



At the Game

Indians play games with intensity

By Douglas Sloper
dsloper@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis Lady Indians and Indians varsity and junior varsity traveled to Atwood to take on the Atwood Buffaloes on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Overall the teams played hard and came away splitting games with the Buffaloes. The Lady Indians varsity played

with more intensity than their last meeting and had a closer scoring game, but ultimately came out on the losing end. The junior varsity were also defeated in their game. The Indians varsity had an exciting game and came away victorious. The junior varsity also came away victorious in their game.

Lady Indians

The Lady Indians and Buffaloes got off to a low scoring first quarter. Atwood jumped in front early, but St. Francis rallied late in the quarter and cut into the Buffaloes lead. Atwood led 9-7 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, both teams continued to played hard on both ends of the floor. The Buffaloes got the better of the Lady Indians and again pulled away to a 9 point lead, 23-14 at the half.

The Lady Indians came out in the third quarter and played a suffocating defense, shut down the Buffaloes offense and allowing them only 3 points in the quarter. St. Francis cut Atwood's lead to 27-24 in the quarter.

Both teams continued to play hard in the fourth quarter, as the offense for both teams took over in a high scoring quarter. Unfortunately the Lady Indians could not catch the Buffaloes and St. Francis fell to Atwood, 42-36.

"We played a decent game, said Coach Susan Dinkel. "Unfortunately, we got into foul trouble, with two starters fouling out quickly in the 4th quarter. We played a much better second half, and got some key steals. I was pleased with the effort throughout the game. We only got to shoot 11 free throws...and let Atwood have 23 free throws. That was key!

Indians scoring: Justice Wiley, 14 points; Valerie Wurm, 9 points; Kylie Sherlock, 4 points; Journey Lee, 4 points; Kyla Bandel, 3 points; Emily Elfers, 2 points.

The Lady Indians junior varsity lost to Atwood in a lopsided game, 42-20.

Indians

"After a disappointing league tournament, it was good to get a win on the road against a really good Atwood team, said Coach Jeff Beims. "They are a big, senior laden team, that tends not to beat themselves."

Offense was the name of the game in the first quarter. Both teams were on and hitting their shots, St. Francis led 20-18 at the end of the quarter.



After a hot shooting first quarter, both teams slowed quite a bit in the second. The defenses took over, with the Indians out scoring the Buffaloes 6 to 3. St. Francis was still in front 26-21 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Indians began to run away from the Buffaloes and held a 12 point lead, 35-23 midway through the quarter. The Indian's offense stalled and Atwood rallied and cut deep into the St. Francis lead. The Indians held a slim 37-35 lead as the quarter ended.

In the fourth quarter both teams continued to battle and got into foul trouble. The teams had many three point plays and were shooting many free throws. The Indians never wavered and held off Atwood 53-48.

Indians scoring: Jacob Baxter, 18 points; Mason Schiltz, 15 points; Taylor Rogers, 8 points; Cade Bracelin, 6 points; Carl Fabre, 2 points; Wyatt Landenberger, 2 points; Lenny Olivares, 2 points.

"We did what we do best...we played defense. We took them out of their comfort zone in the first half especially, and maybe more importantly kept them off the boards. We also hit the shots we needed to. Atwood plays a sort of hybrid zone defense, and I thought our boys executed pretty well against. We got the ball in the paint, and for the most part finished the shots when we got it in there," said Coach Beims

The Indians junior varsity defeated Atwood 51-43.

The Lady Indians and Indians will be on the road in Brewster to take on the Triplains-Brewster Bulldogs on Tuesday, Feb. 4 beginning at 6:30 p.m.



JEREMIAH NEITZEL shoots a free throw in a recent game.
Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper



LADY INDIAN, Kylie Sherlock looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.
Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper

Sainty varsity wrestlers compete in league tournament

The St. Francis varsity wrestlers travelled to Ellis on Saturday, Feb. 1 to compete in the Northwest Kansas League/Mid Continental League tournament.

Other schools that participating were Decatur Community (Oberlin) Red Devils, Ellis Railroaders, Greeley County (Tribune) Jackrabbits, Hill City Ringnecks, Hoxie Indians, Norton Bluejays, Oakley Plainsmen, Phillipsburg Panthers, Plainville Cardinals, Rawlins County (Atwood) Buffaloes, Smith Center Redmen, Stockton Tigers, Thomas Moore Prep Monarchs, (Trego Community) (Wakeeney) Golden Eagles and the Wichita County (Leoti) Indians.

The Indians performed well overall and finished in ninth place out of the sixteen total teams.

"This tournament was a very tough tournament and it was for the most part a preview of our regional tournament that is approaching awful fast. I felt like as a team we wrestled a lot better than we did a week before, said Coach Dylan Loyd.

I know there were some individuals who were not happy with their performances but, the key right now is for us to learn from our mistakes and continue to focus on getting better. We had some guys lose some matches to kids that had beat them earlier in the year but, we closed the gap on them and that is exactly what we want to see right now.

I always tell the kids that we train for the regional and state tournaments. All these tournaments leading up to that point are stepping stones for us to get better and to improve. The guys have been working very hard in the practice room and I am encouraged by the work that they are putting in."

