

SPORTS & CLASSIFIEDS



Blooming Prairie's Macy Lembke controls the ball against FBA in BP Monday. Rocky Hulne/sports@austindailyherald.com

Blossoms start fast and hold off late charge by FBA

By Rocky Hulne
sports@austindailyherald.com

BLOOMING PRAIRIE — The Blooming Prairie girls basketball team went on a roller coaster ride from a big early lead, to having to close out a tight game as it beat Faribault Bethlehem Academy 48-38 Monday night.

The Awesome Blossoms (9-5 overall) held FBA (4-9 overall) scoreless for the first 10 minutes of the game as they led 12-0 early, but FBA pulled as close as 38-34 late in the game before BP was able to close it out.

The Blossoms missed 17 free throws on the night, but Bobbie Bruns and Shawntee Snyder both went two-for-two at the line to push the lead to 44-35 with 3:06 left in the game.

“Free throws have been a struggle for us sometimes. They started fouling with six or seven minutes to go, but we made one a couple of times and then we went two-for-two a couple of times and that was big for us,” BP head coach John Bruns said. “BA is a good team and they’ve got some good shooters. (Kate) Trump is a heck of a shooter and she always shoots well in this gym. She was hitting from 25 feet out and it’s



Shawntee Snyder posts up for BP.

hard to guard that.”

BP sophomore Macy Lembke made some timely plays for her team. She came up with a steal and converted two free throws to put BP up 38-32 with 8:04 left in the game and in the first half, she hit a three and turned a steal

into a lay up to make it 20-12 BP with 3:52 left in the game.

“I just went for it and got it. I was anticipating it a little bit,” Lembke said.

BP senior Bobbie Bruns finished with 22 points, five assists and four steals in the win. She

said the Blossoms had to commit to the boards to compete.

“They got their points when they out-rebounded us. When you get four shots per possession, you’re bound to put the ball in the net at some point,” Bobbie said. “Haven Carlson was out tonight and she’s a big rebounder for us. We had a lot of girls step up and get some big boards.”

Bobbie recently made her college commitment to Gustavus Adolphus, which is off to a 15-4 overall start to the season. Bobbie, who broke her leg in a brutal car accident last spring, is glad to have her future locked up, but she’s focusing on the prospects of her current team for the time being.

“My college decision is a big weight off my shoulders,” Bobbie said. “Now I can focus on finishing my high school career strong. I’m excited for college, but that’s in the future and I want to focus on now and finish out my high school season.”

Faribault BA 20 18 — 38
Blooming Prairie 28 20 — 48

BP scoring: Bobbie Bruns, 22; Macy Lembke, 8; Anna Pauly, 6; Shawntee Snyder, 5; Addison Doocy, 5; Chloe McCarthy, 2; **rebounds:** 35; **free throws:** 39 percent (11-for-28); **turnovers:** 11



Austin's Klayton Knapp makes a first-period save against North Iowa Saturday night at Riverside Arena. Eric Johnson/photodesk@austindailyherald.com

Bruins fall short on Paint the Rink Night, game ends on a sour note

By Rocky Hulne
sports@austindailyherald.com

The Austin Bruins got off to a slow start as they lost to the North Iowa Bulls 4-2 on Paint the Rink night in Riverside Arena Friday night, but the night ended on a low note after a big night of raising funds for The Hormel Institute to fight cancer.

After Austin's John Larkin and Carson Riddle both left the game after receiving unsportsmanlike penalties in the final 30 seconds. With less than a second left in the game, a pair of trash cans were thrown from Austin's fan section — one was thrown

into the North Iowa bench and another landed on center ice.

Austin head coach Steve Howard was quick to condemn the action.

“We don’t like to see that stuff. I know if I’m on the road, I don’t like having fans having access to us and if they’re going to say stuff to us or throw stuff at us, you can’t do that,” Howard said. “We’ve got to treat their players and coaches with respect. Some of those guys are kids on that team. They’re 16 or 17 years old and I felt really bad. I was apologizing to them afterwards. It’s something that we can’t have and I hope that we have

a little bit more respect than the visiting team.”

Walter Zacher brought Austin (23-13-1-2 overall) within 4-2 in the second period when he trickled a shot through with 4:30 left in the period and the Bruins nearly added another goal with a strong push late in the second. But neither team scored in the third period as the defenses took over.

This was Austin’s first Paint the Rink game in two years as last year’s game was canceled due to COVID-19.

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Kate Holtz heading to Northland College

By Rocky Hulne
sports@austindailyherald.com

Austin senior Kate Holtz is running out of ice time with the Austin Packers, but she has made sure that she will not be done with her favorite sport when Austin’s season ends.

Holtz signed her letter-of-intent to play college hockey at Northland College, a Division III school in Ashland, Wis., in Austin High School Friday. Kate will be playing just a one and a half hour drive away from her sister Lilly Holtz, who has two assists in 16 games as a junior at St. Scholastica in Duluth this season.

