

Sports

St. Peter Herald



GIRLS BASKETBALL
St. Peter girls basketball beats unbeaten Medford 46-33 **3B**

BOYS HOCKEY

WRESTLING

Hunt reaches 6th at state wrestling

By PAT BECK
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St. Peter junior Eli Hunt didn't reach as high on the podium as he wished, but he earned a sixth-place medal at Minnesota State Class AA Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

One of Hunt's goals was to medal, but he thought he had a chance of winning the 170-pound weight class.

"One of my goals at the beginning of the season was to reach the podium," Hunt said. "But it's not as high as I would have wanted. But I still made it. Not everyone can say that."

Hunt, who finished 3-3 at state and 34-12 this season, started off with a close 13-11 win over La Crescent senior Colton Jorgenson (18-11).

Hunt fought off nerves in the first match. "My first match I kind of was nervous, got off to a quick start and let the kid back into the match," he said. "I ended up winning by a take-down in the last 10 seconds."

Things got tougher in the quarterfinals as Hunt lost 7-6 in overtime in a rematch with Waconia senior Mitch Garnatz (45-13), who Hunt pinned in the section.

That dropped Hunt into the consolation bracket where he opened with a pin in 1:57 over Mahtomedi junior Nate Kujawa (28-24). "That was good to get a pin and get to the second day," Hunt said.

Then Hunt won the consolation semifinal 11-8 over Marshall senior Elijah Sterner (27-13) to qualify for the medal round.

"I started off the day with a pretty good win," Hunt said. "I got to my offense really good. I got a couple of takedowns in the first period and was able to toss him to his back. He kind of reversed it and got some back points of his own. I got a reversal in the third and rode him out for the win."

Big Lake senior Charlie Gellerman (40-7) edged Hunt 3-2 in three overtimes to send Hunt into the fifth-place match. "That one sucked," Hunt said.

Then Hunt dropped to the fifth and sixth place match. In the third time meeting Garnatz, Hunt fell 5-1, managing only an escape at the end.

"He had a game plan against me," Hunt said of Garnatz. "Basically he kept it close. He didn't get into any tie-ups with me because he knows I'm a thrower. I wrestled his match instead of wrestling my own."

It was a learning experience in Hunt's first time at state.

See **WRESTLING** on 3B



St. Peter's Eli Hunt picks up an 11-3 win over Colton Jorgenson of La Crescent in the first round. (Ian Srp/Waseca County News)



Students cheer as the Bulldogs take the ice. (Photos by Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

BREAKING THE ICE

Bulldogs skate to state for 1st time with 5-3 win over Lourdes

By PAT BECK
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In a historic victory in front of the biggest crowd of the season, the Minnesota River Bulldogs defeated Rochester Lourdes 5-3 in the Section 1A boys hockey championship game Thursday at Rochester Recreation Center.

With the win, the Bulldogs earned the team's first trip to state in the 75-year history of the tournament.

"This is for all the Bulldog hockey players in the past and in the future," Bulldogs senior goalie Andy Regner said. "We set a benchmark, and we want everyone to shoot for the stars. Hopefully we can keep that going for the next few years."

'Dream come true'

Senior center Jade Reicks said qualifying for state "is a dream come true to represent all these towns (St. Peter, Le Sueur-Henderson, TCU, Cleveland and Belle Plaine) and play together. It's good to make some history for the Bulldogs, sending our association's first trip to state at any level. We're extremely proud and blessed and grateful for all the people who came out tonight and helped make it happen."

Reicks said the Bulldogs have been playing together since they were 6 years old. "We're really blessed with

all the players and coaches."

Senior right wing Ken Ringler said making state "is an absolutely unbelievable feeling with the team atmosphere and playing together with these guys ever since we were 6 years old, dreaming about this playing backyard hockey. It's always in our mind, every practice and every game, and we accomplished it."

Making state means a lot, senior right wing Hunter Wilmes said. "This is what we've been working for our whole lives out on the pond seven hours a day with the boys I grew up playing with. It's an unreal feeling."

Although No. 4 seeded Lourdes (16-11) held a 44-31 shots on goal advantage, the No. 2 Bulldogs made more of their chances count to up their record to 20-4 heading into the state tournament beginning Wednesday at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

The unseeded Bulldogs will play the No. 3 seeded East Grand Forks Green Wave (20-8) at 1 p.m. Other seeded teams are No. 1 Mahtomedi who plays New Ulm at 6 p.m., No. 2 St. Cloud Cathedral who plays North Branch at 11 a.m. and No. 4 Greenway versus No. 5 Delano at 8 p.m.

