



## The Saint Francis Herald

# At the Game



**SENIOR BRETT LAMPE** was among the individual leaders for the Indians this season. He had the most assists and also the most steals for the team during the season. Lampe also was among the leaders with his free-throw shooting percentage.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

## Players put it 'all out there' during basketball season

By Betty Jean Winston  
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Three seniors ended their high school basketball careers on Feb. 28 in the first round of the Oberlin/Decatur Community 2A substate tournament. Ness City won the championship of this substate and qualified to participate in the 2A State Tournament.

Garrett Figgins, Brett Lampe and Zach Zwegardt were the senior members of the squad who dressed for their last basketball outing as an Indian that night.

St. Francis finished the season with an 8-13 record overall and 3-3 in league play.

The Indians are members of the Northwest Kansas League and this year for the first time, a Northwest Kansas League Tournament took the place of the former Oberlin Tournament at the week of Jan. 17. In the tournament St. Francis lost to Decatur Community and defeated Hoxie in pool play and in the final game on Saturday defeated Oakley, a team from the other pool.

League wins this year came over Rawlins County on Dec. 14, Hoxie in pool play at the league tournament in Oberlin on Jan. 18 and Oakley in the final game of the league tournament on Jan. 22. Losses included Hoxie on Jan. 7, Decatur Community in pool play at the league tournament in Oberlin on Jan. 17.

At the Sagebrush Classic held in Brewster in December, Saintry lost to Stratton, Colo., and Cheylin in pool play but defeated Christian Family Educators in the final game.

Besides the tournament wins and the Northwest Kansas League wins, the Indians also defeated Idalia, Colo., Christian Family Educators on the home court and Triplains/Brewster.

Other losses besides those mentioned earlier were to Dundu County, Golden Plains, Weskan, Greeley County and Wallace County in season play and Wichita County in substate.

Other varsity members (be-

sides the seniors) include Jonathan Butler, Keegan Sherlock, Mason Schiltz, Isaac Schiltz, Dylan Peter, Dillion Straub, Matt Tygart and Martin Hnizdil.

### Team stats

Points per game: 55.5.  
Field goal attempts: 939. Field goals made: 462. Field goal percentage: 49.  
Free throw attempts: 279. Free throws made: 146. Free throw percentage: 52.  
Total assists: 194.  
Total blocks: 29.  
Total rebounds: 551. Rebounds per game: 26.2.  
Total steals: 196. Steals per game: 9.3.

### Individual leaders

Total points: I. Schiltz, 388; Figgins, 211; Peter, 207; Butler, 156.  
Points per game: I. Schiltz, 18.5; Figgins, 10.0; Peter, 9.9; Butler, 7.4.

Best field goal percentage, 100 or more attempts: Figgins, 61 percent; I. Schiltz, 52 percent; Peter, 51 percent; Butler, 51 percent; Lampe, 30 percent.  
Best free throw percentage, 40 or more attempts: I. Schiltz, 60 percent; Figgins 50 percent; Lampe 49 percent.

Most assists: Lampe, 61.  
Most blocks: Peter, 12.  
Most rebounds: Peter 175, Figgins 117.

Most steals: Lampe, 43.

### Coach's Comments

Jeff Beims, head coach, had the following comments concerning the basketball season.

People often ask me if I'm glad basketball season is over, as if it is some kind of punishment that I have withstood, or maybe the implication is that I can breathe a sigh of relief and get back to my "normal life." Although I usually respond with some sort of noncommittal platitude, the fact is I almost immediately miss it.

I miss being with "my boys" every day. What a testament these fine young men are to our community, and I wouldn't trade my time with them for anything. I particularly miss the seniors

as they will not be back with us again, but I feel rewarded and honored for having the opportunity to have coached them. When guys put it all out there for you every night, you can't help but feel sort of indebted to them, and at the same time feel a sense of loss. I hope Garrett, Brett and Zach know how much they meant to me and their teammates over the past four years. When you spend that much time with people you start to appreciate the character within. I have no doubt they will go on to great things, but they will always be welcomed in my gym.

I also miss the competition. For those who have never poured their guts out to secure a hard-fought victory have no idea what they're missing. And those who have never done that and lost, have no idea the pain it can bring. Someone once said, "I love a Friday night when you're looking for a win, and a Saturday morning when you found one." We had some good wins this year. The kind of wins (I hope) that can propel a program to the next level. I don't think any of us wanted the season to end the way it did, but I certainly think there is something to build on. We learned what it takes to be a consistently good team, and that can be invaluable.

I miss the practices. As the old saying goes, "The best time to watch a freshman is when he's a senior." That can be painfully true sometimes, but actually the best time to watch them is in practice when they figure out a concept you've been teaching, or figure out something about the game that has eluded them. Those "light bulb" moments are priceless for a coach, and frankly the reason most coaches do it in the first place. In fact, about the worst part of coaching is the off season. Already thinking about next season, it is frustrating to realize it's still 8 months away. I can't wait, because I think we going to get better.

## Seven seniors play final game for Lady Indians

By Betty Jean Winston  
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The Lady Indian varsity basketball squad consisted of seven seniors, one junior and three sophomores.

Seniors on this year's team were Jalyn McCauley, Mikaela Grace, Jodie Hilt, Sarah Trembly, Shayla Hilt, Christina Hilt, and Aly Marin, while Kaitlin Figgins was the only junior and the sophomores included Clarice Neitzel, Laura Brunk and Krissy Harris.

The group of seniors had shaped the girls program most of their high school careers as some of them received varsity experience as underclassmen. Last year, as there were no seniors on the squad, they formed the backbone of the team.

