

At the Game



KAITLIN FIGGINS gets the rebound and heads to the other end of the court.
Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

Girls at home for opening game

By Nathan Fiala
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The Lady Indians began their basketball season on Thursday, Dec. 1, on home court against the Dundy County Tigers. The varsity game started out fairly close, 11-8 in the Tigers' favor at the end of the first quarter, but the Indians trailed throughout the game, the final score 59-38.

We moved the ball well in the first half, but in the second half, we were just lethargic, Coach Susan Dinkel said. We stopped moving the ball quickly and didn't set the best screens. Defensively, we played pretty well. I'm pleased with their overall effort. Dundy County was on fire from the outside and our girls were just a little slow to react. We will work on that during practice this week.

Scoring for the Lady Indians was Kaitlin Figgins with 14 points, Clarice Neitzel with nine, Justice Wiley with seven, Aly Schlepp with four and both Aubrey Mills and Jenna Hill scored two points apiece.

Figgins and Schlepp tied each

other with seven rebounds, Kyla Bandel had six, Hill had four, Neitzel had two and McKayla Taylor, Laura Brunk, Wiley and Mills each had one rebound.

I am encouraged, Coach Dinkel said. We did some great things, and I feel as though we are going to surprise a few people. We are a pretty young team- both in terms of varsity playing time and age. Kaitlin is the only one who has had substantial court time prior to this season, with Jenna being injured last year. We will continue to work hard in practice, and I can assure you that we will be a fun group to watch!

Junior varsity

The junior varsity Lady Indians played Dundy County in a three quarter contest due to the number of players. Saintry was in the lead at the end of the first quarter 10-6, but they also lost to Dundy County with a final score of 34-27.

Most of the girls on this squad are new to the team this year, so it was exciting to see what they would bring to the table, Coach David Morrow said. In

a word, I was pleased with how they performed. Against Dundy County, we had girls running the floor, getting steals, and generally playing some tough basketball. By the end of the contest, we had some chances to close in on the Tigers but couldn't get our shots to fall.

Kyla Bandel led the junior varsity team in scoring with 10 points, Justice Wiley scored seven, McKayla Taylor scored four, and Aubrey Mills and Aly Schlepp both scored three points.

I'm excited to see how this team develops, Coach Morrow said. Though we're a young team, we're pretty athletic and instinctive. Some of these kids seem to have a knack for knowing where the ball is going to be and stealing it on defense. We were able to get to the free-throw line a lot against Dundy County, which shows that we were taking chances and trying to create some offense.

The basketball teams will travel to Brewster to play in the Sagebrush Classic on Friday and Saturday.

Basketball team defeated in first game of season

By Nathan Fiala
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The high school basketball team had their first game of the season on Thursday, Dec. 1 on their home court. They faced off against the Dundy County Tigers, losing the game 76-52.

A loss to Dundy County was not how we planned to start the season, Coach Jeff Beims said. Although losing is never acceptable, it happens to the best of us. We like to say that we win with class, and learn from our losses. It is the first game of the year, after all, so the season is not lost, it's just a game.

The Indians trailed the Tigers by a few points in the first half and third quarter, but the gap widened in the last quarter when Dundy County outscored Saintry 29-17.

Stats for the Indians showed that Isaac Schiltz scored 18 points and snagged six rebounds, Mason Schiltz scored 12 points and grabbed one rebound, Wyatt Landenberger scored nine points and got two rebounds, Dylan Peter scored eight points and got 10 rebounds, Matt Tygart scored two points and led the team on rebounds with 12, Keegan Sherlock scored two points and Cade Bracelin scored one point and grabbed five rebounds. Both Jacob Baxter and Kyler Zwegardt got two rebounds as well.

I think we did learn something about ourselves and what we could be from this contest, Coach Beims said. We were pretty cold shooting in the first half especially, but fought through it to come to within five points midway through the third quarter. We need to execute better on offense and cut down a bit on turnovers, but I thought we worked the boards pretty good against a good sized Dundy team. We lost Dillion Straub to a knee injury in the JV game, so were a bit short handed on the bench. However, it gave us an opportunity to get some new guys some quality minutes of varsity action. Although they're still learning our system, I think they stepped up and played well under the circumstances.

I hate losing and usually have a hard time getting to sleep after



MASON SCHILTZ throws the ball during the Dundy County game.
Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

one, but I'm optimistic about this particular group of young men, and hope to look back on this loss in February as potentially a blessing in disguise, Coach Beims said.

Junior varsity

The junior varsity boys won a close game against Dundy County 58-57. Both teams had pretty close scores throughout the game, but with less than a second left on the clock, the score 57-56 in favor of the Tigers, Keegan Sherlock was

fouled. Sherlock made his first free throw to tie up the score, and after multiple desperation time-outs by the Tigers, he sank his second shot to win the game.

Scoring for the Indians was Cade Bracelin and Steven Nelson, who both scored 17 points, Kyler Zwegardt scored 11 points and Sherlock scored 10.

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Students featured in magazine

Two Cheyenne County students were featured in the "Sports Ink." December 2011 issue. Stephanie Busse, Cheylin High School, and Isaac Schiltz, St. Francis Community High School, were in the "Time For Some Hoops" section of the issue.

They are who "people should keep an eye on this year."

Isaac is a senior on the Indian boys' basketball team. The Indians last season ended in the first round of the substate and with an 8-13 overall record. But, the article said, it wasn't from lack of effort by Schiltz.

As a junior, he led the team with 18.5 points per night. He struggled in the substate loss, finishing with



Schiltz



Busse

only five points - one of two games in single digits a year ago.

But, prior to the postseason, Schiltz had put up massive numbers, including a 35-point night against Idalia, Colo. He scored at least 20 points in nine games and shot 52 percent from the field for the year.

Stephanie is a junior playing for the Lady Cougar's team. As a sophomore, she was the top player on a Cougar team that

finished with a 9-13 record. But, the article stated, it wasn't for lack of output.

She averaged 15.2 points per game and pulled down 9.9 rebounds - just missing out on a double-double. She also had 2.8 steals and two assists per game.

Stephanie scored in double figures in all but five games and had a season-high 28 points early in the year. In six of the games, she scored at least 20 points.

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Salem Lutheran Church, rural St. Francis will host its 7th annual

Christmas in the Country
Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m. CT
(music begins at 4:30 p.m.)

An evening of music and scripture in German and English

Food & Fellowship following in church basement.
Free-Will Offering

Call 785-332-3002 or 785-332-3634

The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Will be CLOSED

Monday, Dec. 26 & Monday, Jan. 2

The papers will be a day late both weeks



The staff at the St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!