

Sports

Devil boys beat Sainty Indians, lose to Bulldogs

The Decatur Community High boys basketball team ended its season in the second game of substate with a loss to Quinter, a team the boys had trouble with all season.

Before the defeat on Thursday, however, the boys overcame the St. Francis Indians last Tuesday in the first game of sub-state.

The game of the series was played in St. Francis, with Oberlin taking home a 62-54 win.

"It was not a very pretty game, but it was a sub-state road victory," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Our offensive execution was below average, and that affected our shot selection and shooting percentage (31 percent)."

However, he noted, St. Francis' shootings was even poorer at 27 percent.

Oberlin also did better on free throws, hitting more than twice as many as the Indians. Oberlin hit 28 out of 41 tries while Sainty was only had 19 chances, of which they sank 13.

The game was tight, with Sainty leading 13-12 in the first quarter and Oberlin coming up with 14 points to Sainty's 8 in the second quarter to lead 26-21 at the half. In the third quarter, Oberlin lengthened its lead a tad, hitting 15-11 to lead 41-32. Both teams did well in the fourth quarter, with the Indians hitting 22 points to Oberlin's 21.

Oberlin out rebounded the Indians 50 to 34 and each had 18 turnovers.

Scoring for Oberlin were Rusty Grafel, 27 points; Ryan Ruf, 18; Skyley Tacchini, 11; Tyson Nicholson, 3; Nathan Carr, 2; and Corey Fortin, 1.

Tacchini lead in rebounds with 14 followed by Ruf, 12; Nicholson, 11; Grafel, six; Fortin, three; Carr, two; and Egan Grafel and Aaron Ploussard, one each.

Ruf had three steals, R. Grafel, two and Carr one.

On Thursday, the Devils moved back to their home court as the sub-state games came to Oberlin, but they had to play the Quinter Bulldogs. Quinter took the win 75-66 and advanced to the finals, where they fell to the Hoxie Indians.

"We were concerned about our defense at halftime," Coach Ahlberg said. "We had given up 48 points and we were in foul trouble."

"With a small adjustment and a little more effort, we played better the second half. We made a big run the second half; we came from 9 points down at half time and took the lead 66-65 with three minutes left. Quinter Senior Trey Look, an all Northwest Kansas League player, then scored the last 10 points of the game."

Quinter started out strong, edging Oberlin 21-19 in the first quarter and 27-20 in the second to lead 48-39 at the half. In the third quarter, Oberlin slimmed the margin, outscoring Quinter 16-13 to trail 61-55. In the last quarter, Oberlin took the lead for a short time before Quinter again took control.

Scoring for Oberlin were Ruf, 27; R. Grafel, 15; Tacchini, 10; Ploussard, 7; Rollie Leitner, Nicholson and Carr, 2 each; and Fortin, 1.

Ruf led the rebounds with 14 followed by R. Grafel, nine, Tacchini, seven, Leitner, six, Nicholson, four; and Ploussard and Fortin, two each.

Oberlin out rebounded the Bulldogs 46-38 but had 15 turnovers to Quinter's 10 and 27 fouls to the Dogs 21.

This was the last game for seniors Carr, Nicholson and Fortin.

"We will miss their leadership, spirit and determination," Coach Ahlberg said. "We won five of our last seven games. This should propel us to a really good season next year."

The Devils ended with an 11-11 season record.



JUMPING FOR THE REBOUND, Skyler Tacchini (No. 45) and Tyson Nicholson (No. 5) helped the Red Devils down the St. Francis Indians 63-54 last week. — Herald photo by Shawna Blanka

Jennings/Lenora Coyotes lose in overtime

The Jennings/Lenora Coyote/Wildcats and the Golden Plains Bulldogs fought like their namesakes through two overtimes until finally the Dogs won the regional tournament game 64-54.

It was a tight game for the hometown Rexford girls, who took a 14-10 lead in the first quarter and hung on with a 23-21 lead at the half. At the end of three, it was 35-35 and at the end of four, the tie held at 49-49.

It took not one but two overtimes in the game Feb. 12 for the Bulldogs to pull ahead, although they did so

with a tidy 10 points.

"The girls played a very exciting game and unfortunately lost a heart-breaker," Coach Cheri Brooks said. "They went down fighting. It's too bad either team had to lose. Both teams had to overcome obstacles and make adjustments due to the foul situation."

"(We) committed 30 fouls, which put four key players on the bench. Golden Plains beat us from the free throw line. They were 22 for 36."

"The girls played very hard. We made the baskets we needed to make

during the end of regulation time. Unfortunately, we ran out of gas in the second half. We slipped up a couple of times on defense and then turned it over too many times, and in return, they pulled away by 10 points. It was a great defensive battle."

"Lori Vahling really stepped it up as a senior and played a good all-around game. All the girls gave great effort. I was really proud of the players who don't normally play a lot of varsity, coming in and do well."

"All 14 of the girls improved considerably throughout the season. Not

only did their fundamentals improve, but their knowledge of the game increased tremendously. They developed into a great defensive team."

Scoring for Jennings/Lenora were Nickie Rhodes, 17 points; Vahling, 16; Whitney Dubois, 10; Ann Carter, 8; and Sarah Meitl, 3.

Vahling led in rebounds with 10 followed by Carter, nine; Dubois, seven; Meitl, six; Peggy Foster and Kristi Smith, five each; Diane Becker, four; Rhodes and Katie Randolph, one each.

This was the last game of the season for the girls.

Wrestlers bring home medals from tournaments

Oberlin Kid Wrestlers attended tournaments over the past several weeks, bringing home several medals.

In February, the boys traveled to Colby.

Spencer Young brought home first place, winning all his matches by pins. Ace Manning took second; Gage Reichert, third; and Jared Marcuson, fourth.

On Saturday, some boys headed for St. Francis and others went to WaKeeney.

In St. Francis, Manning took first by pinning all his opponents. Young, Scott Miller, Richard Huff and Jake Padgett also took first places while Canaan

Beneda and Jason Trimble came in second.

In WaKeeney, Denton Bailey and Reichert took second while Grant

Reichert took third.

This weekend, the boys will be headed for Phillipsburg for the subdistrict tournament.

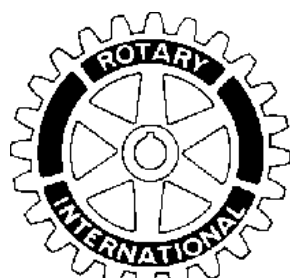
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