

# At the Game

## Basketball season opens playing Dundy County

By Betty Jean Winston

The winter sports season begins tonight (Thursday) when the Tigers and Lady Tigers from Dundy County invade Indian territory to compete on the basketball court. Varsity games are played at the high school beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the Ladies playing first. Junior varsity games are played at the elementary school.

Fans always like the campaign to begin at home as they are anxious to see the 2003 versions of the two teams. Following the volleyball and football season everyone looks forward to the next endeavors of the high school athletes.

During the second week of the season, the teams are always on the road involved in the Sagebrush Classic at Brewster. The initial contests are played on Tuesday with the semi finals on Friday and the finals on Saturday.

This tournament is composed of varsity action only and the two St. Francis teams are scheduled to play Brewster on Tuesday. The Ladies have first action beginning at 6 p.m. in the south gym. The Indians will meet the Bulldogs at 8 p.m., also in the south gym.

Each team will play three games with the tournament made up of ball teams from Brewster, Atwood, Grinnell, Stratton, Golden Plains, Oberlin, Cheylin and St. Francis.

Finishing out the December competition, Saintry matches up with Northwest Kansas League opponent Oberlin on Friday, Dec. 19, at home, and Cheyenne Wells on the road the following night.

The teams go into the Christmas break having played six games.

### Indians

Five returning letter winners are expected to lead the St. Francis Indian boys basketball team this season. They include four seniors, Michael Raile, Jonathan Roelfs, Tyler Voorhies and Jon Zweggardt (provisional) and junior Tanner Kinen.

Ted Busse, Lady Indian head coach for nine seasons, has returned to the boys team where he was assistant coach his first year at St. Francis. This time he will be the head coach and will be assisted by Ward Cassidy, who also spent time as a St. Francis basketball coach, including head coach, earlier in his career.

"Mr. Cassidy understands the game and will be a great asset," Coach Busse said. "I'm glad to have him."

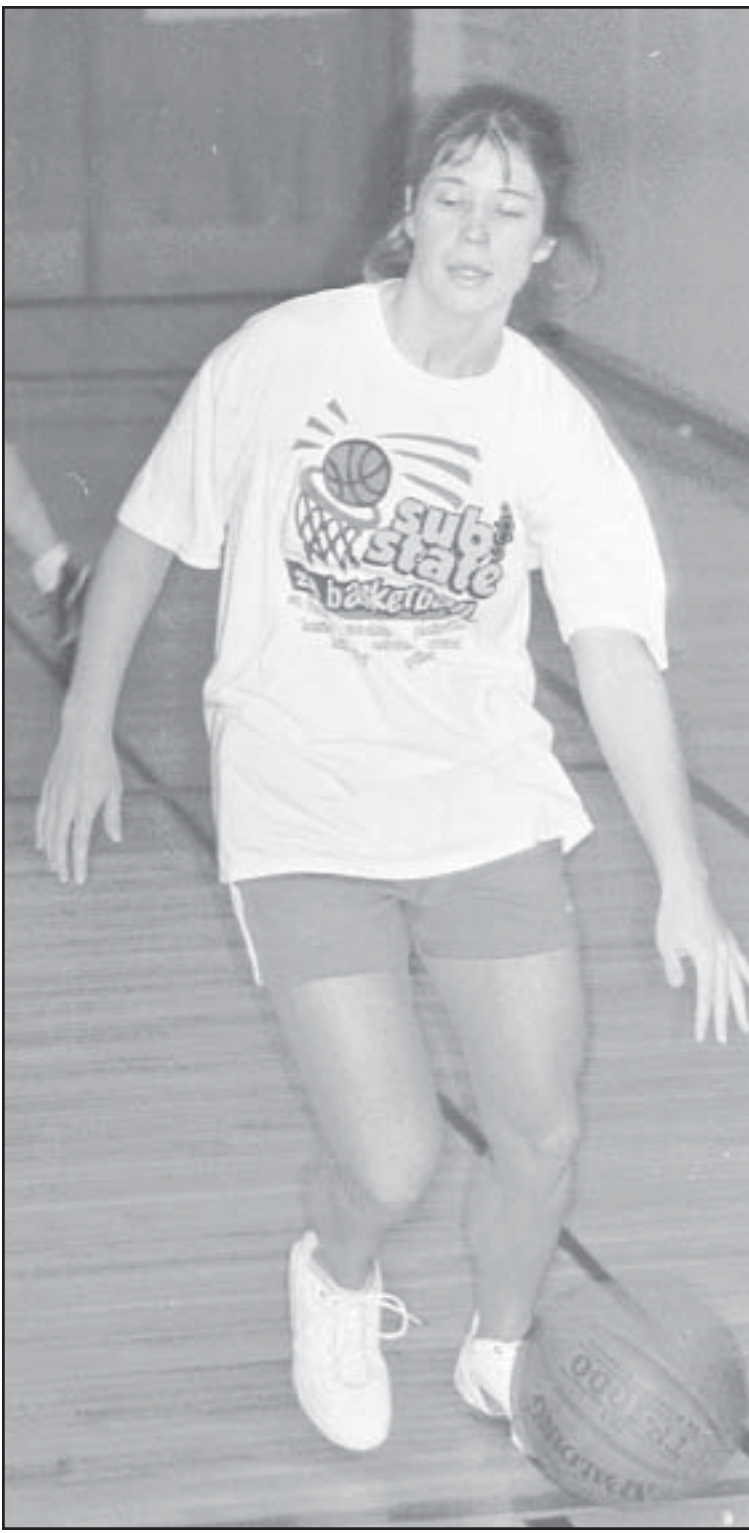
Opening basketball practice sessions were delayed for athletes playing on the football team when the Indians earned the right to play three post-season games. The first outings on the court will be played without Roelfs, who is healing from a football injury.