East Grand Forks became the Section 8A champion with a 3-1 win over Warroad on Thursday night at the Civic Center. The Green Wave, the Class A champion in 2014, is



Fans spell out their favorite team.

making its 12th state tournament appearance.

Not only did the Bulldogs attract a huge crowd in the arena, they had a big following on the internet. All the players, fans and coaches from both teams were watching the final 3 minutes on the big video board in the gym after the Tri-City United at St. Peter boys basketball game that night.

Regner, the lone player remaining from the 2016 team that defeated Lourdes 3-2 to reach the section semifinals in 2016, said he's never played in front of a bigger crowd before. It is the first time the Bulldogs have made the section final.

"We were trying to get a good

turnout to Rochester," Regner said. "It's kind of a drive (90 miles from St. Peter). Coming out for warm-ups in the first period, I looked up at the crowd, and that's the biggest crowd I've ever seen in every sport. The fans really help. They make the atmosphere here. All of our buddies are here to cheer us on. It's a group effort, not just the players."

Stingy keeping, efficient shooting

Regner put on a good show, stopping 41 of the 44 shots on goal.

"Andy always comes up huge for us in games like this," Reicks said. "That's

See **HOCKEY** on 2B

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St. Peter girls basketball repeats as subsection champs

By PAT BECK
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Extra free-throw practice paid off with the game on the line for St. Peter girls basketball team.

The No. 4 seeded Saints made 21 of 26 from the line in winning the Section 2AA South Subsection championship over No. 2 seeded Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 52-47 on Monday at Minnesota State University Mankato.

"We work on it every day in practice," St. Peter sophomore Morgan Kelly said. "We've got to be able to put them in to win games."

The one-two punch of 5-foot-10 forwards Sarah Conlon and Morgan Kelly led the scoring. Conlon finished with 20 points, including 7 of 9 free throws and Kelly scored 18 with 9 of 10 free throws.



St. Peter guard Jacey Welp passes around WEM guard Shelby Hermel to forward Sarah Conlon. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

"I'm really proud of the effort everyone we gave, and everyone really wants the opportunity to play at the state tournament," Conlon said. "Just like last game,

defense and rebounding got us the win."

The first half was low scoring with the Saints leading 19-14 at the buzzer. Conlon scored the first

basket 3 minutes and 20 seconds into the game. The Saints' had their biggest lead of 17-9 when guard Jacey Welp drove for two points with 5:08 left in the half.

Conlon said the environment of the bigger stage on a college court made difficult for the teams to adjust. "Playing in the big arena, all the nerves were there in the beginning, but later we relaxed."

With two 3-point shooting arcs, a longer one for college and shorter one for high school, it confused the Saints last year in the section finals. "We weren't going to make that mistake again," Conlon said.

Both teams gained their scoring touch in the second half, hitting 33 points each. The Bucs pulled within 34-31 with about 10 minutes left. But the Saints pulled away 46-36 on a basket by Conlon

with 5 minutes left.

With WEM (21-6) forced to foul, the Saints made six straight free throws down the stretch. Allie McCabe made a pair of free throws with 1:12 to play to make it 48-42, Kelly hit two free throws with 42 seconds left to up the lead to 50-45 with 20 seconds to go. Conlon finished it off with a pair of free throws with 19.2 seconds left.

"The difference at the end was getting stops and making free throws," Kelly said. "If we didn't, the score would have been a whole lot different. We were aggressive, as well, driving to the basket, breaking that pressure usually. That helped us out lot."

"We knew going in the game it was going to be an aggressive defensive game. But I'm glad we came out on top. We played well down the stretch. That helped us pull out

the win."

St. Peter coach Bob Southworth said the Saints improved their rebounding in the second half and outrebounded the Bucs 34-26. "But they made a lot of 3-pointers in the second half (seven) to keep it close, and that's what basketball is. Our goal was to outrebounded them, take care of the ball, and we had to make free throws and pound the ball inside."

"Give them credit. They played hard. They gave us fits. Their defense is tough and made us work."

Southworth likes the versatility of the Saints' offense. Conlon and Kelly can hit 3-pointers, but they can also post up inside. "It's a mismatch problem, and it makes teams have to defend them all over the place."

See **BASKETBALL** on 3B

Hockey: 'These guys are so excited, and I can't wait to see them play'

From Page 1B

one of the things I love about him." Regner said, "Forty-four shots is a lot, but I had my offense and defense behind me, so I couldn't have done it without them. They worked their butts off. I just had to stop the puck. It was a team effort period in and period out. All the dedication we put in practice we put it all in this game."

The Bulldogs have won 11 of their last 12 games.

Wilmes, who finished with a hat trick, sparked the Bulldogs, giving them a 2-0 lead. He scored the first one unassisted at 7:47 in the first period. Center Tyson Sowder and left wing Charlie Weick assisted on Wilmes' second goal at 10:41.