St. Francis also had a junior varsity squad of players working to learn the game and move into varsity positions next year. Other girls involved in the basketball program throughout the season included Aubrey Mills, Shelby Cassaw, Rande Grover, Bailey Merklin and Aly Schleppe.

Susan Dinkel moved up from her assistant coach position to take over the team leadership. She was assisted this year by David Morrow.

The team had a total of seven wins and 14 losses.

In December the Lady Indians participated in the six team Sagebrush Classic

At this tournament held in Brewster, the Lady Indians were defeated by Rawlins County in the opening round but then came back and defeated Cheylin and Triplains/Brewster for a third place finish. As this tournament takes place early in the season it was a nice boost for the Ladies.

With the Northwest Kansas League down to six teams this year, it was decided to have a league tournament in January. This took the place of the former Oberlin Tournament which had been held in January for many years. At this tournament the Lady Indians lost to Oakley, Rawlins County and Quinter.

The final tournament of the year was the 2A Oberlin/Decatur Community Substate Tournament. This event ended the season for the Lady Indians when they were defeated by Rawlins County in the single elimination tournament.

The Lady Indians lost to Rawlins County, Decatur Community, Oakley, Hoxie and Quinter in Northwest Kansas League games.

Wins besides the two at the Sagebrush Tournament were over Golden Plains, Idalia, Christian Family Educators, Wallace County and Tribune/Brewster.

Additional losses were to Dundu County, Weskan, Cheylin and Greeley County/Tribune.

### Team stats

Total points: 974. Points per game: 46.4.  
Field goal attempts: 1,121; Field goals made: 366. Field goal percentage: 33 percent.  
Free throw attempts: 380. Free



**KAITLIN FIGGINS** was the leading scorer for the Lady Indians this season. She also had the most blocks and the most rebounds for the team.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

throws made: 205. Free throw percentage 54 percent.

Total assists: 106.

Total blocks: 12.

Total rebounds: 587. Rebounds per game: 28.

Total steals 247. Steals per game: 11.8.

### Individual leaders

Total points: Figgins, 195; Trembly, 174; J. Hilt, 145.

Points per game: Figgins, 9.3; Trembly, 8.3; J. Hilt, 6.9.

Best field goal percentage, 100 or more attempts: Trembly, Figgins, 43 percent; Grace, 35 percent; Trembly, 31 percent; C. Hilt, 31 percent.

Best free throw percentage, 40 or more attempts: Trembly, 74 percent; J. Hilt, 61 percent; Figgins, 57 percent. Marin, 43 percent.

Most assists: Trembly, 31.

Most blocks: Figgins, 6.

Most rebounds: Figgins, 125; Grace, 85.

Most steals: Trembly, 55; C. Hilt, 45.

### Coach's Comments

Susan Dinkel, head coach, had the following comments concerning the basketball season.

The girls have worked very hard for us all season. Sure, we've had our ups and downs offensively, but, that's what we've always had. I'm hoping to get something going in the off-season to make us more consistent shooters and better ball handlers.

One of the highlights of the season was taking third place at Brewster. It was unfortunate we had to be on the same side of the bracket as Rawlins County be-

cause I believe that was the best game of the entire tournament and it should have been for first and second place. But, that's the way the ball bounces!

Words cannot express how much I have enjoyed this team. We didn't have typical "girl issues" that we usually get on a team, simply because these seniors are such good friends - always pulling for one another and just enjoying each other. That was definitely a blessing. The leadership they provided wasn't verbal - it was by example. The "young guns" (as Coach Morrow calls them) had to play against these girls and improved tremendously because of it.

St. Francis basketball is going places - and even though it doesn't always appear that way, we are making strides in the right direction. As parents, we need to get our children involved in the Youth Basketball program through the Rec Commission (second - sixth grade). It is free and the coaches teach them fundamentals (which need to be taught before junior high), along with being competitors. If you have a Saturday morning to spare, put together a team for the 3-on-3 tournaments that are in the area - it's amazing how much they learn and grow just by playing. It's also inexpensive entertainment to go and watch (usually just \$1 to get in). Atwood has a tournament on April 2, www.rawlinscounty.info and Goodland is having one on April 9, www.goodlandgac.com

## St. Francis players attend Cheylin 3-on-3 competition

On Feb. 26, the Cheylin FFA hosted a 3-on-3 basketball fundraiser in McDonald.

Friends and families came out for the day to watch second grade and under through eighth grade teams from Bird City, St. Francis, Atwood and North Platte, Neb.

The first age group to play were the second grade and under. The team winning for the boy's division was the St. Francis WildCats with players Shadryon Blanka, Adam Krien, Colton Neitzel, and Kobe Tice. Winning in the girl's

division was the Bird City MeGa Boom team with players Makenzie Barnett, Mikaela Barnett, Gabriela Gutierrez, and Brianna Vandike.

In the third and fourth grades division, the boy's and girl's teams combined; the winning team was the St. Francis Warriors with players Draven Houtman, KC Krien, and Tierman Poling.

The girl's division of the fifth and sixth grades was won by the Atwood Hoopettes team with players Sofia Hampton, Maura

Hemel, Gracy Higly, and Lauren Terry.

The final age groups were the boy's and girl's seventh and eighth grades. The winning boy's team was North Platte with players Bryce Bern, Cory Clinch, Matt Ferguson, and Gabe Vyzourek. The winning girl's team was the Bird City Twisters, ElsaCraig Burr, Diana Garcia, and Elizabeth Keltz.

Medals were given out to first, second and third place teams.

## Spring sports coming soon