Now things are in full swing with practice sessions going strong and the team meeting Dundy County this evening (Thursday).

Eighteen players reported for practice and the team will have openings for starters as three of last seasons leaders left through graduation. Raile, Roelfs, Voorhies, Kinen and Zweggardt all had measurable time on the floor and are expected to step up where needed.

The seniors that graduated last year, Marcus Dodd, Tyler Wolters, Cale Rieger and Chase Collier, held the majority of the top five positions in the season-ending statistics but Raile was near the top in field goal percentage, total points, rebounds, blocked shots, points scored, and assists and rebounds per game. Roelfs was listed in field goal shooting percentage, free throw percentage, total points, rebounds, assists, steals, points per game and rebounds per game. Voorhies was in the top five in field goal shooting percentage, assists and steals and Kinen was named in rebounds, blocked shots and rebounds per game.

Senior Dillan Zweggardt is also back on the roster after having been sidelined for a season. "The returning players are working hard," Coach Busse said. "They have good leadership."



SENIOR LORI FAULKENDER dribbles down the court.

Herald staff photos by Betty Jean Winston

The team has a number of younger players, especially freshmen, on the roster this year.

"We're going to have to work on developing some talent from the bench and younger players," Coach Busse said.

The offensive type of play will change with the team expected to use a motion vs man or zone offense.

"Defensively we will play some man mixed with zone," Coach Busse said.

Players do not forget basketball over the off season as a group went to Colby to play summer ball and several athletes used the open gym at the high school over the summer and also the weight room.

"The attitude is excellent," Coach Busse said. "They are working hard."

"The goal for the season is to continually get better. If we work on doing things right, things will take care of themselves."

### Roster

Seniors: Roelfs, Voorhies, Dillan Zweggardt, Raile, J. Zweggardt

Juniors: Nick Raile, Andrew Feikert, Kinen

Sophomores: J.D. Hawkins, Heath Kibel, Heath Owens

Freshmen: Travis Havel, B.J. Killingsworth, A.J. McAtee, Mac Frewen, Joel McAtee, Levi Weeden, Adam Peter

### Lady Indians

The Lady Indians begin their first season under Devin Dinkel, new head coach, and Cory Zion, new assistant coaching aide.

