

JACK PINE TRIBUNE

SOURCE FOR THE WEEK IN THE JUNE AND

COMPO, BUCKS
EMERGE ON TOP PAGE 15

BUCKS EVEN THE SCORE

COACH WEILER AND HIS
YOUNG BUCKS GUTTED OUT
A TOUGH WIN AGAINST THE CATS



ROLLING TO STATE

13 GRAPPLERS HAVE ADVANCED TO COMPETE AT THE STATE FINALS AT THE PALACE

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Farwell squeezes out one point win

MERIDIAN - Farwell had to win this game to end the season at the .500 mark and end up in fourth place in the conference. They knew that in order to get that win, they were going to have to travel the width of the conference and face a tough Meridian team led by the high scoring Bri Yaroch and backed up by the tough playing squad of Hannah Stockford and Madi



TOM
KLEINHARDT

CONTINUED ON P.6

Mustang boys roll the Eagles

MERIDIAN - It is always difficult to gauge how a team is going to handle a tough loss like the Mustangs did against Beaverton. Some teams crumble upon themselves, and their effort shows it, and others rise to the occasion and fight like it is the last game they will ever play again. Meridian chose the latter option, and they made life very difficult for the Farwell Eagles, who are a very good



DYLAN
BROWN

CONTINUED ON P.13



Gladwin's seniors JJ Willford, Dani Balzer, and Rashell Vorachek explode in jubilation after the Lady G's finish a season sweep over their arch rivals Beaverton.

Swept

BEAVERTON - The Battle for M-18 is always fierce, particularly when jockeying for league standings and status. Last year, the Beavers topped the Lady G's and with most of their pieces returning this season, the basketball pundits fully expected the Beaverettes to do what they wanted against Gladwin this year.



BY CODY
O'ROURKE

The rolls were reversed. Gladwin

grinded out a 43-41 win over the Ross Lake girls at the Nest, fighting off a furious 4th quarter attempt.

Thursday night's game was another chapter to this long, rich and storied rivalry.

The Lady G's were the aggressors for the most part of the game, and with an overall wealth of talent both up front and at the guard positions, the Gladwin regime was able to gut

CONTINUED ON P.5



Clare's Brandon Zinser gets ready to hit from the free throw line.

Vida, Pioneers topple Gladwin Flying G's

By Cody O'Rourke

CLARE - One of the most intriguing rivals running in the Jack Pine Conference isn't happening at the varsity ranks, it's not even in high school yet.

What's going on between the Clare Pioneers and Flying G's 8th grade units has the potential to be something special.

On the grid-iron, the G's have had the Pioneers number, winning by the slimmest margins of victory the last couple of years.

The Pioneers have able to come back recently and break the G's chops on the hardwood, early this summer in a pick-up league at Morey Courts, and then

CONTINUED ON P.12

Gladwin Youth Wrestling Heading to States

GLADWIN - Gladwin took 41 kids down to Standish for their Regional Wrestling Tournament. The top 4 kids of each weight bracket move on to the State Tournament in Petoskey. Gladwin is proud to announce that 29 youth wrestlers will be packing their bags and heading to Petoskey! “This is a record for Gladwin Youth Wrestling”, stated Head Coach Bryan Cassiday. Good luck to the club and all the young wrestlers! This will be the last NEMWA wrestling tournament for many 8th grade wrestlers. The club would like to wish the best of luck to Wade Muma, Drake Muma, Luke Owens, Mark Demoines, Adam Smith, Ethan

Goodwin, Richard Faber and Jonathan Stillwagon. Your presence will be missed by your teammates. Those moving on to States and how they placed are: 1st Andrew Davis, Riley Washburn, Tricia Pyrzewski, Tony Shell, Randy Pyrzewski, Dillon Kroening, Jimbo Bailey, Colton Kanyo, Kyle Cassiday, Wade Muma, Drake Muma and Luke Owens. 2nd - Jacob Cassiday, Tanner Mielke, Austin Palmateer and Adam Smith. 3rd - Eric Cassiday, Andrew Lightfoot, Nic Davis, Richard Faber, Drake Ross, Garrett Muma, Hunter McDowell, Vic Edick, Jack Owens, Seth Demoines and Ryan Baker. 4th - Colton Compton and Seth Martin.



Seth Demoines working a 2 on 1



Tricia Pyrzewski bringing her man to his back



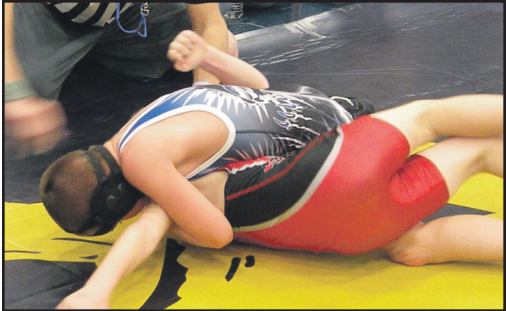
Landon Green with a tight half



Tony Shell pinning his man



Andrew Lightfoot holding his man down



Brady Gerhett check to chest



Vic Edick maintaining control

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Mires will golf for NMU

MARQUETTE -Roscommon's three-sport star senior athlete, Hunter Mires recently signed a letter of intent to attend and play golf at Northern Michigan University along the tranquil shores of Lake Superior.



Macy Mires wins regional free-throw contest

GAYLORD - Macy Mires won the regional Knights of Columbus free throw shooting competition for the 13 year old division in Gaylord. She had to warm-up at 12:30, then she wasn't actually able to compete and stroke her shots until 4pm...Macy will head to Mt. Pleasant to participate in the state finals.

2013 Clare Irish Festival Road Race

Hoping to build off of last year's record breaking turnout, the Clare Irish Festival Road race has been scheduled for Saturday, March 16, 2013. The race will feature a 5K Run, 10K Run, 2 Mile Walk, and a half mile Kids' Run (One Quarter Mile Fun Run for Ages 0-7). All races will begin at 9am on March 16th, with exception to the free kids' run, which will begin at 10:45am. The road race is part of the much larger Clare Irish Festival, featuring live bands, bed races, craft shows, children's activities, and much more.

“Last year's race featured over 1000 participants, and we are hoping that our race will only continue to grow in future years,” said Kyle McKown, Clare Irish Festival Road Race Director. “New to this year's race is the opportunity to register online. Also, with our increase in turnout over the past few years, we have decided to purchase a larger number of t-shirts this year to ensure that participants who register on the day of the race will be able to also get a t-shirt. We are constantly trying to make positive changes that will make this year's race an even better experience for participants of all ages.”

The race will feature a new and improved chip timing system, which provides athletes with electronic recording of their finishing time. T-shirt and a pancake breakfast are both included within the entry fee for all paid participants. “Last year's weather was absolutely amazing, with race time temperatures over 50 degrees. If we can get weather like we had last year, then we may be pleasantly surprised with the number of participants for this year's race,” said McKown.