"Hunter came up big for us today and helped set the tone with those first couple of goals," Reicks said. "It gave us a lot of momentum and put us at ease going into the second and third."

Wilmes said he scored the first goal by picking off a defenseman's pass and shooting the puck into the top left corner.

He said on the second one, he took a pass from Sowder, skated down the right side and five-holed the goalie between his legs.

Lourdes answered with a pair of goals at 13:30 and 16:36 to make it 2-2 after one period.

Reicks, assisted by Ringler, scored at 9:45 of the second period to put the Bulldogs back up 3-2.

"I got a pass from Ken, who I think got a pass from Lane (Schwarz)," Reicks said. "I saw where the goalie was, and I just spun and quick backhanded it in bottom left corner."

Reicks returned the favor to Ringler at 3:50 of the third period to up the Bulldogs' lead to 4-2.

"I brought it into the zone,"



Bulldogs right wing Hunter Wilmes scores his first of three goals against Rochester Lourdes. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Reicks said. "One of the defenders kind of bit toward me, so I just pushed a pass to Ken, and he put it in the top right corner."

Lourdes pulled its goalie for a sixth attacker in the last two minutes and scored with 1:05 remaining to cut the Bulldogs' lead to 4-3.

But Wilmes ended the Eagles' chances with an open netter he shot in from center ice. Wilmes leads the Bulldogs and the section with 29 goals and 60 points this season.

Teamwork

Ringler said the key was staying positive. "We can really crumble when we get down on each other, and we didn't. Everybody was picking each other up. We had each other's back. We trusted the coaches and the coaches trusted us. It was an all-around effort."

The speedy Reicks-Ringler-Schwarz line never stops working.

"We give 100 percent," Ringler said. "We knew the game could be our last. We didn't want to go out with any regrets. Our line trusts each other and plays well together."

Wilmes agreed that the Bulldogs stayed positive the whole game, and that helped a lot. "We knew what we had to do to get the job done, and we did it."

Reicks said the Bulldogs were a

little anxious in the first period. "In between periods, we said we need to calm down. We made our passes and put some in the net. That was huge for us to stay calm."

Wilmes said the goal at state is to have fun. "We've got nothing to lose. We already got what we wanted going to state. Be at the Xcel Center March 6th."

Regner said, "Hopefully, we can keep it going again next week at the state tournament. Our goal was just to get there. We're happy and can't think of any place else we'd want to be. We'll cherish this tonight and get back to work for the state tournament tomorrow."

Bulldogs head coach Shea Roehrke said he was "incredibly proud" of the team.

"These boys set their sights on this from the start of the year and to see the joy on their faces by reaching this goal is what makes it all worthwhile," he said. "We had some unbelievable plays all around tonight, and guys stepped up when we needed it. Regner was huge in net and kept us going. These guys are so excited, and I can't wait to see them play next week at the X."

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

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WOMEN CELEBRATING WOMEN

The annual St. Peter Area Women Celebrating Women event is a celebration of all women as valued members and leaders of our community. The 2019 event is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9** at Gustavus Adolphus College. The theme for this year's celebration is **Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence.**

One woman will be honored who has proven to be a leader and inspiration to others in the St. Peter community. To nominate a woman for this recognition, please provide information as requested below. (Please insert the appropriate section numbers in your narrative.) Incomplete nominations will not be considered. You may want to collaborate with others to develop a comprehensive representation of your nominee.

1. Nominator's Name, Address, Phone Number.
2. Nominee's Name, Address.
3. Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in the St. Peter Area community.
4. Please describe how the nominee's participation and involvement have contributed to the St. Peter community.

Mail or deliver completed nomination narrative to:

WCW Nominations
St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce
101 S. Front St.
St. Peter, MN 56082

Nominations must be received at the Chamber by Friday, March 22 by 3:00 pm.

No late nominations will be accepted.

For an electronic copy of the nomination form, please contact spchamb@hickorytech.net.

*All nominations remain the property of St. Peter Area Women Celebrating Women.

*The selected honoree is not notified in advance.

*The nominator is asked to arrange for the nominee to attend the recognition event.



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BOYS BASKETBALL

Seniors cap off regular season career leading Saints to 75-41 win over TCU

By PAT BECK
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All the St. Peter seniors scored as the Saints (19-6) wrapped up the regular season with a 75-41 victory over Tri-City United (1-24) on Thursday.

"It was good to get back on the floor after our last game against Springfield," St. Peter coach Sean Keating said. "We got out to a 21-5 lead. TCU made a little run in the 1st half and cut it to 31-20 with 4 minutes left. We responded and finished the half on an 8-3 to go into halftime."

