

# At the Game

## Lady Indians defeated 61-34 in Benkelman

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The Lady Indians opened the basketball season on Thursday in Benkelman playing the Dundy County/Stratton Lady Tigers. The Sainty Ladies finished the evening with a 61-34 loss.

The Lady Tigers got off to a fast start and had Sainty down 20-5 after the first quarter and 36-14 at half time.

Nine Lady Indians combined for the scoring with no players hitting in double figures. The results showed Jodie Hilt leading with eight points followed by Aly Marin with seven. Jalyn McCauley (2/4) and Clarice Neitzel (1/2) were both 50 percent from the field. Shayla Hilt was 100 percent from with line with 2-of-2.

"Our shooting isn't quite where it needs to be yet," Coach Susan Dinkel said. "We need to become more confident shooters and make better shot choices, and then, there will be more success."

At the free-throw line, Sainty was 9-of-22, which leaves an opportunity for improvement. From the field they hit 25 percent with 11-of-42.

"We did do a great job on the defensive side of the ball, especially when Dundy was bringing the ball down the court," said Coach Dinkel. "We worked hard, even got a 10 second call (and almost had another one). I love the pressure that the girls are putting on the ball and hope that continues. If we keep working hard, we're going to get more steals out of

our press. Obviously, they are learning a new press this year, so, they are still trying to figure out if they should buy into how I want them to play it. They will eventually see that it will work great, as long as they rotate quickly, like I know they can."

Sainty had 28 rebounds which were divided among nine players with Marin having eight. J. Hilt led in steals with three and five players had one assist each. No player had more than three fouls which is a plus.

"We have to find a way to get our inside players to get more aggressive," said Coach Dinkel. "Between the two of our big girls, their combined contribution was 7 points and nine rebounds. That has to improve if we are going to be successful because we are not great outside shooters. We need to get their game going inside in order for the rest of us to get into a positive flow."

"Finally, someone told me that they felt like we played better than the score showed. Considering we all had a bad case of the nerves going into the game, I think I would have to agree with that comment. We're all still learning new plays and that's just going to take some time and repetition to get them to know it inside and out."

"We'll get there. The key is remaining positive and believing in ourselves, our teammates, and our coaches."

The Ladies are involved in the Sagebrush Classic Tournament this week in Brewster. They played on Monday and Tuesday with the final game on Saturday.



**ALY MARIN TAKES THE BALL** down court while Mikaela Grace (left) and Jalyn McCauley play defense. Brett Petersen is making the calls.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

S 05 09 10 10 34  
D 20 16 09 16 61

Scoring: J. Hilt 8, Marin 7,

Mikaela Grace 5, McCauley Christina Hilt 1.  
4, Sarah Trembley 3, S. Hilt 2, Rebounding: Marin 8, Figgins  
Kaitlin Figgins 2, Neitzel 2, 5, Grace 4, S. Hilt 3, Neitzel 2,

Jenna Hill 2, Laura Brunk 2,  
McCauley 1, C. Hilt 1.

## Indians start new season

By Betty Jean Winston  
betty.w@nwks.com

The St. Francis/Dundy County-Stratton boys varsity basketball game on Thursday night, Dec. 2, ended with a victory for Dundy County by the score of 94-59. The game was played in Benkelman and the Tigers paced the game with a four-quarter barrage of scoring. It ranged from 16 points in the first quarter to 32 points in the second frame. This had the Indians down 48-26 by half time.

"I was not disappointed in the way our guys played Thursday in Benkelman, which might be surprising when you look at the final score," Coach Jeff Beims said. "We started practice a couple weeks ago with the intention of changing some things about the way we play. I thought we did a pretty good job of sticking with that, but we can't expect immediate results when we are trying something new. It will take time to get all the pieces together. The boys have bought into the system, and that's a major first step."

Sainty had nine players contribute to their 59 points with Isaac Schiltz having 24. This included hitting 4-of-5 attempts from three-point range and 6-of-8 from two-point range. Three players, Keegan Sherlock, Matt Tygart and Martin Hnizdil, were 100 percent from the field but each only attempted one shot.

At the free-throw line, the Indians were 10-of-27 with Jonathan Butler hitting 3-of-4 for 75 percent.