Individuals interested in participating in the event can view race information, download a race registration form, or view online registration instructions at <http://www.claremichigan.com/irish-festival.html>

4th Grade Beavers Have Tourney Success

By Drew Porter
BEAVERTON - The families and friends of the Beaverton 4th graders traveled all the way up to Grayling to participate in a tournament on Saturday, January 5th. They squared off against Grayling Green team in their first contest. The Beavers won that contest 20-3 with high scorers Carson Oldani with 8, and Troy Porter and Brayde Keeley added 4 points apiece, while Michael Hartwell also added 2 points on the score sheet. In the second game of the tournament, Beaverton battled the Grayling White team in the second match-up. Beaverton also ended the game victorious, shutting out Grayling 21-0 in their second game. Leading scorers in the game were Brayde Keeley and Cameron Mishler with 6, Carson Oldani added 5 to the Beaverton total. Caleb Hannah earned the defensive player of the game, as he was hassling the ball all game long and gave Grayling fits. Harrison was their next game, and once again Beaverton prevailed, this time with a 22-2 win. Brayde Keeley and Troy Porter were the leading scorers with 6 points each, as Cameron Mishler and Aaron Wentworth each compiled 4 points, and Michael Hartwell added 5 Pete Maravich like assists, finding the open man and making a crisp pass. In the final game of the tournament, the Beavers defeated the Bobcats of Houghton Lake in a relatively close game. Beaverton won the game 16-10. Carson Oldani was the leading scorer with 8 points, while

Troy Porter added 5 points, Keeley added 2, and Caleb Hannah added 1 point as well. Beaverton also competed in 2 more tournaments in Meridian and Kalkaska. They kept their 12 game winning streak alive as they swept all teams in the tournaments. They played Meridian in the first game and came out successful by a score of 45-4. Brayde Keeley scored 12 points and 3 assists, Cameron Mishler added 12 points and Troy Porter followed up with a steady 11 points and 2 assists. In the second game, Beaverton came back from a 12-11 halftime deficit and defeated a tough Bullock Creek squad 22-15. Brayde Keeley compiled 10 points, and Troy Porter added 4 to the Beaverton effort. They played the other Meridian team in the next game and beat them by a score of 27-5. Cameron Mishler was the leading scorer with 12 points, followed up by Troy Porter who added 11. Then in the championship game against the same Bullock Creek team, they managed to gain a 22-11 lead going into the break and held off a Lancer rally late in the game to triumphantly win 26-20. The Beavers then traveled to Kalkaska to compete in a league tournament the next week. They defeated the same Houghton Lake squad they played in Grayling by a 29-3 count. In the second game, they stymied Kalkaska to a meager 2 points in the 22-2 romp. Then they faced Boyne City who gave them their toughest test of the tournament. Beaverton only had a 6-4 lead late

in the game but coach John Oldani orchestrated a 11-0 run to put the nail in the coffin on the 17-4 victory. In the final game on record for the tourney, Beaverton shutout a strong-willed Kalkaska team by a score of 24-0. Beaverton also competed in a tournament held at the Midland Community Center where they were able to face some new competition. In the first game, Beaverton suffered its first loss to a team that they had previously beaten twice before, losing to Bullock Creek in a hard fought 23-21 game. In the second game, Beaverton played against the Midland Basketball Academy. Beaverton defeated the academy 26-20 in a good offensive showing by the Beavers. In the third and final game of the tournament, Beaverton once again was victorious. They beat West Branch 24-16 to close out the tournament. That consistent showing gained the Beavers 2nd place in the standings. The following week, Beaverton traveled to Houghton Lake for league play. Beaverton very slowly was able to defeat Houghton Lake by a unusual score of 6-0. In the second game however, Beaverton played like they usually do. They once again managed a shutout, beating Grayling 29-0. In the third game, things were once the same again as Beaverton didn't allow a point in the contest beating Kalkaska 27-0. In the final game, Beaverton finally let up a couple scores, still winning over Roscommon 18-5.



Beaverton's up and coming ballers looking to carry on the Beaverton tradition of hoop madness.

After the final tournament of the season, Beaverton got in a league in Coleman and quickly made a statement the first week, beating Clare 40-0. All around team offense and defense was vital in the win. The following week, Beaverton beat a team a grade older than them. They scored early and often, beating the Gladwin 5th graders by a whopping 36-4 score. The unofficial team scoring stats show that Beaverton has scored 518 points and holding their opponents to a much smaller 138 points. That means that on average, Beaverton scored 24.7 points per game, and only allowed a slim 6.5 points per game. Great Job Guys, keep it up.

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Former hoops star is the new Flying G skipper of the dugout

By Clint Kern

I recently caught up with Coach Jill Keefer the Lady G's new varsity softball coach and swung some ideas around. Prior to that we reminisced about her storied athletic career at Whittemore-Prescott and Northern Michigan University.

Jack Pine Tribune: What sports did you play in high school?

Jill Keefer: I played four years of varsity volleyball, basketball and softball, I also ran track during my freshman year.

JPT: What are some of your fondest memories from Whittemore-Prescott High School?

JK: My fondest memories were just working hard in everything that I did. I loved sports and left everything I had out on the fields and in the gyms.

JPT: Any other specific events or cherished times from your WPHS days?

JK: I also remember the great support of my family and friends. They were at every game with full WP spirit. My most uncomfortable moment was when I scored my 1,500th point in basketball, they had balloons, banners and made a big deal about me. I was actually

embarrassed. I would have rather had a state championship, I can't deny it was a great feeling though.

JPT: Did you play collegiate athletics, where, what stands out from those days?

JK: One of my goals from the beginning of my high school sports career was to get a scholarship to play basketball, so my parents didn't have to pay for me to go to college. I ended up getting a full ride scholarship to play at Northern Michigan University. It was such a rewarding feeling, the hard work, the long hours in the gym all paid off. We were contenders in the NCAA DII tourney two different years. We made it to the elite eight the one year and the final four the next. There's nothing like tournament time, the big dance is all it's cracked up to be and more. Everything is exciting from the anticipation of the draw, the excitement of the travel, free stuff from the NCAA, the anxiety of playing, the pressure, words really can't describe it. My proudest personal moment or award would have to be, making the All-GLIAC Defensive Team, because this was an award to me was about dedication and hustle on the floor.

JPT: What have you learned since being an educator at Gladwin, interacting, teaching students, life?

JK: I've learned that teaching is all about motivating, building relationships and demanding/earning respect. I think the same can be applied for life.

JPT: What sports/levels have you coached?

JK: I've coached one year of 8th grade, one year of freshman, two years of JV basketball and one AAU basketball team. I've coached one year of junior high track, two years of varsity track, one at GHS and one at Beaverton.

JPT: What are some of your fundamental coaching philosophies?

JK: My coaching resume has been geared for basketball, since that was the sport I aspired to be a varsity coach in, however, the timing of having my three children has kept me from that. I am a mom first and will always be. They are the most important thing in my life. Now that they are older, I see myself getting them involved in sports. I also think it helps that they see mom doing it and it might spark an interest in them.

JPT: What do you hope to immediately address and make a positive impact with internally with the softball program?

JK: First of all coaching means nothing without a player who is motivated to do everything possible for your success. I want

my players to believe in everything we are doing and have the confidence to display that belief.

With that said, I am extremely competitive and do not like to lose. I want my players to believe in winning and know what it feels like. Immediately, I will establish myself as the new coach, earn my players respect, motivate them for success, continue with our youth programs to develop interest and dedication.

JPT: How should a softball program function along varsity, JV and youth?



Coach Keefer with her ball-glove, ready to hit the diamond.

JK: Our softball program should have continuity between JV and varsity levels. Our youth programs should continue to develop players and at the same time provide an opportunity of fun. When you are competing for athletes to play your sport; softball, track or soccer, you need to develop a successful program. Build it, they will come.



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Coach of the Week
Emily Cote'

Coach Cote's high energy and confident mojo has the G's dripping with swagger. Gladwin's defense, energy, and unselfishness allowed them to topple their arch-rivals from the south. The win over Beaverton as big for the G's as they take 2nd place in the JPC.

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INSTANT ANALYSIS

Gladwin too deep, experienced

It has been a year of redemption for this grew of Gladwin ballers. After having a few lumps last year, Rashell Vorachek, Dani Balzer, and JJ Willford have led the way for the Lady G's to be noted as one of the best teams in the league. Coach Cote's rigorous work regiment, installation of the fundamentals and team work has paid dividends all year long. Cote' has that ability to run eight or nine players in her rotation and that unselfish nature she has breed into her team has made them too diverse to shut down just one player.



RASHELL VORACHEK

IMPACT PLAYER

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Rashell Vorachek continues to be the straw that stirs the drink. Her high energy and flurry bursts of maddening defense always ignites the G's fury on the hardwood. She netted 10 points, but came up big down the stretch, making a swipe and converting an old fashion 3 point play to put Gladwin up late in the 4th.



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Beaverton's Emilee Grove, only a sophomore, kept the Beavers in the game in the opening quarter, as she went blow for blow against the Lady G's interior, chipping in 6 points early when the Beavers offense look flustered. Grove also finished the night with 8 rebounds in the paint and played rugged defense.

CONTINUED FROM P.1

out another tit-for-tat affair 41-35.