The four seniors (Brock Olson, Seth Lokensgard, Carter Doose and Tom Eide) tallied 33 of the 75 points.

Hanson led the way with a career high 21 points to go along with eight rebounds. "He feasted in the paint and used his strength very well tonight," St. Peter assistant coach Neil Doose said. "It was great to see him use his size



Leading scorer Brock Hanson of St. Peter goes up for two points against TCU. (Ashley Murth/Le Sueur County News)

effectively."

"Brock Hanson got after it inside and had some strong finishes around the rim," Keating said.

We watched the Bulldogs game on the big screen in the gym after our game ended. See-

ing the emotion of those players definitely has our players excited for tournament time.

Wyatt Olson had a double double of 10 points and 11 rebounds. "We really used our size to our advantage against TCU'S

2-3 zone," Doose said.

Eli Lubiani finished with 9 points, all from 3-point range as he was 3 for 4 from deep.

"Ethan Grant played some quality minutes after missing a few weeks with sickness," Doose said. "He tallied 7 points and rebounded well from the guard spot with five. It was great having him back on the floor bringing us some energy off the bench."

"It was really great to have all of our guys back including Ethan Grant who has been out with illness the last 5 games," Keating said. "He is a huge difference maker for us as his ability to create with the basketball in his hands is something we really need."

Thirteen players scored, and the Saints outrebounded the Titans 35-19.

The team shot well at 14 of 25 from 2-point range (56%), 9 of 20 from 3 (45%) and 20 of 31 (65%) from the free throw line.

The Saints shared the ball well

as they distributed 18 assists on 23 made baskets. Ethan Volk and Wyatt Olson led with four assists each.

St. Peter also had 11 steals, led by Eli Lubiani with three thefts.

"We out rebounded TCU 35 to 19 with an impressive 12 offensive rebounds," Doose said.

St. Peter had too many turnovers at halftime (12), but only had five in the second half as adjustments were made in the locker room at half time, Doose said.

"The focus now turns to preparing for our opening round playoff game. It's been nice to have practice time."

Seeded No. 1 in Section 2AA South Subsection, the Saints had a bye in the first round Monday and play at 6 p.m. Thursday at Mankato East versus No. 4 seeded Maple River which beat No. 5 Medford 66-43.

TCU 23 18 41

STP 39 36 75

St Peter 75 (Brock Hanson 21, Wyatt Olson 10, Eli Lubiani 9, Ethan Grant 7, Josh Johnson 6, Seth Lokensgard 6, Carter Doose 3, Tom Eide 3, Kendall Nicolai 3, Ethan Volk 3, Bennett Olson 2, Kaden Oeltjenbruns 1, Liam Dixon 1)

Rebounds 35 (Wyatt Olson 11, Hanson 8, Grant 5, Lubiani 3, Dixon 2, Eide 2, Johnson 1, Lokensgard 1, Nicolai 1, Bennett Olson 1)

Assists 18 (Wyatt Olson 4, Volk 4, Lubiani 3, Hanson 2, Lokensgard 2, Grant 1, Daniel Nadeau 1, Nicolai 1)

Steals 11 (Lubiani 3, Hanson 2, Johnson 1, Doose 1, Nicolai 1, Wyatt Olson 1, Oeltjenbruns 1, Volk 1)

Blocks 1 (Eide)

Turnovers 17

2 FG's 14-25 (56%)

3 FG's 9-20 (45%, Lubiani 3-4, Johnson 2-4, Doose 1-1, Lokensgard 1-1, Eide 1-2, Volk 1-2)

FT 20-31 (65%)

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

St. Peter girls basketball beats unbeaten Medford 46-33

By PAT BECK
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Upsets happen every year in the playoffs.

Some are bigger than others.

No. 4 seeded St. Peter (13-10) had one of the bigger upsets so far in defeating previously unbeaten and No. 1 seeded Medford 46-33 in the Section 2A, South Subsection semifinals Friday at Mankato East.

Like the previous game, the Saints won with defense, rebounding and free throws. The Saints outrebounded the Tigers 42-36. The Tigers came in averaging 65 points per game. But the Saints held them to half as much. The Saints made 8 of 11 for 73 percent from the line.

"They can score," St. Peter coach Bob Southworth said of the Tigers. "We just wanted them to take contested shots. We did a really good job being in the gaps to help on drives and holding down their 32-point shooters. It was two teams going at each other on defense, especially in the second half, they were getting at us defensively pretty good. We just held on. We just got to play defense, get rebounds and make free throws. Our girls battled hard. They maybe screwed up the offensive end, but they didn't let that affect their defense."

