

Titans tip off Shootout with two-point win

By R.B. Headley
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An early sprained ankle didn't stop the Triplains-Brewster Titans from stepping up to every occasion at their Sagebrush Shootout.

The effort made for an exciting Tuesday afternoon in Brewster, especially with five seconds remaining and early-season nemesis Logan needing just one basket to tie.

Team co-captain Nathan Jorgensen had scored five points, but he'd also been sidelined since the first quarter with that ankle injury.

So sophomores like Coleton Rogge had to jump into crucial roles and oh my, how he jumped at just the right time to seal his team's win.

Rogge's interception of the in-bounds pass ruined that final Logan play as he dribbled away those final seconds before any Trojan could react.

The buzzer sounded on a terrific 37-35 Triplains-Brewster triumph. Logan had beaten the Titans, 46-47, just four days earlier in

both teams' season debuts. "This was a big win for us," Titans second-year head coach Michael Collett said. "We just wanted to get out to their better shooters (on that last play), and we were able to jump it."

Rogge's nine points paced the attack, while freshman Tad Holm also went boo-yeah! from three-point range to give Tri-Plains Brewster a 27-25 lead entering that final quarter.

Holm's triple was a huge momentum lifter for the home team. However, it was senior co-captain Seth Smith who made sure this victory didn't slip away.

Trailing again at 33-31, Smith slipped inside to intercept a Logan pass. The all-conference football lineman motored downcourt and found teammate Layton Werth, who'd established strong post position.

Werth's shot off the glass caught Logan, 33-33, and set up those final few dramatic moments where Smith's team would not be denied a victory.

"Yeah, we definitely turned to Smith for his ability to handle the

ball there at the end," Collett said. "He's just a good all-around athlete and another of our captains."

No fewer than six other Titans would hit shots before this first-round tournament game was completed. Junior reserve C.J. Felzien hit a free throw to put Triplains-Brewster ahead 34-33.

"C.J. was really our player of the game as far I'm concerned, the way he stepped up to the occasion after Nathan went out," Collett observed. "This is his first year on varsity, and he was ready. We have a lot of guys on this team who are hungry for wins."

Jorgensen's status for the remaining Shootout games was still a question Tuesday night. The Titans play a Friday semifinal against defending Shootout champion Stockton.

Weskan and Stratton-Liberty (Colo.) meet in the other semi.

Triplains-Brewster (37) — Coleton Rogge 9 points, Seth Smith 6, Nathan Jorgensen 5, Layton Werth 5, C.J. Felzien 3, Tad Holm 3, Ryan Gfeller 2, Jaden Schmidt 2, Justin Schmidt 2. Holm and Jorgensen hit threes.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Hang time was no problem for a Triplains-Brewster Titan and Logan opponent as both leaped to grab this rebound on Tuesday.

Champs start fast

Defending Sagebrush Shootout champion Stockton will try to go through Triplains-Brewster next in its pursuit of repeat tournament titles.

The Tiger girls took down St. Francis, 47-28, on Tuesday while those Stockton boys were one point better with a 50-30 triumph over St. Francis.

Both teams advanced into Friday night's semifinals against the Titans.

Complete results from Tuesday:

Girls

Weskan 51, Healy 24; Stratton-Liberty (Colo.) 53, Heartland Christian 17; Stockton 47, St. Francis 28; Triplains-Brewster 51, Logan 37.

Friday's games: Heartland Christian vs. Healy and St. Francis vs. Logan, 4:30 p.m.; Weskan vs. Stratton-Liberty and Tri-Plains-Brewster vs. Stockton, 6 p.m.

Boys

Weskan 78, Healy 13; Stratton-Liberty 77, Heartland Christian 24; Stockton 64, St. Francis 44; Triplains-Brewster 37, Logan 35.

Friday's games: Heartland Christian vs. Healy and St. Francis vs. Logan, 3 p.m.; Weskan vs. Stratton and Triplains-Brewster vs. Stratton-Liberty, 7:30 p.m.

Titan girls stay unbeaten

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The Logan Trojans could barely keep pace with junior Shawna Rogge, and matching all those other unbeaten Triplains-Brewster girls was impossible on Tuesday.

Rogge's tourney-high 29 points featured 13 during the first quarter which equaled Logan's entire team total.

After the Trojans edged ahead of Rogge 20-18 by halftime, Triplains-Brewster defense took total control.

In fact, the Titans didn't allow a single third-quarter point (while Rogge added six) and never let Logan recover during their 51-37 Sagebrush Shootout win.

It was actually the most scored against coach Kent Gfeller's 3-0 team so far this season. The Titans permitted just 24 and 30 points in two wins last weekend.

Yet with scorers like Rogge and senior Brittany Plummer (12 points), there was more than enough offense on Tuesday.

Rogge hit 10 two-point baskets when not burying 75 percent of her free-throw attempts (nine for 12).

Plummer buried two bombs



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Triplains-Brewster junior Shawna Rogge, right, challenged Logan's Christen Greving for the basketball during Sagebrush Shootout action Tuesday. Rogge scored a game-high 29 points.

from beyond the "triple" arc. Senior C.J. Lewallen hit a trio inside the arc for six points. Junior Alicia Barrie (three points) and sophomore Kelly Lamb (one) completed the Titans' offense.

Knighted Eagles top Crusaders

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A 27-0 second quarter from the strong Stratton-Liberty (Colo.) Knighted Eagles decided Tuesday's 77-24 Sagebrush Shootout win over Heartland Christian.

Trevor Thompson delivered 17 of his game-high 26 points in that pivotal period. Stratton-Liberty built a 50-9 lead by halftime.

As expected, the Crusaders never stopped battling and improved their offense. Sophomore Sean Sullivant and junior Brennan Ziegelmeier hit three-point shots.

Sullivant's seven points led the Crusaders while Ziegelmeier added five. Others hitting shots were 5'11" Caleb Morris (four points), sophomore Corey Wertz (four) and junior Blaine Wertz (two).



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Heartland Christian junior Brennan Ziegelmeier drove around a Stratton-Liberty, Colo., defender Tuesday afternoon in Brewster.

Colorado team proves tough for Heartland Christian girls

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Tenacious Stratton-Liberty (Colo.) defense permitted only one second-half basket during the 53-17 Sagebrush Shootout win over Heartland Christian Tuesday.

Senior Savanna Sullivant stopped and popped in a mid-range jumper for that one Crusader basket.

Senior Amy Myers' 10 points also highlighted the Crusader effort. Heartland only trailed 22-11 at halftime, but the Knighted Eagles delivered 14 unanswered points to start that second half.

Despite no reserves, Heartland's five-girl team battled to the finish against a taller and deeper foe.

Stratton-Liberty moves into Friday's Sagebrush semifinals against Weskan.

Heartland Christian will challenge Healy to begin consolation play at 4:45 p.m. on Friday.

Besides Myers and Sullivant (four points), freshman Allie Mollendor hit one shot for the Crusaders. Senior Kirsten Bandy made one free throw.

Taylor Jackson's 20 points topped Stratton-Liberty while Kaycee Roth tossed in 10.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Heartland Christian freshman Allie Mollendor (10) looked for the chance to force a turnover from Stratton-Liberty's Torrie Thompson during the Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster Tuesday afternoon. Heartland challenges Healy on Friday at the same site.

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