With Gladwin's defensive intensity bringing their maddening blitzkrieg, Beaverton seemed overwhelmed, but Emilee Grove was able to do enough work in the trenches to keep the Beavers afloat in the first quarter.

Grove splashed the first bucket, posting up on the low blocks, sealing of her defender, taking the drop off, spinning and drop stepped to the cup and smooched off glass for the double.

Then Gladwin's senior tandem Dani Balzer and JJ Willford worked in unison. Willford flashed in the high post, read the arrangement, and pinched a dime to Balzer buzzing across the meat of the Beavers defense for a quick slice and score.

Beaverton responded. Alix Price worked the the ball around the horn and skipped the rock back to Grove in the paint for the flush.

Willford punched back for the G's then speedy Rashell Vorachek kicked into high gear and burnt through the first line of resistance, and rolled to the hole to put the Lady G's up 6-4.

Price and Grove continued to be the Beavers's bread and butter. Price split from a the line then Grove banged in another shot to give home crowd the advantage.

Then Gladwin bit down hard and went on a prolonged 13-0 run to build a 19-7 lead. Vorachek splashed a couple of runners, Allison Taylor handled the rock and took advantage of open looks to hang up a couple of long jumpers, and after a nasty Dani Balzer up and under reverse, the G's had the Beavers back peddling and calling time-outs looking for answers.

Out of the time out, the Beavers were able to stoop the bleeding, as Janae Wolfe pressed the issue at the paint, drew the foul and sprinkled in a pair of free throws from the charity stripe to manufacture some much needed points.

Gladwin's Alison Taylor dropped another bomb on the Beavers to make it 22-9. Coach Kevin Wolfe was not happy and another timeout quickly ensued.

This time his message was felt and the Beavers closed out the half on a 10-0 run to make it a 22-19 ball game at the break.

It all started with those Wolfe free throws. Then Mercedes Parker-Urban found her sister Jasmyn Parker-Urban weaseling through a double team, peeling of a screen and the two connected for a lay in. Then JPU gnashed through the G's back court defense, shook left, sprung right and floated a bunny - but was hammered by Gladwin's bigs in the middle. Parker-Urban calmly laced a pair from the line. As the time was expiring at the half, Janae Wolfe had the ball up top, shook her defender, and dropped a long ball to cut Gladwin's lead to a meager three points, and the Beavers headed into half-time with something to

build on, only being down 22-19.

Beaverton took the lead with 2:08 left in the 3rd quarter. Wolfe started the half with a low post shake move, only to have it be answered back with a Carley Cote triple from the fringe. Beaverton kept their composure and JPU wetted a pair from the zebra line then sliced up the G's defense to put them up 25-24.

Beaverton's pressure defense started to give Gladwin fits and things seemed to be swinging in Beaverton's favor.

Then neither team was able to score until the final seconds of the period. Dani Balzer gashed the Beavers inside, absorbed the contact, hung up 1 of 2 from the free throw line then Bazler worked the ball around



Beaverton's Emilee Grove, only a sophomore, has stepped nicely for the Beavers.

Junior G's upend Beaverettes on road

BEAVERTON - The Beavers were looking to exact revenge against their cohorts from the northern branch of the Cedar River and came out of the gates scratching, clawing and playing rugged defense to halt the Gladwin cagers to five points in the first quarter of play.

But then the weathered warriors of Emily Harris, Lauren Mose, and Danielle Collins erupted in the second quarter to build a 21-11 lead heading into the half and continued to work to build a 33-21 at the end of three periods of play. That 12 point offensive cushion was enough to hold of the Beaverettes wildly intense fourth quarter come-back attempt to hold for the 40-34 victory.

Gladwin was able to get major contributions throughout the course of the game from several different players. Danielle Collins led the G's with 13 points, while Emily Harris finished with 10 points, after breaking the game open with a 6 point out-burst in the second quarter.

Chelsea Day finished with 7 while Lauren Mose added 6. Dayna Fennell contributed 4 on the night.

Beaverton was paced by Kylie Keely who went wild in the fourth and led the Beavers with 13 points. Jordan Spitler contributed 8 points to go along with Jen Eaton's 5 points. Madison Tremper finished the night with 4 points for the Beaverton brigade.

Dani Balzer made herself available on the wing and rang up a double at around the three minute mark to put the Gladwin regime up 37-31.

The G's continued to hammer on the boards and played suffocating defense down the stretch and pulled out the season sweep of their rivals from the south 41-35.

"We all just played really well tonight and it felt good to pull out the win - I just feel like there was just so much pressure relieved winning this game tonight," said Gladwin's senior Dani Balzer. "It's hard to think that this is the last time I am going to be playing basketball in this rivalry. We've had so many memories over the years."

Rashell Vorachek led the G's with 10 points, 5 boards, 2 steals and 2 assists. Dani Balzer netted 7 points, collected 6 boards, and swiped pair of steals.

Beaverton's Janae Wolfe led all scorers with 14 points and picked up 9 boards. Jasmyn Parker-Urban added 12 points while Emilee Grove contributed 6 points on the night.



From left to right, (top row) Coach Bryan Randle, Brooke Marsrow, Elana Hite, Hannah Medema, Lauren Taylor and Morgan Vasher. Bottom row, Lauren Seebeck, Kasidee Dawley, Rylie Miller, Jillian Ries, Sidney Rellinger and Gabby Airbets.

Young G's flash past Eagles of Surrey Township 34-6 in Jr. High game

GLADWIN - Coach Randle is at it again, this time taking the Gladwin 6th grade ballers to a home court victory over their Farwell counterparts 34-6.

Gladwin started off with back to back buckets, with Gabby Airbets slicing to the cup for quick score then Sydney Rellinger pinching a dime to Hannah Medema cross court for a dump in down low.

Farwell's Hunter Sponsetler answered back for the Eagles to make it a 4-2 game. But the Lady G's flurried out and went on a 16-0 run, led by Brooke Marsrow hanging a quick four points, then Medema scoring on back to back trips down the floor.

Gabby Airbets finished with 10 points. Hannah Medema added 8 points on the day.

Gladwin's Hannah Medema anchored the G's in the middle, scoring with an array of low post moves to score 8 points on the day.





The Eagle's Sydney Seybert, Ali Sunderson, Katheron White, Mackenzie Cooper, Alex Gerow, Hunter Sponsetler, Harley Crawford, Becca Gross (not pictured), Journie Hillman and Breanne Young make up the Farwell cager squad.



The Mustangs struggled late and Farwell flourished

Meridian has been struggling to get through this year, and their key players have been on a cold streak as of late. Farwell took advantage of that cold streak to take the early lead, and then had to fight off the Mustang charge late in the game to pull off the narrow victory. Meridian has talent on their team, they just need to refocus

CASSIDAY PLAYED A GOOD GAME, BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH

MADI CASSIDAY

MERIDIAN

Madi Cassiday had 7 points in the game, with three of those points coming from one shot. However, she was hawked most of the night by a stiff Farwell defense that did not give her much time with the ball. With her talent, she should be able to take leadership of this team next year, when she is making her final run at Mustang glory. She has the talent to be a top notch player.



J-HAM OWNED THE OFFENSIVE ZONE AGAINST THE MUSTANGS



McKINLEY PLAYED HER HEART OUT IN MERIDIAN

JENNA MCKINLEY

FARWELL

Every team needs that one person that no matter the cost, gets the team down the court and puts everyone in position to score. McKinley is the roleplayer for the Eagles, and her performance helped pave the way to a Farwell victory. She had 5 points on night with a triple and a deuce. Her passing and hustle is what set her apart



CONTINUED FROM P.1

Cassiday. The Eagles, led by the amazing Jenna Hamming were up to the challenge, and with Jenna McKinley, Caron White, and the rest of the Farwellian fury, they came out and worked their way into a narrow 36-35 victory.

The first quarter was quiet by both teams, as they seemed to both struggle with their shots. Kate Saupe started off the scoring with a short post jumper, followed by Meridian answering back with a long shot just inside the arch by Madi Cassiday to tie the game. Unfortunately, that bucket by Cassiday is the only one the team would see before the buzzer, as Farwell got two more buckets by Caron White, and a triple by Jenna Hamming to end the first quarter 9-2.