St. Peter senior point guard Jacey Welp agreed that defense was the key. "We played very hard defensively. That's where it all starts with stops and rebounds."

Forwards Sarah Conlon and Morgan Kelly both scored 14 points to lead the Saints in scoring. Kelly also had 11 rebounds for a double-double, plus four blocks.

Conlon, who has been on a hot streak lately, made key free throws down the stretch, hitting 6 of 8 from the line.

"I kind of was on slump for the last couple of weeks, and I got in the gym and worked on my shot and made sure that I got out of my slump as fast as possible," Conlon said.

"I knew there was a lot riding on



St. Peter forward Sarah Conlon dribbles around a pair of Medford players. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

this game with them being undefeated. It felt really good to be their first loss. We played really well together and had a bunch of energy. When someone would get down, we picked each other up, and that helped a lot."

Jacey Welp, who went out with four fouls midway through the second half, ended up with nine points. She played the last seven minutes without a foul.

"I knew that I had to put everything into the game, so aggressiveness just comes to mind," Welp said. "Sometimes that refs call what they call. You just got to adjust."

Guard Allie McCabe led with five assists.

"We passed the ball around well," Welp said. "We didn't take too many quick shots. That's why a lot of our games we haven't been shooting as well because we've been shooting way too fast. We've been getting it in and kicking it out more, so it's flowing better. That's why we're making more."

Conlon said Medford knew that one of St. Peter's strength is on the inside, so they tried to take that away, Conlon said. "But that opened up our 3-point shooters."

The Saints jumped to a big lead in the first half 26-13 and increased it to as much as 35-18 in the second half. But the Tigers cut it to 37-30 with about 5 minutes to play.

Josie Wiebusch made a reverse layup to up the Saints' lead to 39-30 with 4:30 left. Conlon made a layup on a pass from McCabe. Wiebusch made another basket with 1:10 to play to up the Saints' lead to 44-33, and Conlon finished off the scoring with a pair of free throws.

Medford made just 4 of 23 from 3-point land, while the Saints made 6 of 16. Neither team had much success scoring inside, with the Saints outscoring the Tigers 18-12 in the paint.

Medford finishes the season 25-1. St. Peter advances to the subsection finals against No. 2 Waterville-Elysian Morrirstown at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 at Minnesota State University, Mankato. WEM defeated No. 6 Maple River (16-10) in the other subsection semifinal Friday 58-55. Southworth expects another "defensive slugfest" against WEM.

The section finals will be at 7:45 p.m. March 8 at MSU. St. Peter reached the finals last

year, losing to Norwood Young America.

"We've got to prove ourselves and win it this time," Conlon said. "It could be by Norwood or Jordan on the other side of the section. It's up for grabs."

St. Peter 27 19 46

Medford 16 17 33

St. Peter 46 (Sarah Conlon 14, Morgan Kelly 14, Jacey Welp 9, Josie Wiebusch 4, Signe Alger 3, Grace Remmert 2)

Rebounds 42 (Kelly 11, McCabe 8, Conlon 5, Remmert 3, Wiebusch 3, Alger 2, Emma Jones 2, Welp 2, unassigned/team 6)

Assists 10 (McCabe 5, Remmert 2, Wiebusch 2, Kelly 1)

Steals 7 (Conlon 2, Jones 1, Kelly 1, Remmert 1, Welp 1, Wiebusch 1)

Blocks 6 (Kelly 4, Conlon 2)

FG 16-48 (33%)

3FG 6-16 (38%, Welp 1-2, Conlon 4-6, McCabe 1-3)

FT 8-11 (73%)

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.



St. Peter forward Sarah Conlon drives for two of her game-high 20 points against WEM. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Basketball: St. Peter to play Jordan this upcoming Friday

From Page 1B

STP 19 33 52

St. Peter (15-10) returns to the section finals at 7:45 p.m. Friday at MSU against the North subsection champion Jordan (22-5), who upset No. 1 seeded defending champion Norwood Young America 71-43.

The Saints reached the finals last year, losing to NYA.

"We want to get over the hump this year," Southworth said.

"We're going to play St. Peter basketball," Kelly said. "We're going to play aggressive defense. We're going to get stops. And when we come down to the offensive end, we're going to work hard, too."

Conlon said, "If we come out with enough energy, then I think we'll be fine."

