



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL: CLASS A NORTH VERMILLION SECTIONAL

FIRST-ROUND
KNOCKOUTCentral Catholic
outslugs
previously
unbeaten AtticaBy Sam King
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CAYUGA — Sporting a newly acquired black eye, Angela Tharp looked like she had lost a boxing match more so than won a basketball game.

After taking an elbow to the face while pulling down a rebound, Tharp exited Tuesday's Class A, Sectional 53 opener 5:20 in, unable to see and wondering if she'd return.

The Central Catholic junior guard came to her senses minutes later, then put on the most impressive display of her high school basketball career to lead the seventh-ranked Knights to an exciting 86-76 win over third-ranked and previously unbeaten Attica.

Tharp scored all of her 21 points after returning, shooting 8 of 14.

"These past few games, I've been off, so maybe that kind of made me think about something else because when I think about my shot, I don't normally make it," said Tharp, who also had six rebounds, four assists and three steals.

It was the 20th consecutive sectional victory for the Knights, who are in a new sectional this year but still aiming for a ninth title in a row. They will play Covington (12-7) in Friday's semifinal.

After building a big first half lead, the Red Ramblers, who finish 20-1, nearly took it all away.

Senior Ashley Mitton took over in the paint and Maci Kyger led Attica's

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Look for postgame video from Central Catholic's victory over Attica.



Central Catholic's Cameron Onken battles Ashley Mitton of Attica for a rebound during Tuesday's sectional opener. GREG FLINT/FOR THE J&C

PURDUE FOOTBALL

Sindelar
becomes
first '15
commitKentucky QB high on
engineering programBy Mike Carmin
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Elijah Sindelar loves football and engineering.

Combine those two passions, and it's easy to see why the Kentucky quarterback prospect is coming to Purdue. The 6-foot-5 Sindelar, who plays at Caldwell County High School in Princeton, Ky., becomes the first member of the 2015 recruiting class.

"It's a big relief. I'm happy," Sindelar said. "The engineering at Purdue is what sold me. I loved going to visit and looking at the lab stuff. That's what sold me. The engineering is the most important thing."

Sindelar, who has thrown for 9,028 yards and 95 touchdowns in three seasons, selected the Boiler-makers over Kentucky and Mississippi.

He's known for several weeks that Purdue was his No. 1 option and didn't want to prolong the process.

"Out of respect for the other teams recruiting me, I knew where I wanted to go when I stepped on campus at Purdue after the second or third visit," Sindelar said. "I wanted to give the other schools a chance to recruit another quarterback while there's still time."

"I didn't want to drag it out and (commit) toward the end on signing day of my senior year. I didn't want to hang them out to dry and not even allow them to get another quarterback."

Sindelar is a three-sport athlete who has good arm strength. He's the top pitcher on the baseball team and has been clocked throwing 91 miles per hour. He's a standout basketball player.



Sindelar

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OLYMPICS

Norway wins four more medals; US hopefuls falter

White dethroned
by PodlatchikovBy David Pace
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The most decorated country in Winter Olympic history earned four more medals Tuesday, and the most famous snowboarder in the world had his hopes for a third straight gold in the halfpipe dashed.

Norway won double gold in the cross-country freestyle sprints while picking up silver medals in the women's sprint and in the women's 10-kilometer

biathlon pursuit. That gave the Norwegians the medal lead as the games concluded their fifth day, and it pushed their overall total to 317 since the Winter Olympics began in 1924.

The United States saw several of its best hopes evaporate, including Shaun White, the flamboyant snowboarder who was dethroned by Iouri Podlatchikov.

Known as "I-Pod," the Russian-born Swiss snowboarder was flawless while White failed to master his rival's best trick.

Another U.S. gold medal prospect, cross-country skier Kikkan Randall, was eliminated

in the qualifying rounds of the women's freestyle sprint. Maiken Caspersen Falla of Norway took the gold in that race, with teammate Ingvild Flugstad Oestberg earning silver.

Ola Vigen Hattestad captured the men's sprint title in a race marred by a three-skier collision.

Emil Joensson of Sweden, who had all but given up earlier in the race, grabbed the bronze after Sergey Ustiugov of Russia, Marcus Hellner of Sweden and Anders Gloersen of Norway were involved in a



Russia's Anton Gafarov falls with a broken ski during the semifinal of the cross-country sprint on Tuesday. MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

CLASS 4A LOGANSPORT SECTIONAL

Bronchos, Mavericks both eliminated

By Ken Thompson
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LOGANSPORT — McCutcheon's girls basketball team picked a fine time to enjoy its best shooting night from 3-point range.