Despite an early Meridian basket, the team was only able to add on five points before the half with Cassiday and Kaylee Bremer adding on. Farwell got a long bucket and a triple by Jenna McKinley, had a perfect showing at the line by J-Ham, a 12 footer by Caron White, and a short post jumper by Saupe to end the first half 22-7 with the Eagles in the clear lead.



Sydney Hurley goes up for a jumper, she was electric.

Farwell seemed to come out a bit off in the third quarter, which allowed Meridian an opportunity to catch up. It started with Bri Yaroch getting her first basket of the night off a short dump in off the glass, and a Kaylee Bremer shot from just inside the three point arch out deep. The Mustangs continued their run with a Yaroch triple which woke the crowd up and got their blood going. Madi Cassiday kept the ball rolling with an offensive board and a put back for two to make it a 22-16 game with Meridian climbing fast. Farwell was able to keep some distance when they ended the third with a rebound and bucket by Nina Buccilli, and a short basket by Hamming to end the quarter 26-18.

The final quarter was a back and forth battle for most of it, with the edge going to Meridian, as they climbed back within three points late in the game, and when Bremer sunk both of her foul shots with seconds to go to make it 36-35, it was all that the Farwell girls could do to keep the Mustangs from flying to the ball in hopes of getting the steal. In the end though, the Eagles pulled off the victory.

Lady G's 'D' too much for Hornets

GLADWIN - Coach Cote was able to unload the bench, deliver waves of maddening, yet controlled defense to halt the Hornets offensive mojo and jump out to a first quarter 16-2 lead and rolled into half-time up 23-7 to set the tone for the rest of the game to give them the 50-21 victory over the Budd Lake cagers.

Gladwin's smooth lefty JJ Willford continued to put on a low post display, hitting an array of smooth jumpers, lefty kisses of glass to lead all scorers with 15 points.

Rashell Vorachek was the catalyst for the Lady G's. Her speed, conditioning, and keen anticipation of the passing lanes allowed her to compile 6 steals on the defense side, tear down 5 boards and chip in 9 points to help lead her team to victory.

The Hornets were led offensively by Olivia Sharp who netted 6 points in the affair. Brooke Colville added 5 on the night.



RASHELL VORACHEK

Rashell demonstrated her overall skill set, connecting offensively, while grappling for boards and swiping steals.

Lady Beavers nudge H.L. Bobcats

BEAVERTON - The Beavers and Bobcats went toe-to-toe in the first quarter of play, with the Beavers able to take a three point lead after one quarter of play, 11-8 heading and continued to build on their lead to head into half-time up 23-15.

As Janae Wolfe continued to be a mismatch problem for the Bobcats, Wolfe continued to answer the call to lead all scorers with 19 points, in Beaverton's 49-31 victory over the Houghton Lake Bobcats, to keep them in contention for the number 2 spot in the JPC standings.

"We shot 20% from the floor, had no intensity on defense, and no drive on offense-all around it was a disappointing night," said Coach Dalak of Houghton Lake.

Houghton Lake was led by Sarah Garret who netted 9 points and collected 2 steals. Maddee Winkler grabbed 11 boards.



JANAE WOLFE

Wolfe did it all for the Beavers, recording 19 points, hauling in 9 boards, and playing solid defense.

Lady Bucks upend Vikings

By Adam Hall

GRAYLING-The Roscommon Lady Buck's picked up a big win over the Grayling Vikings Monday night to the sound of 55 to 52. The Lady Bucks came out hot and was in control the whole game. Rosco was led by sophomore Katie Tozer who had 22 points in her first ever game on varsity. Reagan Moffit, Kalin Church and Janee Oaks also contributed nicely for the Bucks. Moffit had 9 points on the night. Church and Oaks both tallied 8 points. "Usually we start out slow and progress throughout the game but tonight we started out on fire and never looked back, which felt pretty good." Commented Rosco coach Phil Weiler.

"Katie played huge for us tonight. It was her first game as a varsity player. I am very proud of our team tonight and hope we can build on this win."



KATIE TOZER

Tozer was a JV phenom, and she proved that she has the moxie for the next level as she led the Bucks with 22 points



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Caron was the highlight reel in Meridian, as she put up a double double on the Mustangs with 12 points and 11 boards. She was a dominant force for the Eagles the entire game, and shut down the Mustangs best scorers. As a Junior, Caron is taking the steps necessary to become the future leader of this Eagle squad next year, and her work ethic and performances are going to set the standard for Farwell basketball and help take this team to the top.

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ROSCO ESCAPES

WELL BALANCED ATTACK AND CLUTCH FREE THROWS SEAL IT



Bucks clinch rivalry win from the charity stripe

KATIE TOZER’S annexing has made an immediate, difference. She has given Rosco a lethal low-post threat and a terrific offensive rebounder. Tozer had 12 points. **LOGAN HUTEK** handled the rock with calm, confident poise, her penetration, collapsed the defense and set her mates up for scores. Janae Oakes and **KALEN CHURCH** were dynamite, clutch

AKIN CAN SCORE FROM ANYWHERE ON THE FLOOR

HAILEE AKIN

HOUGHTON LAKE

Hailee was a ruthless wrecking ball around the painted area, battling for position, posting up, drop-stepping, power drbbling and scoring with great efficiency. She chipped in 14 points and eight rebounds. Akin is only a freshman, this girl is going to morph into one of the greatest Jack Pine Conference basketball players in it’s fabled lore.



WINKLER TOOK THE GAME OVER IN THE 4TH STANZA

MADDEE WINKLER

HOUGHTON LAKE

Maddee Winkler was the most explosive player on the floor. She is a multi-faceted force around the interior. She’s automatic from the foul line. She nailed pressure cooker free-throws, demanded the ball down the stretch, made moves and converted. MWink was the aggressor she tallied 14 points, eight caroms, three rejections and two dimes.



ROSCOMMON - Whenever Houghton Lake collides with Roscommon the energy and intensity are heightened, but with both varsity competing at the same venue the same night, it added to the bubbling environment, then with it being the Coaches vs Cancer and everyone clad in pink, then with Nathan Compo’s sudden battle with cancer, there seemd to be greater meaning to Coaches vs Cancer, to put the icing on the cake, the atmosphere was drenched with oozing electric shocks of enthusiasm by witnessing the see-saw, nip and tuck war between the Lady Bobcats and the Lady Bucks. Rosco was able to emerge the victors after all the dust settled, 50-44. “It was a great win, we got good minutes from a bunch of different players. Katie Tozer has really given us a lift, she was outstanding again tonight on the boards, our balance was key, it so much better that Logan doesn’t feel she has to create everything. The free-throws down the stretch by Kalen were incredible, several girls were productive,” noted Rosco’s Coach Phil Weiler.

Hailee Akin powered a bucket, shortly after, Rosco’s Katie Tozer muscled a hoop and hit her foul shot, RHS’s Janae Oakes has come on strong as of late, she buried a deep jumper, Kalen Church followed on the ensuing possession by tickling the twin on a jumper from the wing. Akin pivot spun kissed off the window and at the end of the initial quarter it was all knotted up at 12 a piece.

HL’s Sarah Garrett chased down a loose ball and burst to the other end to score, Tozer sank a pair, Christina Penfield flicked in a medium range bucket, then Akin drilled a long-gun and the Cats held an 18-14 lead.

Out of a timeout, Coach Weiler drew up a beautifully spaced play, that his girls executed precisely. Reagan Moffit zipped a pass to Logan Hutek who had cut off a Tozer down screen and scored off the high glass. Tozer muscled in a put back basket, then Hutek lobbed a pass which led Moffit to the rim for a hoop, this tied it at 20-20. RHS led 22-21 at the intermission.

Tozer ripped down a board and scored to give the Bucks a 36-30 lead. Church nailed a long deuce, 38-30. MWink strong slashed, was fouled, she squished both free throws, nothing but nylon.



Rosco’s Katie Tozer has played up to her billing, the hype is a reality, Tozer is relentless on the backboards and she has soft touch.