WEM 14 33 47

St. Peter 52 (Sarah Conlon 20, Morgan Kelly 18, Jacey Welp 6, Allie McCabe 5, Signe Alger 3)

Rebounds 34 (McCabe 6, Kelly 6, Conlon 5, Wiebusch 4, Welp 3, Emma Jones 2, Grace Remmert 2, unassigned/team 6)

Assists 7 (McCabe 5, Remmert 2, Wiebusch 2, Kelly 1)

Steals 7 (Conlon 2, Welp 2, Jones 1, Kelly 1, McCabe 1)

Blocks 6 (Conlon 3, Kelly 1, Wiebusch 1)

FG 14-31 (45%)

3FG 3-8 (38%, Alger 1-1, Conlon 1-1, Kelly 1-2)

FT 21-26 (81%)

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.



Eli Hunt of St. Peter earns an escape against Big Lake's Charlie Gellerman, but Gellerman won 3-2 in overtime. (Pat Beck/St. Peter Herald)

Wrestling: Hunter said overall competition is tougher at state

From Page 1B

said. "The cheap stuff doesn't work up here."

"When you're wrestling the top competition, you have to earn every point," Hunt said. "Nothing comes cheap. I've got some things I need to work on for next year. I've got to stay in better position."

Hunt said the overall competition is tougher at state.

"Every once in a while, you'll run into those high-quality kids during the regular season," he

Hunt is shooting for a return trip top state next year.

"My next time back here I'll be less nervous and just let it fly and hopefully place pretty high," Hunt said. "I'll have to work all summer for it"

Reach Sports Editor Pat Beck at 931-8566 or follow him on Twitter.com @SPHSportsPat.

Clipper girls season ends in 2nd round of playoffs

By RICHARD ROHLFING
Correspondent

Subsection top seed BOLD ended the season for the Cleveland Clippers girls basketball team 91-55 in the second round on March 5 in Olivia.

Caitlin Brink led the Clipper scoring effort with 17 points. No other Clipper was in double figures. They only had two assists.

BOLD, which takes on Sleepy Eye St. Mary's for the subsection championship Tuesday, made six threes and was 17 of 20 from the charity line.

The Clippers finish with an 8-16 overall record. They were 3-5 in the Valley Conference.

It was the last game for seniors Brink, Karna Ziebarth, Katelyn McCabe, Julia McCabe



The Cleveland seniors, all starters, ended their high school careers Tuesday with a loss to host BOLD. They are Christa Phillips, Katelyn McCabe, Julia McCabe, Caitlin Brink and Karna Ziebarth. (Photo courtesy of Carynn Klingel)

and Christa Phillips.

BOLD 91, Cleveland 55

Cleveland 30 25 55
BOLD 54 37 91

Cleveland 55 (Katelyn McCabe 8, Karna Ziebarth 7, Julia McCabe 3, Christa Phillips 8, Caitlin Brink 17, Halle McCabe 4, Macey Ziebarth 2, Emmie Dittmar 4, Emily Kern 2)

Rebounds 16 (Halle McCabe 2, Katelyn McCabe 4, Karna Ziebarth 2, Christa Phillips 6, Brink 2)

Assists 2
Steals 7 (Halle McCabe 2, Katelyn McCabe 1, Julia McCabe 1, Brink 3)

Turnovers 14
2FG 15-45 (33%)

3FG 5-11 (46%) (Julia McCabe 1, Ziebarth 1, Brink 3)

FT 6-6 (100%)

BOYS BASKETBALL

Season ends for Clipper boys in playoff opener against Sleepy Eye

By RICHARD ROHLFING
Correspondent

Avenging an earlier season loss, host Sleepy Eye made for a one-and-done Clipper boys post season with a 66-55 win Thursday.

With Cleveland not able to make a stop, the Indians took a lead midway through the first half, and the Clippers never recovered.

"Defensively, when they got that little bit of a lead, we weren't necessarily playing with max effort there," coach Dan Fredrickson said. "I don't know...we might have got tired. We weren't showing on ball screens the way we needed to. I thought we guarded well at times in the first half, but they were just very efficient coming off that high ball screen."

The Clippers misfired on the first couple of trips down court, but Brendon Brown took an in-bound pass up from the paint to tie the game 2-2. After a Levi Baker steal, Ben Holden's two put the Clippers up 4-2.

The Indians hit a three and then drove for a layup, but Isaac Mueller's three tied the game at seven. The Indians took the ball inside for a basket, but with Mueller's back-to-back threes, the Clippers were up 13-9.

"Isaac got us off to a nice start



Brendon Brown, the only senior starter for the Clippers, goes up on a jumper during their 66-55 loss in the first round of the section Thursday to host Sleepy Eye. (Richard Rohlfing/Le Sueur County News)

offensively, Isaac and Ben in that first half," Fredrickson said. "Even though we weren't necessarily running our stuff, Isaac is such a talented player that he can go and get buckets. Ben got some

nice buckets in the paint early on, and on offense we were playing with them."