Team Results

Norton-194.5; Phillipsburg-161.0; Smith Center-128.5; Oberlin-115.0; Oakley-110.0;

Plainville-100.5; Ellis-92.0; Rawlins Co.-87.0; **St. Francis-79.5**; Leoti-59.0; Hill City-51.0; Hoxie-41.0; Trego-35.0; Stockton-33.0; Greeley Co.-28.0; Hays-TMP-21.0.

Individual Results

120- Connor McBride (0-2)- lost by a fall to Leibbrandt, Rawlins Co.; lost by a fall to Klink, Phillipsburg.

"Connor McBride had a good weekend, he continues to battle every time he steps on the mat and I believe he has improved tremendously from the beginning of the season to now," said Coach Loyd.

132- Clay Cassaw (placed 2nd)- won by a 20-4 technical fall over Clements, Stockton; won by a 4-0 decision over Bannister, Phillipsburg; lost by a 4-2 OT tie breaker to Houser, Plainville.

"Clay Cassaw had a good tournament- I know that he is the champion in this weight class and he knows that as well, said Loyd. The kid from Plainville is a tough wrestler but, I believe if they wrestle again Clay wins the match."

138- Garrett Brunk (placed 6th)- lost by a 6-5 decision to Frieling, Smith Center; won by a 7-3 decision over Coomes, Phillipsburg; won by a 7-3 decision over Wurm, Oberlin; lost by a 9-0 major decision to Frieling, Smith Center; lost by a fall to Gehring, Plainville.

"Garrett Brunk was able to bring home a medal in another loaded weight class. He beat some solid kids and lost to quality kids, this weight has been tough at every tournament we have been to this year and Garrett is right up there with the best kids in this weight class, he just has to believe it," said Loyd.

145- Justin Pacheco (2-2)- won by a fall over Skolout, Rawlins County; lost by a fall to Dusin, Phillipsburg; won by a fall over Werner, Plainville; lost

by a fall to Pfeifer, Ellis.

"Justin Pacheco wrestled tough this weekend, his first loss to Dusin was to one of the best wrestlers at this weight in the state, said Coach Loyd. He picked up some good wins and I believe he is better than the Ellis kid and I hope he gets to wrestle him again."

152- Lane Hoffman (1-2)- lost by a fall to Anderson, Oberlin; won by a fall over Roth, TMP; lost by a fall to Younger, Ellis.

"Lane Hoffman had a tough draw in this tournament, both of his losses were to quality kids but, I believe that he can compete with them he just has to start opening up and trusting his shots," said Coach Loyd.

170- Lane Hobrock (0-2)- lost by a fall to Renner, Norton; lost by a fall to Merida, Rawlins County.

"Lane Hobrock battled tough this weekend; this kid is his biggest critic. He has to start believing in himself and knowing that his skill set is as good as anyone, said Coach Loyd. Lane puts his time in and he works as hard as anyone in the practice room. Once he starts believing himself and having the confidence in his abilities you will see great things!"

195- Ryan Grover (placed 4th)- lost by a fall to Boswell, Phillipsburg; lost by a fall to Haas, Ellis.

"I'm very proud of the way Ryan Grover competes, said Coach Loyd. He has closed the gap on these kids from the beginning of the season up to now and that shows me that he is getting better. He does everything that we ask of him to do to the best of his ability and I'm looking forward to whats to come from him."

220- Kyler Zweygardt (placed 4th)- won by a fall over Higdon, Stockton; lost by a fall to Jacobs, Phillipsburg; won by a fall over Colgan, Rawlins County; lost by



SHAKOTAH BLANKA, 285 pounds, placed third in the Northwest Kansas League/Mid-Continental League tournament held over the weekend.
Photo courtesy of Shawna Blanka

a fall to Tebo, Ellis.

"Kyler Zweygardt wrestled extremely well this weekend. He gets better every time he steps on the mat and he has a legitimate shot at making it to the state tournament this year, said Loyd. Last week at Hays the kid from Ellis beat him 15-0, Saturday it was a tied match in the 3rd period when he got caught and pinned. That right there is amazing in how he closed the gap in just one week."

285- Shakotah Blanka (placed 3rd)- won by a fall over Johnson, Norton; lost by a 7-1 decision to Rains, Oakley; won by a fall over Smith, Trego; won by a fall

over Pulec, Stockton; won by a fall over Schippers, Hoxie.

"Shakotah Blanka had a great weekend. He lost in the quarterfinals and battled all the way back to place 3rd. This weight class is wide open and if you ask me I believe Shakotah was the best heavyweight in this bracket," said Coach Loyd.

Coach's Awards

Most exciting match: Kyler Zweygardt vs. Tebo, Ellis

Coach's Award: Shakotah Blanka- went 4-1 in a tough weight class and pinned the #1 and #2 seeds on his way to a 3rd place medal

Practice Wrestler: Ryan Grove

Key Match Award: Clay Cassaw vs. Bannister, Phillipburg
Most Outstanding Performance: Clay Cassaw and Shakotah Blanka- both placed in the top 3 at the Tournament of Champions

"This weekend we travel to Phillipsburg to wrestle in the Panther Classic. This is another tough tournament and the kids will see some quality competition.

For our varsity guys this will be the last tournament they will compete in before regionals in two weeks. It's hard to believe how fast this season is winding down," said Coach Loyd.