Mwink cross-over dribbled and sprung to smooch a bucket off the glass, this made it 40-36 in favor of RHS. Hailee Akin caught a feed from MWink, Akin rifled a bullet to Gill Carroll who caught and instantly elevated to swish a baseline jumper giving HL the lead, 42-41. With the Bobcat faithful cheering with jubilation, Hutek blitzed right back at the Cats, knifed through the defense and bounced a dime to Moffit who confidently caught and tossed in a mid-range baseline tear dropper, making it 43-42 Bucks.

Church was fouled, she swished two free throws that tickled nothing but nylon, 45-42. Maddee Winkler caught, explosively spun and drained a turnaround jumper, 45-44. Hutek was quickly fouled, with utter poise, Hutek drilled both free throws, 47-44. Kalen Church was fouled once again, with unflappable calm, she splashed both foul shots, to make it 49-44.

The elevation of Katie Tozer has made an evident impact. She’s a machine beast on both ends, it’s also motivated Michon VanWormer, Reagan Moffit, Janae Oakes, Logan Hutek and Kaylen Church to play more inspired and aggressive, oh yeah they’re all sophomores....

“The game was so back and forth. There were a few moments where we looked completely blank in the 4th and that

allowed Rosco to get a step ahead of us. We were able to fight back, but that was the problem, we never regained control and had to end up sending them to the line in the last minute to give them the spread on us,” replied HL’s Coach Angie Dalak. “This is setting a great stage for the district/ rubber match on Monday @ Rosco. I am very proud of all the teams from RHS and HLHS for not only their love of this rivalry



It’s special to see how tight knit this sophomore class is, exhibited here.

game, but also for their support of Coaches vs. Cancer. This was a very important night for the community for more than one reason and everyone stepped up to give to such a great cause.” Maddee Winkler spurred the rally, she tabulated 14 points, eight rebounds, three blocks and two assists. Hailee Aiken was a buzzsaw as she compiled 14 points and eight boards.



Clare’s dominance unchallenged

Game after game, the Pioneers continue to unleash mayhem, confusion, and bewilderment on the court, burying their competition early. Winter, Benchley, Petree, English, and Wezensky dropped the hammer on the Bucks, make quick-time on the passing lanes, sparked the transition offense, and cruised to the victory.

BENCHLEY CONTINUES JUNK-YARD DOG STYLE OF DEFENSE

MELISSA BENCHLEY
CLARE

Melissa Benchley has been a destructive, tormenting defensive force for the Pioneers. Her relentless physicality, her quick hands, and shuffling feet has transformed her into the preeminent hound-dog. She recorded 9 steals against the Bucks. But those 9 steals weren't just changes of possession, the majority of them lead to quick scores in the open court.



COOPER'S ATHLETICISM, GRIT LEADS CLARE TO 'W'



CLARE STORMS OUT IN 1ST QUARTER, HOLDS ON FOR WIN

ROSCOMMON - The Bucks feature a rugged and athletic ball club, featuring tremendous speed and endurance and one of the best up and coming low post players in Katie Tozer.

The Pioneer suffered their only Jack Pine Conference loss of the season on their home court in Clare County at the hands of this gnarled rugged Roscommon cagers.

Tuesday night's game was an opportunity for Coach Dave Maxwell to exact revenge on the Bucks - on their home turf - and reclaim the honors in the JPC.

The Pioneers stormed out and took a 10-0 lead in the first, taking advantage of the Buck's dried up offense.

Then Rosco exploded in the second stanza. Katie Burmeister started to connect to out-score the Pioneers 15-7 and make it a 2 point game heading into the break.

The Bucks had tied up the ball game late in the 4th after Danielle Doeblar sprinkled in 1 of 2 from the free throw line.

Then Clare's Olivia Cooper, Makenzie Thayer and Jayda Sythora clamped down on defense, halted the Bucks and Cooper and Thayer went on a 10 point bender in the waning minutes of the game to give the Pioneers the 45-39 victory over the Bucks.

Cooper led all scorers with 24 points, 7 boards, and 4 steals. Morgan English added 7 and Thayer flipped 6.

The Bucks Katie Tozer finished the night with 16 points and 7 boards. Haley Eanes added 8 points, 10 boards and 4 steals. Katie Burmester finished with 7 points and 7 boards for Roscommon.



OLIVIA COOPER

Cooper blew up with 24 points, 7 boards, and 4 steals to pace the Pioneers past the Bucks.



Clare's tag-team duo of Ashley Petree and Lindsay Winter crimp down and ambush Rosco's Sam Adams.

Pioneers put clamps on Roscommon Bucks

ROSCOMMON - The last two years, it has become routine for the Pioneers just to show up to Jack Pine Conference games, step on the gas defensively, force turnovers, and let the onslaught begin. We've been watching this style of play for the last couple of years, always with the same result: A Clare victory.



BY CODY O'ROURKE

And that's exactly what happened Tuesday night when the Pioneers rolled up north into the sprawling hardwood hills of Roscommon to take on the Bucks. Lindsay Winter, Melissa Benchley, Ashley Petree, Courtney English, and Corinne Wezensky rocked the Bucks off the bat, stormed the passing lanes, defended the paint, and out-scored the Bucks 12-2 in the first quarter, kept their intensity pumping throughout the second to flash into half-time with a 29-8 lead and cruised for the 57-18 victory.

Melissa Benchley started the scoring barrage for the Pioneers with a splash from the wing, then English rolled up to the big girls line and drilled a triple.

Roscommon snuck on the board early, with Reagan Moffit getting ball in the high post, flashing left, halting her momentum to shake her defender and rung-up a 8 foot bunny.

From there, Clare proceeded almost effortlessly on a 16-0 run. Lindsay Winter started to flex, twisting ankles and raining long jumpers with her rainbow shots. Winter roped back to back buckets to put the Pioneers up 7-2. Then English and Winter took turns raining bombs to put the Clare regime up 12-2 after the first period of play.

It was more of the same in the second stanza. Wezensky tore down a board, ripping down the moneyball out of the mosh-pit, made a smooth, clean outlet pass to spark Clare's transition offense and English was open on the fringe for a double. Then Benchley made a swipe before the Bucks could advance the ball past the half-court mark and pinched a dime to Wezensky under the hoop.

Janae Oakes finally answered back for the Bucks, catching the Pioneers defense out of

position, sneaking into an open swathe of hardwood at the top of the key and banged in a deuce to cut Clare's lead to 15.

The Pioneers answered back with another prolonged offensive bender, going on a 10-0 run sparked by a Lindsay Winter triple. Then Petree rattled off a pair of scores, followed by Benchley making back to back swipes and scoop-flushes to put the Clare cagers up 29-4.

The Bucks found the bottom of the net when senior Morgan Romancky powered down a board, muscled herself into a good look at the cup and splashed and then Oakes connected just inside the three point line as time was expiring before the half to make



Clare's Ashley Petree scores in traffic with a pull-up J.

it a 29-8 ball game. Clare's lead proved to be too much for the Bucks to overcome, and the Pioneers hoisted another Jack Pine Conference victory 57-18.

Lindsay Winter led all scorers with 20 points on 8-16 shooting. She also had 6 steals on the night. Melissa Benchley finished with 10 points and Ashley Petree added 9 to go along with Courtney English's 7. Melissa Benchley had a maddening 9 steals to establish the pecking order.

Janae Oakes led the Bucks with 4 points while Logan Hutek and Sam Adams both flashed 3 points a piece off of long triples.

"They played good defense. And against an experience team like that, our young team really showed itself," said the Bucks Phil Weiler.

Lady Mustangs fall to Nouvel

By Adam Hall

SANFORD- The Lady Mustangs of Meridian couldn't compete with the superb defense Saginaw Nouvel brought Tuesday night losing 69 to 18. Nouvel cameout hot scoring 16 in the first quarter and only allowing Meridian six points. The second quarter was much of the same. Nouvel led at halftime 31 to 10. Meridian offensive struggles continued in the second half. Only scoring five in the third quarter and three in the fourth. Maddi Cassiday was the leading scorer for the Lady Mustangs with 6 points. Hannah Stockford, Kaylee Bremer and Paige Owen each had 2 points on the night. Nouvel's Rachel McInereny led all scores with 21 points.