Sleepy Eye hit a two and then a three after a steal for a one-point advantage, but Luke Mueller

scored on an in-bounds pass for a 15-14 Clipper lead. Brother Isaac dropped another three, but it was sandwiched between two Sleepy Eye baskets for an 18-18 tie.

From there the Indians eased away for the next seven points before a Luke Mueller three. After baskets by Holden, Luke Mueller, who led the Clipper effort with 17 points, hit another three, but with two more threes and a buzzer beat, the Indians were up 42-33 at the half.

"With the three offensive players they bring, two of them being very, very talented, I thought we had to do a good job taking them away in the first half, and we didn't," Fredrickson said. "We let them get in rhythm. When they got into rhythm offensively, that kind of sparked them."

But it looked like the Clippers would make a comeback after threes by Luke Mueller and Baker pulled the Clippers within three points with 8:10 left in the second half.

"In the second half, we went to the 1-3-1 and really, really played good defense once we switched," Fredrickson said.

But with inside shots, the Indians widened their advantage before going to the delay. Eric Rohlfing scored the final basket for the Clippers.

Brown as well as classmates

Austin Gibeau and Daniel Rohlfing, the three seniors on the team, played to the final buzzer. One of the team's captains, Brown said it was a rebuilding year for the Clippers, and the seniors, who were all emotional after the loss, were part of the framework.

"Having played under a great upper class for the last however many years, getting us seniors a chance to play and all the younger kids, we were a new team for sure. We didn't get all the wins we wanted; it didn't go the way we expected, but we're just building up, and next year and the next few years are going to be really good. I'm so proud to have been a part and so glad to lead these guys."

Fredrickson said Brown stepped up to his role as captain.

"If you would hear some of the inspirational things he says to the guys, you couldn't ask for a better leader. He definitely deserves more this year. I think the seniors deserve a better season than what they got. Gibeau is an amazing practice player. He comes out here and plays with a lot of effort, and then Daniel...to stick it out, for a player who didn't necessarily get a lot of minutes just says a ton about his character. I'm proud to be their coach, proud to be the coach of Cleveland."

The head coach said the emotion at the end demonstrated the

game's significance for the senior trio.

"For guys coming back, use this as a springboard into the summer. See what this game meant afterward, with those tears flowing, to those seniors, and use that as motivation going forward."

The Clippers finish the season with a 6-20 record and were 1-8 in the Valley Conference (2-10 in the Valley including tournament play).

Sleepy Eye 66, Cleveland 55
Cleveland 33 22 55
Sleepy Eye 42 24 66

Cleveland 55 (Ben Holden 15, Lucas Mueller 17, Levi Baker 3, Isaac Mueller 16, Brendon Brown 2, Eric Rohlfing 2)

Rebounds 38 (Brown 11, Baker 2, Holden 12, Luke Mueller 2, Isaac Mueller 5, Rohlfing 2, Karson Lindsay 4)

Assists 9 (Brown 1, Isaac Mueller 2, Luke Mueller 4, Gibeau 2)

Steals 10 (Isaac Mueller 2, Luke Mueller 4, Austin Gibeau 1, Holden 1, Baker 1)

Blocks 6 (Brown 1, Isaac Mueller 1, Levi Baker 1, Luke Mueller 1, Ben Holden 2)

Turnovers 12
2FG 12-40 (30%)
3FG 8-24 (33%) (Isaac Mueller 4, Lucas Mueller 3, Baker 1)
FT 7-10 (70%).

Immanuel rolls over Clipper boys

By RICHARD ROHLFING
Correspondent

It has been three years since the Cleveland boys have taken on Mankato's Immanuel Lutheran, and usually the game ends up being a fairly easy win for the Clippers.

But for anyone thinking it would be the same Tuesday when the Trojans hosted the Clippers, not so fast.

IL, who swept through the Christian Athletic League with over 20 wins, controlled the Clippers from the tip-off to the final buzzer 82-65.

"These guys would finish second or third in our conference for sure," Cleveland head coach Dan Fredrickson said. "This team's legit."

Fast out of the gate, the Trojans scored on most of their first possessions and racked up the first 14 points before Ben Holden made a basket for the Clippers. But continuing to roll with a dozen points coming from behind the arc, the Trojans went up 28-4.

"They are great shooters and hard to guard," Fredrickson said. "They run that Wisconsin swing offense, and they run that well with the shooters they have. We just have to do a better job guarding. We started the game man-to-man and still couldn't get out on their shooters."

The Clippers outscored the Trojans 22-10 later in the half and narrowed the gap to 10 at one point, but the Trojans took their 14-point jumpstart lead into the locker room.