The Mavericks hit 10 shots from behind the arc against Logansport on Tuesday night in the opening round of the Class 4A Logansport Sectional. But it was not enough to offset Whitney Jennings, a favorite to win Indiana Miss Basketball, and running mate Nakeya Penny in the Berries' 60-49 victory.

"We haven't shot it that well in a couple of years, probably," McCutcheon coach Jeff Knoy said. "Becca (Spitalniak) hit about three or four in a row there. They were bombs. That got us right back in the game."

Spitalniak went 5 of 8 from 3-point range and contributed 19 points and 12 rebounds for McCutcheon before fouling out with 1:10 to play.

The Mavericks needed all the 3s they could get, because the Berries got off to a fast start behind Jennings.

After scoring 10 points in the

first quarter and launching Logansport (20-2) to a 17-4 lead, Jennings began to feel the effects of McCutcheon's physical defensive play. The Iowa-bound guard hit her first two shots of the second quarter but proceeded to miss her next 14 attempts from the field.

She also missed the front end of two one-and-one free throw situations in the fourth quarter. But like all outstanding players, Jennings adjusted and started driving to the basket. She made her final three field goal attempts and finished with a game-high 30 points.

But when Jennings was struggling, Penny stepped up with eight points in the second quarter and seven more in the third to finish with 22 points.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Spitalniak and Kerstyn Lowery drew McCutcheon (11-11) within 50-46 with 4:15 to play, but the Mavericks got no closer.

Lowery finished with 14 points and Gabby Gary added nine for the Mavericks.

Minutes after the final buzzer, Knoy was looking forward to the 2014-15 season with his entire roster returning.

"We've got guards, we've got bigs that can bang," Knoy said. "We've got it all together, but we've got to execute. Take care of little things and we're going to be in good shape."

"We're a ton better from last year, and if we improve that much next year, we're going to be a tough out."

Lafayette Jeff coach Andy Baker has the opposite situation facing him in 2014-15. Of the 11 Bronchos to see action in a 65-51 loss to Marion in the opening game, eight were seniors.

But those seniors never gave up after falling behind 13-0 in the first five minutes and 27-6 after the first quarter.

But instead of rolling over, the Bronchos fought back with their bench. Senior guard Aliya Kind scored 15 points in the second quarter, and with six points from senior guard Jordan Richards, the Bronchos pulled within five points before trailing 33-26 at halftime.

"I just don't think those seniors wanted it to be over," Baker said.

Kind finished with 19 points in her final game for Lafayette Jeff (1-20).



McCutcheon came up short Tuesday despite 19 points and 12 rebounds from Becca Spitalniak. JERRY SCHULTHEISS/FOR THE JOURNAL & COURIER



Angela Tharp drives past Chelsey LaDuke of Attica for two of her 21 points. GREG FLINT/FOR THE J&C

KNOCKOUT

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amped-up defensive effort to pull the Red Ramblers within 56-53 with two minutes left in the third quarter after trailing 46-33 at halftime.

"All good teams make runs in a game, and I am so proud of our girls for not dropping their head and not getting down on themselves because they made a run," CC coach Craig DeVault said.

Central Catholic (15-5) knocked off an undefeated team in the sectional opener for the second year in a row, having beaten Frontier last season.

Outstanding outside shooting and a quick start got the Knights going in the direction they hoped, putting an undefeated team unused to playing from behind on its heels.

Cameron Onken scored 17 of her 20 points in the first half, including 10 in the first quarter on 4-of-4 shooting. When Attica's defense closed in on the standout sophomore, Onken found open teammates and CC made 6 of 9 3-pointers in the opening half.

"It was awesome to get going right out of the gate," Onken said. "My teammates

knew that I was hitting and they passed to me, and then my teammates started getting hot, so I passed to them."

The Red Ramblers proved they could match CC's rapid pace, scoring 40 points in the second half. Mitton, who finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds, picked up her fourth foul with 47 seconds left in the third quarter, and with the Attica senior on the bench, the Knights were able to push their three-point lead back to double digits.

"Actually, I was getting ready to get her a sub as far as getting her a little bit of a blow there," Attica coach Matt Harneson said. "It really did hurt. By the time we got her back in, the damage was kind of done."

Kyger finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds in her final game and Karrah Patten-gale added 17 and seven rebounds. Mitton, Kyger and Pattengale shot a combined 27 for 37. The rest combined to go 6 of 31.

Emily Denhart and Emily Burks contributed to CC's high-scoring night with 18 apiece to help the Knights surpass 80 points for the third time this season. Attica's previous high for points allowed this season was 58 against Fountain Central.