Pioneers finish JPC season undefeated

FARWELL - The Clare Pioneers finished up another Jack Pine Conference season undefeated by jumping out to a 25-6 lead in the first quarter and rolled into half-time up 42-9 and cruised to the 54-38 victory over their rivals to the west, the Farwell Eagles.

Clare unfurled a diverse offensive attack, as Lindsay Winter peeled off 16 points, shooting 50% from the field. Alex Stark pumped in 10 while Courtney English and Melissa Benchley flipped 8 in the affair.

Farwell's Caron White had a big game for the Eagles despite the loss, throwing in 11 points and snagging up 7 rebounds, as she looks to head into district competition with a head full of steam. Kate Saupe also added 10 points and 4 boards in the donnybrook. Jenna Hamming finished with 6 points and 3 assists for the Farwell cagers.



ALEX STARK

Heading into district play, the Pioneers are going to need some offensive juice. Stark dumped in 10 points, looking to heat up.

Mustangs make comeback, top Harrison Hornets

HARRISON - The Harrison cagers, an athletic bunch of ballers, took advantage of their experience and length up front to stymie the Mustangs and build a 17-9 advantage going into the half.

But the Mustangs rallied back, out-scoring the Budd Lake cagers 10-6 in the 3rd to head into the 4th quarter down only four points and worked the ball around, made clutch plays and finished with the 35-27 victory over Harrison.

"With probably 4 minutes to go in the 2nd half we were down 23-10. We held them to 4 points the rest if the way. We just got more aggressive on D and started to play together offensively and really moved the ball. Our shot selection was much better in the 2nd half. Harrison got physical and it finally woke us up. Taylor was 8/13 from the line and 7-11 in the 4th," said Coach LaFave.

Taylor Brooks led Meridian with 14 points while Madi Cassiday netted 12. Bri Yaroch finished with 5 points and 8 boards.

Brandi Powell led Harrison with 10 points while Brooke Colville added 5.



TAYLOR BROOKS

Taylor Brooks was cool, calm and collected as she led her team to the come from behind victory, netting 14 points.



BRANDON HOAG

GLADWIN FLYING G'S

Brandon works hard to do well

By Eric Dion

Brandon Hoag is an eighth grader at Gladwin Junior High, and is preparing himself for the most important four years of his life in both academics and sports. He is one of those kids that make the older generations proud, with his work ethic and respect for others in the community. He has already made a name for himself in Gladwin, as he belongs to the elite group of young men that have been undefeated for two years in football, and are creating quite a stir with that group moving up into the ranks of the High School next year. He is also quite the baseball player, and enjoys spending time on the links playing a few rounds of golf in the spring and summer as well. He is also big into 4H and excels in the swine category.

This young man has set a tone for others to follow.

Jack Pine Tribune: What is your favorite sports memory?

Brandon Hoag: In baseball, when I made a double play against a tough Beaverton team. The best part was getting the picture of it put in the Jack Pine Tribune

JPT: Who is your favorite coach, and why?

BH: I would have to say



Brandon shows off the fruits of his labor.

my football coach, Jeremiah McDonald. He is fair and honest, and he does a great job coaching us.

JPT: What groups or organizations do you belong to?

BH: I am into 4H, and a member of Pheasants Forever chapter 433. I help the Pheasants Forever group set up for their annual banquet, and I participate in the youth hunt they have every year. In 4H, I have been Grand Supreme Champion in swine twice; once in 2009 and then last year. I also showed my first pen of hogs last year, and I took reserve in that. I take my 4H involvement very seriously, and I am with my hogs every day, when I clean their pens, work with them, and feed them. It requires me getting up very early before school the rest of the year, but it is worth it.

JPT: What type of community service have you done in the past?

BH: I have worked the

concession stands for the fair, not just for 4H, but also for other events at the fairgrounds, such as the rodeo and the mud drags. I have helped the GAFT group back stage with building and moving props during their productions, and I even took part in them when I was younger, but with everything else I do, I don't have time for being in the plays anymore. In the winter, I shovel driveways for people and businesses in the community and in the fall I rake leaves for them. I have also selected gifts for toys for tots and I took part in making packages for the troops with my 4H group.

JPT: How has your sports involvement helped your outlook on community service?

BH: It taught me discipline, along with the fact that if you want something, you have to put in a lot of work and effort to achieve it. If you are willing to put in the hours necessary to achieve your goals, in the end you will prevail in everything that you want to do.



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13 JPC wrestlers qualify for state finals

Rosco qualified **DRAKE LEWANDOWSKI**, Caleb Jernigan and Gage Major. Meridian qualified **ERIC FADER, JOE SHULER** and Jess Levier. Farwell will have Tristan Zienkiewicz representing them. Gladwin saw **JAKE ROZA** and Dylan Hillier advance. Clare was thrilled to have Dominik Herkel, Logan Emery and Brandon Ayris advance. Houghton Lake has **DALTON BAILEY** still vying for a state championship.

TZ WON'T BE BEAT EASILY, HE SHOULD BRING HOME A MEDAL
TRISTEN ZIENKIEWICZ
FARWELL

Tristen wasn't trippin up at regionals, he was focused and he took care of business. TZ defeated Benzie Central's Knudsen. Then he dismantled Mason County Central's finest, 4-1. In the regional title bout, Zienkiewicz succumbed and was shutout by a wily, fundamental wrestler from Essexville-Garber. The Duke blanked him 3-0, but TZ advanced to the state finals with his second place medal.



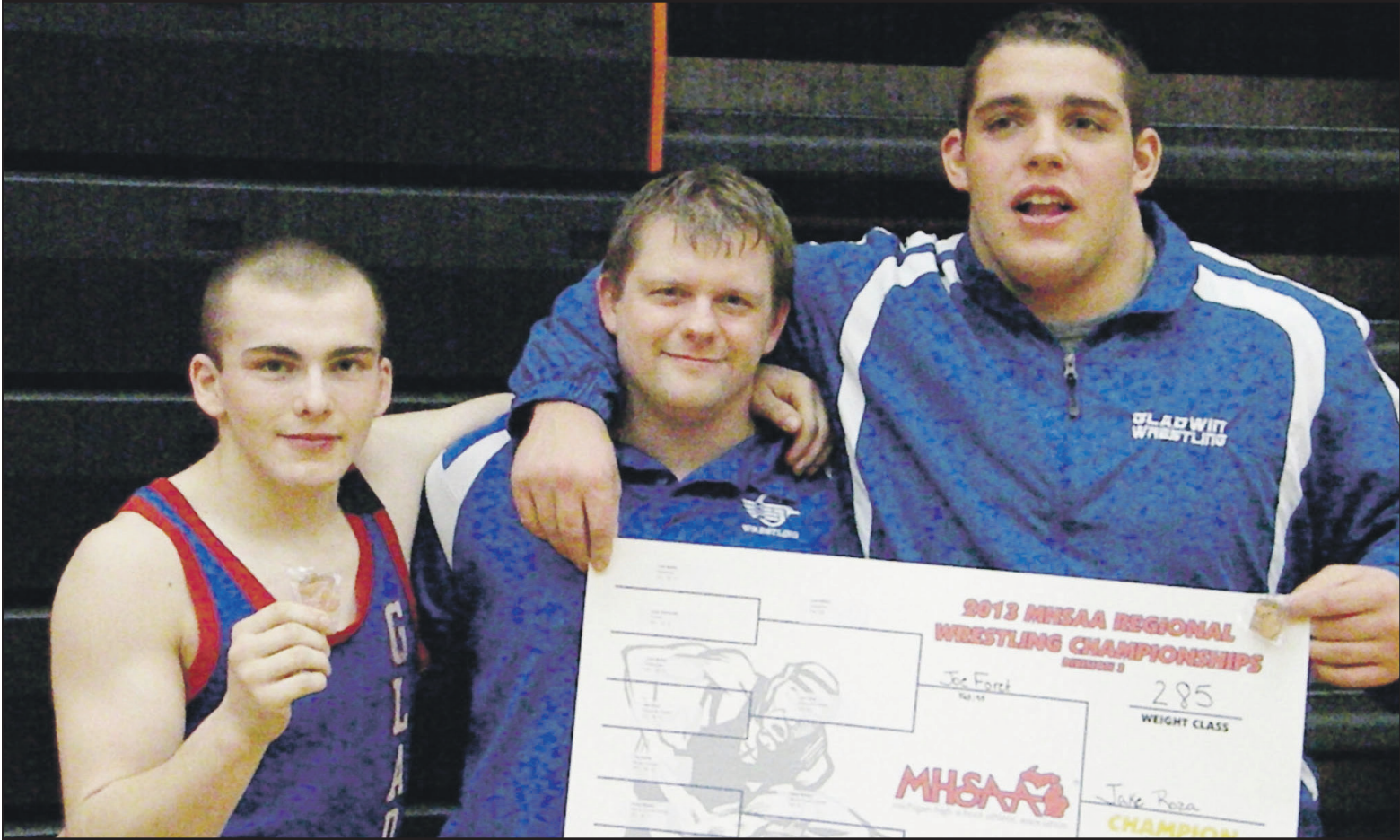
FADER IS TOO FEROCIOUS, FIERCE AND TECHNICALLY SOUND TO LOSE
DALTON BAILEY
HOUGHTON LAKE