The coaches will be taking over a team that lost the majority of last year's starters through graduation. Several of them had been varsity players two or more years and collected the majority of the time on the court last year.

The good news is that the team returns six letter winners, all who happen to be seniors. The group includes Kandee Raile, Ashley Holzwarth, Meredith Knodel, Allyse Lampe, Toni Rice and Lori Faulkender.

Each of these players helped last year's team to a winning 12-10 season but the most experienced player is Raile. She finished in the top five in a number of sta-

tistics including field goal shooting percentage, total points scored, rebounds and steals. She was given honorable mention honors by Northwest Kansas League coaches when they met following the season.

"She has a very good attitude," Coach Dinkel said. "She stays after practice and puts in additional work."

Holzwarth and Knodel will provide some height for the Ladies and like the rest of the squad are beginning the year with a very good attitude.

Knodel finished last year with the best free-throw percentage, 81.8, while Holzwarth was in the top four in free-throw percentage, rebounds and assists. The remaining letter winners will also be counted on heavily and return with their assets in shooting, rebounding, controlling the ball and court movement.

"I do not have a set lineup," Coach Dinkel said. "They are working hard in practice and a lot will depend on the opposing team."

"We are working on five different offenses including a man-to-man offense and I am hoping they will step up and produce more scoring."

"There will be a lot of motion offensively with everyone moving. Defensively we will see what matches up with our opponents type of play. We want to force them to beat us from the outside and not get into the post."

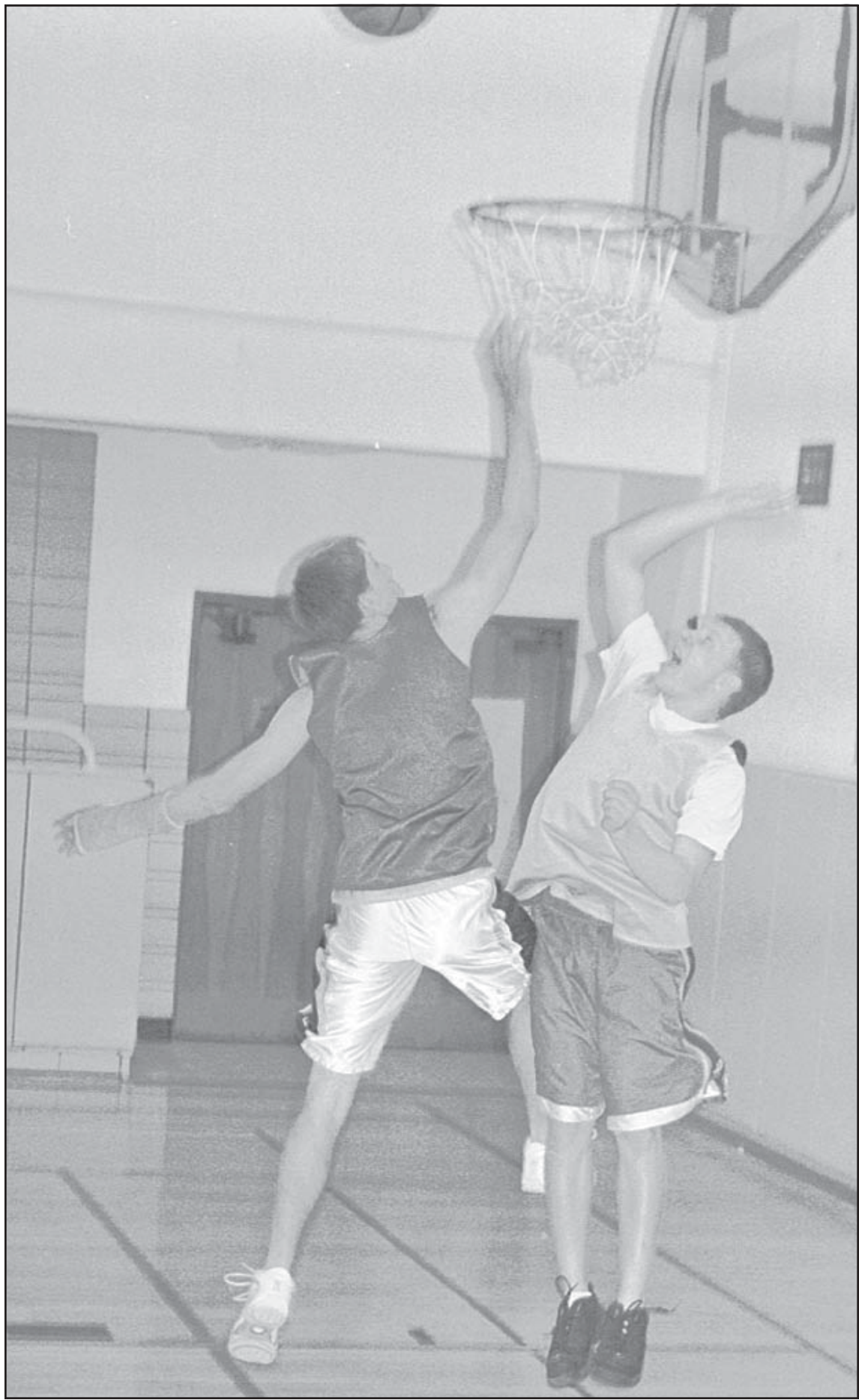
The coach feels that leadership is the key to the season.