“If I need anything, I can go to her and she’ll help me,” Kate said. “I met most of the team at Northland when I visited and they were very nice and welcoming. The school itself has a great teaching program, which is what I want to go into. That was a big thing for me was to find the right school for my future.”

Holtz leads the Packers with 31 goals and 23 assists this season and she is ranked 16th in the state in goals scored.

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SCHEDULE

Wednesday

College basketball: RCTC at Riverland, women at 5:30 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Boys basketball: Lyle-Pacelli at Schaeffer Academy, 7:15 p.m.; Southland at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.; Triston at LeRoy-Ostrander, 7:15 p.m.

Girls basketball: Schaeffer Academy at Mabel-Canton, 7:15 p.m.

Boys hockey: Faribault at Austin, 7 p.m.

Wrestling: Austin at Faribault, 5:30 p.m.; GMLOS Invite, 5 p.m.

Friday

Boys basketball: Albert Lea at Austin, 7:30 p.m.; Houston at Lyle-Pacelli in Pacelli, 7:15 p.m.; New Richland-HEG at Blooming Prairie, 7:15 p.m.; Grand Meadow at Lanesboro, 7:15 p.m.; Spring Grove at LeRoy-Ostrander, 7:15 p.m.; United South Central at Hayfield, 7:15 p.m.

Girls basketball: Austin at Albert Lea, 7:30 p.m.; Lyle-Pacelli at Houston, 7:15 p.m.; Dover-Eyota at Southland, 7:15 p.m.; Blooming Prairie at New Richland-HEG, 7:15 p.m.; Lanesboro at Grand Meadow, 7:15 p.m.; LeRoy-Ostrander at Spring Grove, 7:15 p.m.; Hayfield at United South Central, 7:15 p.m.

NAHL hockey: St. Cloud at Austin Bruins, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Section 1A girls hockey semifinal: No. 3 Waseca at No. 2 Austin, 3 p.m.

Boys basketball: Grand Meadow at Chatfield, 1:30 p.m.

Girls basketball: Lanesboro at LeRoy-Ostrander, 2:15 p.m.

Boys hockey: Austin at Albert Lea, 7:15 p.m.

Dance: Austin at Section meet in Winona, TBA

Boys swimming and diving: Austin at Big Nine meet in Rochester, 9:30 a.m.

Gymnastics: Austin at Section 1A meet in Winona, 11 a.m.

NAHL hockey: St. Cloud at Austin Bruins, 7 p.m.

College basketball: Riverland at Ridgewater, women at 1 p.m., men at 3 p.m.

BRIEFS

Saints' Alvin Kamara arrested on battery charge in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — After playing in the Pro Bowl on Sunday, Saints running back Alvin Kamara was arrested and accused of beating someone the night before in a Las Vegas nightclub.

Kamara had four catches for 23 yards for the NFC in the game, then was taken into custody and booked at the Clark County Detention Center on charges of battery resulting in substantial bodily harm.

Kamara remained in jail Sunday night. His bail was set at \$5,000 and a court hearing is scheduled for Monday afternoon, a jail official said.

Las Vegas police say they were dispatched to a hospital Saturday where a person had reported a battery at a nightclub. The police said detectives determined the victim was battered by Kamara.

The Saints and Kamara's agent didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The 26-year-old Kamara is one of the top running backs in the NFL. He had 1,337 yards from scrimmage and nine TDs this season on the way to being picked for his fifth Pro Bowl in five seasons as a pro.

Exclusive: MLB, players stop drug testing during lockout

NEW YORK — Drug testing in Major League Baseball has stopped, a casualty of the sport's lockout that started Dec. 2.

Testing for steroids was halted for the first time in nearly 20 years due to the expiration of the sport's drug agreement between management and the players' association, two people familiar with the sport's Joint Drug Program told The Associated Press. The people spoke on condition of anonymity Monday because no public announcement was made.

When they negotiated the 2017-21 drug agreement, the sides included a provision that states “the termination date and time of the program shall be 11:59 p.m. ET on Dec. 1, 2021.” That matched the expiration of the five-year labor contract.

“It should be a major concern to all those who value fair play,” Travis Tygart, chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, said Monday.

MLB and the union declined comment on the halt.

Just last month, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were denied election to the Hall of Fame by baseball writers over suspicions of PEDs use. Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez, who both served drug suspensions, fell well short in voting.

“If it’s just a simple matter of agreeing to it,” Tygart said, “you would have hoped they would have been able to get that figured out, so that when the game does restart, you don’t have questions hanging over individual players based on size, speed, batting percentage, home run numbers, whatever it may be, that people are going to call into question again.”

MLB and the union conducted 47,973 tests from 2017-21, including 7,327 during off-seasons, according to a report in November from Thomas M. Martin, the independent program administrator.

— Associated Press