Houghton Lake's juggernaut, Dalton Bailey is still undefeated on the season at 189. He rocked Benzie's Josh Ireton, 9-2, then he demolished Chip Hill's Tyler Boema 17-2 by tech fault and finally he usurped Oscoda's buzzsaw, Devon Foucher, 4-2 to garner the regional title belt. "Dalton approaches each match with the same focus and intensity. He's a consummate pro, Dalton wants to be challenged and have to earn every victory," said Houghton Lake's Coach Ryan King.



AYRIS AMAZINGLY HEALS FROM BROKEN COLLAR-BONE, ADVANCES
BRANDON AYRIS
CLARE

Brandon Ayris also came into regionals and started his day off with a win over Brian Lark of Kingsley, 10-3. Ayris then was matched up with Eric Russell of Chip Hills in the semi-finals where Ayris won with a major decision, 20-7. This put Ayris into the finals for 1st and 2nd place where he was matched up with Jake Cronick of Gladstone. Ayris wrestled tough but got caught in a cradle, which resulted in a loss for Ayris, but secured his 2nd place spot and his second trip to the state finals.



Left to right; Gladwin's Dylan Hillier holding up his third place regional finish with glee, Coach Buddy Goldsworthy and heavyweight champ, #1 ranked Jake Roza.

Individual regional grappling report

Houghton Lake's Dalton Bailey is a man amongst boys, he's still undefeated on the season. FHS's Tristan Zienkiewicz finished second to advance. Gladwin's Jake Roza was the 285 champ and Dylan Hillier beat his mate Owen Ritchie to qualify at 125.

Meridian's Joe Shuler 112 pinned Jimmy Spencer from Rudyard to claim a regional title in dominant fashion and improve his record to 39-3 on the season. Joe was 3-0 on the day and allowed three points to be scored on him for the day. Eric Fader pinned his first two opponents in the first period en rout to a second place finish and a return trip to the state meet. Eric finished 8th last year at 215 and is looking to improve that this time around. Fader is now 40-3 on the season. Jess Levier defeated Trenton Doughty of Newberry 3-2 to punch his ticket to the palace of auburn hills finishing in 4th place. Jess improves to 39-12 on the season. Chase Robinson 119, and Devon Posey 140 both were one win shy of qualifying for the individual state tournament. Kaine Sturgeon 285 went 0-2. "We came in a little banged up, but the kids wrestled with tremendous heart and poise. Congratulations to our three state qualifiers and good season to our three other regional qualifiers," exclaimed Meridian's Coach Jeremy Sampson.

Clare had four wrestlers enter into the regional tournament, and three of them have made their way on to the state finals. Dominik Herkel started off his day with a win over Connor Mills of Boyne City in a 3-1 triple overtime decision. His next match put him up against the district champ, Johnny Finney of Bullock Creek. Herkel wrestled tough but took an 11-1 major decision loss to Finney, which moved him down into the blood round. His next match was against Michael

Phipps of Grayling, and after Herkel put 16 points on the board, earning himself a win by tech fall, he advanced his position into the finals and a guaranteed spot in the top 4. Mills of Boyne City came back in the finals and beat Herkel by a score of 6-3, giving Herkel the 4th place finish on the day, and the honor of being a first time state qualifier.

Junior Logan Emery started off his day with a win over Tyler LaJoie of Negaunee to put him up against Wes Azel of Essexville Garber in the semi-finals. Emery lost by a score of 8-4 to drop him down into the blood round where he beat Brandon Gagnon of Gladstone to launch him into the finals and secure his ticket to the Palace. Emery finished off the day strong beating Justin Steiger of Mason County Central to capture himself a 3rd place finish and his second trip to the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Fellow junior Brandon Ayris also came into regionals and started his day off with a win over Brian Lark of Kingsley, 10-3. Ayris then was matched up with Eric Russell of Chip Hills in the semi-finals where Ayris won with a major decision, 20-7. This put Ayris into the finals for 1st and 2nd place where he was matched up with Jake Cronick of Gladstone. Ayris wrestled tough but got caught in a cradle, which resulted in a loss for Ayris, but secured his 2nd place spot and his second trip to the state finals.

"Regionals is always an extremely nerve-racking day, with so many good wrestlers, and only four spots available to go to states, anything can happen. Ayris and Emery have been here before, so they are accustomed to the pressure, they performed like the champs they are, but senior Dominik Herkel was making his debut at regionals this season and he came out wrestling great. There was nothing

that was going to get between Herkel and his opportunity to become a state qualifier," said Clare's Coach McKay.

Rosco's 103 pound freshman, Gage Major defeated Clay Forfinksi from Farwell by squeezing a pin at the 1:09 mark of the first period. Then Major outlasted Rich Ostrander, 9-7. Gage succumbed to fellow frosh, Grayling's John Martin, 15-3, to finish with the silver, earning 2nd at regionals is not too shabby as a Freshman.

Roscommon's Drake Lewandowski earned his first trip to the Palace as he shredded his regional competitors. He pinned a Mason CC grappler at the 1:25 mark of the first. Then he pin mauled Clay Brookshire of Elk Rapids at the 1:39 mark of the first. Then Drake defeated Adam Kerr of Reed City, 7-5.

Caleb Jernigan will be making his third appearance at the individual state finals meet. Caleb narrowly beat Joe Coleman from Chip Hills, 3-1. Next Jernigan defeated Mike Felix, 9-5 and he lost to Glen Fitkins of Freeland to finish in 3rd place. Gage Richards, Ryan Dunnem and Damian Lewandowski weren't able to advance.



Dalton Bailey is still unblemished on the season.