"Dundy had a lot more depth than we did, and that hurt us down the stretch, and we didn't shoot from the line like we have become accustomed," Coach Beims said. "We did however shoot 56 percent from the field and did a good job on the defensive boards. The knockout punch came in the second quarter as Dundy had a kid that just caught fire from beyond the arch. He scored 19 points in that quarter alone, and they got up big on us by half time."

The team had 21 total rebounds divided among six players with Dylan Peter having six. There were also three blocks by Peter, five steals by Brett Lampe and three assists each by Garrett



**SENIOR BRETT LAMPE** had the most steals in the basketball game with Dundy County/Stratton Thursday night.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

Figgins and Schiltz.

We had to take some chances to catch up in the second half which allowed them some easy scoring opportunities, said Coach Beims. We still have work to do, but I like the direction we're heading.

S 11 15 14 19 59

D 16 32 23 23 94

Scoring: Schiltz 24, Butler 9, Figgins 9, Peter 5, Zach Zweygardt 3, Hnizdil 3, Sherlock 2, Lampe 2, Tygart 2.

Rebounding: Peter 6, Zweygardt 5, Lampe 4, Figgins 3, Hnizdil 2, Schiltz 1.

## Young basketball teams earn wins on Tuesday

Junior high basketball teams from St. Francis and Quinter met in a Northwest Kansas League contest on Tuesday, Nov. 30, in St. Francis. The Indians accomplished their second victorious evening in a row by winning the A-team game 39-35 and the B-team game 36-25.

### A Team

The 39-35 victory over Quinter was the second win of the season for the A-team.

"There was a point early in this season that these guys may have begun to doubt themselves," Coach David Morrow said. "But after two quality wins against good teams, I think we're learning that we have the ability and skill to beat anyone in the league. These guys are playing with confidence and putting forth great effort in every aspect of the game. I'm as happy as anyone to see their hard work in practice and in the games rewarded with wins."

Quinter led the game after the first quarter, the coach said, but our guys kept working very steadily to adjust to a couple of wrinkles Quinter showed us. After we hit a couple of shots and got a few steals, things began to roll for us. We went into the locker room with a 3-point half-time lead.

"In the second half, the guys did a great job of creating scoring opportunities," Coach Morrow said. "Quinter pressed us a little bit, but the guys found the holes and scored baskets each time. The fourth quarter was very exciting. The Bulldogs hit some shots and were threatening to take the lead, but once again, our poise allowed us to respond and not panic. The most impressive aspect of our performance in the fourth quarter was our poise. Our guys simply did not panic or get rattled. Instead, they played with a lot of maturity and sealed the game with very impressive defense."

"Kyler (Zweygardt) and Cade (Bracelin) continued to dominate in the post area both in



**THE JUNIOR HIGH A-team and B-team** boys defeated Quinter in Northwest Kansas League competition in St. Francis. Lane Hobrock scored 8 points in the B-team game.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

scoring and rebounding. Our guards handled the ball very well and did some creative things to score points at various points in the game. Ian Schmid, though he didn't score points, gave an excellent defensive effort that, along with the efforts of the others, really helped us control the game."

S 06 13 14 06 39  
Q 08 08 09 10 35

Scoring: Zweygardt 16, Bracelin 13, Garrett Brunk 4, Justin Pacheco 4, Philip White 2.

### B Team

The B-team added another victory to their season by defeating Quinter 36-25.

"This was another good win for these guys," Coach Morrow said. "Each week we get a little better at doing certain things. These guys are getting better at looking for open shots and other opportunities to score. In fact, each of the nine guys that played in this game scored. That's fairly unusual for a junior high game. Some of them scored only from the free-throw

line, others from the field. In any case, we're learning how to score more consistently. I'm also seeing improvement in these players' skills. We're becoming better ball handlers, for sure."

"We were able to take the lead early in the game and hold it throughout. Quinter was a pretty scrappy team and certainly posed a threat to us toward the end. Our effort, though it's not reflected in the score, was not as good as I thought it should be. Against the top teams in the league, we won't be able to win without working hard in all four quarters. These guys have a 4-2 record so far, and it seems possible that we could host a first-round tournament game."

S 10 06 08 12 36  
Q 02 05 11 07 25

Scoring: Carl Fabre 10, Lane Hobrock 8, Shakotah Blanka 4, Jakob Church 4, Nicky Easter 3, Travis Rogers 2, Francisco Fernandez 2, Jude Faulkender 2, Clay Cassaw 1.