zuege 591, C. Wilger 588, Laffond 578.