The Clippers couldn't carry their momentum into the second half. Any time it seemed they might be on the start of a run, Immanuel's sophomore shooter Austin Hanal would swish a three. By the final buzzer Trojans added three more points to their lead.

Holden led the Clipper effort with 13 points. Isaac Mueller added a dozen.

Leading all players, Hanal scored 32 points, including seven baskets from behind the arc. Senior Solomon Pawlitschek had 16 points. Senior Chlang Rieck added 14 points.

Pawlitschek, who scored his 1,000th point for the Trojans a year ago and was a productive member of the Cleveland football the last couple of seasons, and said it was enjoyable to square off against some of his former football teammates.

"They've always been a good team, and they're fun to play against. They're all good friends. Finally beating them was nice. It was fun for sure."



On a breakaway layup, junior Michael Sullivan scored the last basket of host Immanuel Lutheran 82, Clippers 65. (Richard Rohlfing/Le Sueur County News)

A week before, the Clippers whipped up on winless Glenville-Emmons, Fredrickson's alma mater, in Glenville, 88-52.

Holden, Isaac Mueller and Levi Baker each had 14 points.

Immanuel Lutheran 82, Cleveland 65

Cleveland 26 39 65

Immanuel Lutheran 40 42 82

Cleveland 65 (Ben Holden 13, Lucas Mueller 4, Isaac Mueller 12, Austin Gibeau 9, Karson Lindsay 11, Eric Rohlfing 10, Daniel Rohlfing 2, Alex McCabe 2, Michael Sullivan 2)

Rebounds 20 (Brown 1, Holden 4, Isaac Mueller 1, Levi Baker 4, Luke Mueller 2, Lindsay 1, Gibeau 3, Alex McCabe 4)

Assists 11 (Isaac Mueller 6, Brendon Brown 1, Holden 1, Lindsay 1, McCabe 1, Michael Sullivan 1)

Steals 10 (Isaac Mueller 1, Holden 1, Gibeau 1, Baker 2, Luke Mueller 1, Lindsay 1, McCabe 2, Sullivan 1)

Blocks 4 (Holden 2, Isaac Mueller 1, Luke Mueller 1)

Turnovers 10

2FG 21-35 (60%)

3FG 4-18 (22%) (Isaac Mueller 2, Gibeau 1, Lindsay 1)

FT 11-18 (61%)

Cleveland 88, Glenville-Emmons 52

Cleveland 50 38 88

Glenville-Emmons 16 36 52

Cleveland 88 (Ben Holden 14, Lucas Mueller 14, Levi Baker 14, Brendon Brown 2, Isaac Mueller 4, Austin Gibeau 11, Karson Lindsay 10, Daniel Rohlfing 10, Eric Rohlfing 5, Alex McCabe 4)

Rebounds 44 (Brown 6, Holden 11, Isaac Mueller 1, Baker 2, Gibeau 4, Daniel Rohlfing 8, Eric Rohlfing 4, Lindsay 5, Mc-

Cabe 1, Koby Gens 1, Jackson Meyer 1)

Assists 27 (Brown 1, Holden 3, Isaac Mueller 8, Baker 2, Luke Mueller 5, Gibeau 2, McCabe 4, Jamal Zishka 1, Meyer 1)

Steals 13 (Brown 2, Isaac Mueller 1, Eric Rohlfing 3, Luke Mueller 1, Daniel Rohlfing 2, McCabe 1, Lindsay 3)

Blocks 10 (Brown 3, Eric Rohlfing 2, Baker 1, Holden 3, Meyer 1)

Turnovers 6

2FG 26-39 (67%)

3FG 8-27 (30%) (Lindsay 2, Gibeau 2, Baker 2, Lucas Mueller 2)

FT 12-22 (55%)

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ST. PETER HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	
Thursday 3/7	Boys Basketball vs Maple River @ Mankato East 6:00PM (A) MN River Boys Hockey @ State Finals, Xcel Energy Center (A)
Friday 3/8	MN River Boys Hockey @ State Finals, Xcel Energy Center (A) Girls Basketball Section Finals @ MSU 7:30PM (A) Middle School Play, Middle School Theater 7:00PM (H)
Saturday 3/9	MN River Boys Hockey State Finals @ Xcel Energy Center (A)
Monday 3/11	Boys Basketball Subsection Finals @ MSU 6:00PM (A) 5-8th Grade Band Concerts, SPHS Performing Arts Center 6:30PM
Tuesday 3/12	9-12th Grade Band Concert, SPHS Performing Arts Center 7:30PM Knowledge Bowl @ MSU 8:00AM (A) Girls Basketball 2AA Subsection Finals @ MSU (A)
Wednesday 3/13	Girls Basketball State Finals (A)
Home Events (H) Away Events (A)	

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