Fundamentals are very important and practice time is being used to increase the skills of each player.

"We are working hard on increasing their fundamental skills," Coach Dinkel said. "This is something we can take care of in practice."

"The girls are having fun working on a new system. The attitude is pretty positive but there is not a lot of time before the first game. We will be doing some polishing as we go, after they have had more game time."

"We will be setting new goals and working on them during the season."



JONATHAN ROELFS aims for a field goal while Tyler Voorhies hopes for a rebound.

The team is expecting some strong competition from Northwest Kansas League teams this year.

"Hoxie, Colby and Goodland should all be good."

Come see the Lady Indians at the high school gym tonight.

### Roster

Seniors: Faulkender, Holzwarth, Knodel, Lampe, Raile, Rice, Sowers

Juniors: Kelsey Dunn, Amy Grace, Sayuri Ito, Amy Nicklos, Chelsey Weeden

Sophomore: Schuyler Coates, McKenzie Grace, Maddie Knodel, Sam Marin, Sheryl Miller, Erin Neitzel,

Freshmen: Melissa Burton, Danielle Flemming, Brittany Lucas, Megan Rice, Lauren Ross, Addie Swihart, Alecia Zimbelman

### Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 4: Dundy County, here, 6:30

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Sagebrush Classic at Brewster

Friday, Dec. 12: Sagebrush Classic at Brewster

Saturday, Dec. 13: Sagebrush Classic at Brewster

Friday: Dec. 19: Oberlin, there, 6:30

Saturday, Dec. 20: Cheyenne Wells, there, 5:30

Saturday, Jan. 3: Colby, there, 6:30

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Atwood, here, 6:30

Friday, Jan. 9: Hoxie, here, 6:30

Friday, Jan. 16: Oakley, here, 6:30

Saturday, Jan. 17: Holyoke, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Oberlin Tour-

namment Friday, Jan. 23: Oberlin Tournament

Saturday, Jan. 24: Oberlin Tournament

Friday, Jan. 30: Sharon Springs, here, 6:30

Tuesday, Feb. 3: Cheylin, there, 5

Friday, Feb. 6: Goodland, here, 5:30

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Sharon Springs, there, 6:30

Friday, Feb. 13: Atwood, there, 6:30

Friday, Feb. 20: Quinter, here, 6:30

Monday/Saturday, March 1-6: Sub-state

Wednesday/Saturday, March 10-13: State

**In With The New!**

With the coming of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

**Who will be that First Baby of the year 2004?**

Coming in January a bundle of businesses ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!

**Winter Sports Tab**

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!

To be inserted in your paper in January.

**The Saint Francis Herald**

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