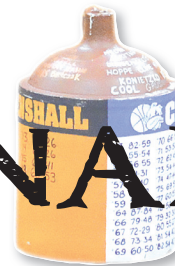


IT'S A BROWN JUG BONANZA



Bulldog girls keep the Jug in Carlton with solid team effort

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The Battle for the Little Brown Jug is a huge game for the schools of Carlton and Wrenshall. Each year both the girls and boys teams battle for the jug as well as the prestige of holding onto the trophy for another season.

This year's version of the girls' "battle" took place Monday night in Carlton with the Bulldogs handling the Wrens by the score of 57-42.

"It was a good game with a nice crowd, which helped out the atmosphere," said Carlton coach Lucas Beireis. "It is fun to see the gym fill up and get loud and into the game. It's pretty cool to see how important the "jug" game is to both communities."

Those sentiments were echoed by Wrens coach Sheri Nelson.

"This game is a great rivalry game, and a game that the girls always circle on their schedule," Nelson said. "As someone who is not an alumni of either school, coming into the program, I wasn't sure what to expect. The atmosphere is exciting, and to see both communities and students come out to support their school is awesome. The crowd is loud and even try to be louder than the opposite team. It's just one of the few times we get the opportunity to see the gym fill for a girls game, and in and of itself is great to see."

Carlton zipped out to a nice early lead and was sitting at a comfortable 31-17 by halftime, based on a balanced offensive effort.

"After falling behind at the half we talked in the locker room about not quitting," Nelson said. "We had to overcome some mental mistakes and even the mental mindset that has held us back this season. In the second half, the girls played better defense and were more aggressive and looked for their shots on offense."

While the Wrens were struggling in the first half, the Bulldogs quietly went about their business as nine different players ended up scoring in the game, with three players scoring 10 points each in the game.

"In the second half I gave some opportunities to girls that don't get a bunch of varsity experience," Beireis said. "We also have had problems this year keeping up the same intensity for two halves, especially when we have a comfortable lead going into the half. Instead of being complacent with it, I wanted the girls to come out and play with the same passion and energy as they did in the

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Fans surround the Carlton Bulldogs team for photos after the Bulldogs defeated the Wrenshall Wrens in a last-second shot to win the game. *Dan Saletel/Pine Knot Sports*

Rousseau hits game-winning shot as 'Dogs reclaim Brown Jug

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Spencer Rousseau's midcourt three-pointer at the buzzer gave the Carlton Bulldogs a two-point win in a packed Wrenshall gymnasium Tuesday night and the Brown Jug after a one-year hiatus in the rivalry.

Carlton defeated Wrenshall 52-50, the same tallies when the two teams met in Carlton earlier this season. Carlton gets the Brown Jug based on the long-held tradition that the team without it has to win it back on the opposing team's floor.

The win for the Bulldogs snapped a five-game losing streak as they improved to 4-8 on the season, with two of the Bulldogs victories now coming against the Wrens.

"The kid hit a clutch shot that gave us the win, and I couldn't be happier for the kids," head coach Jeswa Harris said. "We battled back and forth all night long and the kids never quit."

The Bulldogs trailed by three

points at halftime 31-28, but the Bulldogs battled and stayed close in the second half with the long ball. "Hey and Ojibway hit some big three-pointers to keep us close," Harris said.

Matt Santkuyl also kept the Bulldogs in the game with 16 points, adding 10 rebounds and four blocked shots. Ojibway finished with 15 points and four blocked shots for Carlton.

It was a game which featured 17 lead changes with a tie score five times. Each team had several mini-runs throughout the contest.

"It was a game which either team could have won," Harris said. "We fell behind by 10 points but we never quit. You can never predict who will win this Jug game based on records. Both teams will fight for this every time they meet, and I'm just lucky to have seen my kids win it for the second time in my three years here."

Cole Oja led Wrenshall with 15 points while Randy Wimmer and

Jared Kelly added 11 and 10 points.

"I wish we could have come away with the win," head coach Jon Bartczak said. "We played well enough to win, but in the end we had chances to pull away but didn't shoot the ball as well as we have this season. We shot just 29 percent from the floor and you won't win many games that way. It hurts to see the kids having the chance to win and then see it taken away on a last-second shot."

The Bulldogs will have a few days to enjoy the victory, then will be in action tonight when they host Barnum.

Wrenshall falls to 2-8 on the season and will travel to Two Harbors tonight to face the Agates as part of a girls and boys doubleheader. Randy Wimmer of the Wrens cracked the 1000-point plateau on Monday night against Cherry. Wimmer entered the game five points shy of 1000, and would finish with 16 points in the win.



Carlton's Mathew Santkuyl (24) goes up for a basket during Tuesday night's Brown Jug contest against the Wrenshall Wrens. *Dan Saletel/Pine Knot Sports*



Wrenshall's Jared Kelley (0) muscled through Carlton defender Spencer Rousseau (11) on a push to the basket during Tuesday night's matchup in Wrenshall.



Carlton's Jordan Hyry (40) gets a shot up to the net away from Wrenshall defender Haley Patrillio (42) during Monday night's matchup in Carlton.