CLASS 3A WESTERN SECTIONAL

WL comes roaring back

By Clyde Hughes
For the Journal & Courier

RUSSIAVILLE — Glimpsing at the score of West Lafayette's 62-42 victory over Twin Lakes in the first round of the Class 3A Western sectional Tuesday night, few would imagine that it was the Red Devils who were down by 15 points early in the second quarter.

But behind an aggressive group that forced 24 turnovers and snatched 18 offensive rebounds, West Side needed less than a quarter to erase the deficit and cruise into the sectional semifinals on Friday.

West Lafayette (14-6) will battle on Benton Central, ranked No. 8 in Class 3A. Twin Lakes finishes its season 8-12.

The Red Devils were forced to regroup after Twin Lakes, behind the play of forward Laurhen Pickett and timely 3-point shots, jumped all over West Side in the first 10 minutes.

A Gabrielle Kendall 3-pointer gave the Indians their

first double-digit lead, and Twin Lakes ended the first quarter with a 20-7 edge. Pickett, who scored 16 of her 24 points in the first half, added a layup off a perfect entry pass to give the Indians a 22-7 edge with six minutes left in the half.

"That was probably the worst quarter of basketball we played this season," said West Lafayette senior Shelby Mann, who scored 13 of her team-high 18 points in the second half. "I'm really proud of our team to come back with some will power in the second quarter."

Mann, Taylor Martin and Maggie Wodicka all connected on 3-pointers within a two-minute span, and just that quickly, the Red Devils were able to find their footing.

Wodicka scored eight of her 10 points in the first half to lead the charge. Her 3-pointer with 3:42 left trimmed Twin Lakes' lead to 22-20.

"Maggie's not always scoring for us, but today she really stepped up," Mann said.

The Red Devils took the lead for good when Martin's putback after a missed free throw lifted West Lafayette to a 28-26 advantage. Lorelei Turner's putback off of another missed shot at the buzzer gave the Red Devils a 30-26 lead at halftime.

"We just got our heads up, went out and played our defense because we really wanted to win this," said Turner, who also grabbed 10 rebounds.

Twin Lakes coach Brad Bowsman could only watch as West Side's defense limited Twin Lakes to 22 points over the final three quarters after the Indians scored 20 in the first.

"First quarter, we did a great job of passing the basketball," Bowsman said. "It also helped that West Side missed some of their shots and we were able to get out in transition and get some easy buckets. Laurhen played a huge part of that half because she was getting some tips and steals. We just couldn't sustain the speed West Side plays at."

SECTIONAL ROUNDUP

Frontier rallies past Carroll; Southmont prevails in OT

Staff reports

Catie Neary scored a game-high 16 points, including five during a fourth-quarter blitz that enabled the Frontier girls basketball team to rally for a 45-43 victory over Carroll in the opening round of the Class A Rossville Sectional on Tuesday night.

The Falcons (6-13) move on to face Faith Christian in a semifinal game on Friday evening. The Cougars finish their season with a 12-6 record.

Down by four going into the final period, Frontier won the game at the foul line, hitting 14 of 19 free throws over the final eight minutes. Elizabeth Musgrave, who scored all eight of her points from the stripe, was 6 of 6 in the fourth period. The Falcons were 25 of 29 from

the line on the night, while Carroll was just 9 of 20.

Libby Eller paced the Cougars in defeat with 13 points, while Macy Willoughby added 11.

In earlier action at Rossville, the host Hornets were eliminated by Tri-Central, 63-43.

West Central Sectional

North White used a 14-point night from Lexi Shriver and 10 points from Audrey Minix to pull away from South Newton for a 45-30 victory.

The Vikings, who will play West Central on Friday, improve to 9-10, while the Rebels finish the year at 6-13.

Friday's other semifinal will feature Tri-County matching up against Caston, a 40-26 victor over Pioneer in Tuesday's nightcap.

Class 2A

Winamac Sectional

Myka Roth's 19 points led four players in double figures for Delphi, which rolled to a 62-46 victory over Rensselaer.

Tatum Minier had 14 points for the Oracles (11-8), while Bailey Gosser and Danielle Swayze added 12 and 11, respectively. Megan Dobson paced the Bombers (7-14) with 14 points.

Southmont Sectional

The host Mounties advanced in thrilling fashion, earning a 63-60 overtime triumph over Riverton Parke. Southmont (12-9) will face Seeger in the first semifinal Friday.

Fountain Central will play in the second semifinal against South Vermillion, which beat Clinton Central, 58-36.