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BOYS DIVISION
2012-2013

February 16, 2013

Beaverton Bowl

Beaverton, Michigan

Name	School	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Total
JACOB EIGNER	FARWELL	199	201	254	256	910
JORDAN HALES	CLARE	223	237	177	177	814
QUINCY JONES	HARRISON	226	216	193	176	811
JAKE VOLK	GLADWIN	175	202	205	192	774
CHASE HOWEY	HARRISON	214	203	159	187	763
WYATT BUZZELL	GLADWIN	168	176	213	199	756
DOUGLAS PRINCE	CLARE	216	193	191	149	749
DALTON CIPOLETTI	CLARE	172	157	235	183	747
RILEY SKORNICKA	FARWELL	200	179	147	187	713
JOHN FREHLING	GLADWIN	172	182	157	195	706
CHASE CASTRO	BEAVERTON	226	173	148	144	691
BRANDON CERGNUL	BEAVERTON	125	203	203	156	687
KYLE DUFFETT	CLARE	179	171	173	164	687
RYAN HUBBARD	HARRISON	151	186	230	118	685
JOSH GROSS	FARWELL	159	169	174	178	680
KYLE SKORNICKA	FARWELL	225	160	123	154	662
CJ FIEDLER	FARWELL	164	155	195	147	661
TYLER MEILKE	GLADWIN	160	204	153	136	653
TANNER GOHEEN	BEAVERTON	149	153	151	192	645
JUSTIN CALKINS	CLARE	179	162	131	163	635
CODY MARTIN	BEAVERTON	124	190	150	168	632
DEVIN HYER	COLEMAN	135	202	154	139	630
TYLER OTOOLE	HOUGHTON LAKE	161	145	172	150	628
COLE SIMPKINS	GLADWIN	155	179	166	127	627
ZACH HARRIS	COLEMAN	173	132	161	158	624
SAM SHAYDIK	HARRISON	167	156	148	148	619
COLTON WRIGHT	HARRISON	167	159	133	155	614
KEITH LANG JR	GLADWIN	148	176	158	105	587
LUCAS COMBS	CLARE	157	143	128	159	587
JACOB GROSS	FARWELL	130	148	146	153	577
CALEB PATTERSON	HOUGHTON LAKE	149	161	148	114	572
BRADLEY WALSH	HARRISON	122	109	185	154	570
COLLIN PRATT	GLADWIN	114	131	181	136	562
HUNTER BRINK	BEAVERTON	149	137	137	132	555
JAROD GIVEN	HARRISON	115	169	143	127	554
NICK SAUPE	FARWELL	120	110	146	148	524
JACOB KARL	CLARE	127	131	125	137	520
GARRETT THOMPSON	HARRISON	125	104	118	170	517
TOM DUNN	HOUGHTON LAKE	91	117	130	152	490
ROBERT MCCARVER	HARRISON	111	93	146	121	471
MATT CAMPBELL	HOUGHTON LAKE	93	139	113	124	469
RAZIEH GORDAN	BEAVERTON	110	112	102	111	435
COREY GIVEN	HARRISON	104	121	88	120	433
SKYLAR JONES	COLEMAN	93	99	103	104	399
AVORY OLSON	COLEMAN	120	78	73	113	384
NICK CERGNUL	COLEMAN	93	91	86	103	373
BRIAN CURTIS	COLEMAN	79	113	95	74	361
JOSH VOLK	GLADWIN	55	89	95	79	318

JACK PINE BOWLING CONFERENCE
JACK PINE SINGLES TOURNEY
GIRLS DIVISION
2012-2013

February 16, 2013

Beaverton Bowl

Beaverton, Michigan

Name	School	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Total
KATIE WARNER	CLARE	196	136	163	187	682
KATELYN HANSEN	BEAVERTON	151	155	174	180	660
COURTNEY KING	HARRISON	143	136	162	210	651
LEA PAPPAS	HOUGHTON LAKE	144	171	141	156	612
ERICA JOHNSON	GLADWIN	141	166	125	168	600
KAY MUSSER	CLARE	146	157	138	157	598
MORGAN BRANDEL	HOUGHTON LAKE	159	152	138	147	596
SKYE WOOD	GLADWIN	136	178	144	134	592
DAKOTA MCLEAN	GLADWIN	133	166	171	114	584
ASHLEIGH SANDERSON	HARRISON	157	164	117	133	571
TONI BOYD	FARWELL	171	157	121	117	566
EMILY RITCHIE	BEAVERTON	111	147	132	174	564
LAUREN EIGNER	FARWELL	139	157	116	147	559
ALEX OSMOND	FARWELL	142	144	132	140	558
KATLYN GROVE	GLADWIN	145	148	145	105	543
ASHLEE COHEE	HOUGHTON LAKE	128	103	136	171	538
BRIANNA RANCK	COLEMAN	143	123	140	125	531
GRACE CAMPBELL	BEAVERTON	140	119	130	124	513
TAYLOR HAYES	BEAVERTON	126	119	121	142	508
SAMANTHA WARNER	CLARE	136	123	117	128	504
TYANA TURNER	FARWELL	128	136	108	132	504
TAYLOR BONDIE	HARRISON	126	136	114	127	503
MEERI HUJANEN	FARWELL	132	114	113	136	495
DESI SAYLES	CLARE	127	132	103	132	494
BEAW TONGSIRI	BEAVERTON	131	114	144	101	490
KAYELA OBERLOIR	BEAVERTON	117	127	121	120	485
NATALIA PROSSER	CLARE	129	118	106	122	475
HALEY SULLA	HARRISON	100	120	132	122	474
CHANDELLE TOOKER	HOUGHTON LAKE	128	105	126	114	473
ELIZABETH BIELIKI	HOUGHTON LAKE	114	109	98	152	473
BRIANNA RATHBURN	HOUGHTON LAKE	119	113	112	122	466
CASSIE REID	FARWELL	129	106	113	113	461
SHELBY KILE	HARRISON	111	124	95	112	442
DESTINY ALRED	GLADWIN	93	111	118	115	437
KATIE HANES	HOUGHTON LAKE	125	102	81	120	428
BRITTANY BRIER	COLEMAN	108	109	94	108	419
TAYLOR WADE	CLARE	70	105	106	135	416
REBEKAH AVERILL	FARWELL	117	90	116	83	406
MAEGAN HUND	FARWELL	124	78	104	88	394
BRIANNA PRIEMER	BEAVERTON	97	109	106	80	392
TELISHA BRUNER	BEAVERTON	89	100	115	86	390
JORDYN MINSKI	HARRISON	92	112	92	89	385
LAURISSA BRUSHABER	BEAVERTON	109	78	68	82	337
KAYLA SHINEVAR	HARRISON	68	66	76	93	303

Jacob Eigner, Katie Warner Reign Victorious

By John Gross

The Jack Pine Bowling Conference concluded their 2012-2013 season with the Jack Pine Singles Tourney on Saturday, February 16th at Beaverton Bowl in Beaverton, Michigan. The tournament consisted of four individual games with total pinfall determining the winner. Medals were awarded the top five spots and a trophy was also given to the tournament champion. In the boys division, Jacob Eigner of Farwell captured the title with an outstanding performance. Averaging 227 with games of 199, 201, 254 and 256 for a 910 series, Eigner out-scored the nearest competitor by 96 pins. “I’ve never been first in anything before.” Commented Eigner as he was finishing up his last game having already secured the win. The score boosted his overall average to 199 for the season and moved Eigner from 5th to 3rd for high average and secured him a spot on the 1st Team All-Conference. In the girls’ division it was all Katie Warner as she took the lead after the first game with a 196 and followed it with games of 136, 163 and 187 for a 682 series and averaging 170 for the day. Katie boosted her overall average to 168 for the season (2nd high overall) and earning a spot on the 1st team All-Conference. The complete listing of all the tournament stats are available at www.jackpinebowling.com on the tournament results page.



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At the beginning of the season, Katie set out to prove that having a Varsity bowling team was a good idea, and she did that by dominating the alleyways on a regular basis. With an opening 196 game and a 682 series in the singles tourney, she has went out on top



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Jacob bowled over the competition yet again with his 910 series, well above the rest of the ten-pinnors in the conference. It is not known if Jacob has some voodoo spell cast on his ball, but the other bowlers are lining up for a chance to get the spell cast on them as well. Jacob can lead his team in regional competition.



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CONTINUED FROM P.1

in central Clare County Monday night. Travis Vida got the Pioneers rolling early, finished the game with 11 points, and gave Clare the spark they needed in the 40-26 victory. Vida came right out of the gates, curled around a screen, isolated his man in the corner, worked him over with a cross-over, and dropped a triple to ignite the Pioneers. Then Clare's big, physical low post bull-dog Colton Petree muscled in for a rebound, powered down a carom, and



Gladwin's Javan Medema works the ball into the high post and splashes over the defense.

forced himself to the cup for the quick put-back. With Vida running the show from the top, he quickly drew a double team. Vida spun loose, flurried back out and caught Brandon Zinser knifing along the key for a quick pass. Zinser caught, squared up, and released in all one fluid motion to put the Pioneers up 9-0 early in the first stanza of play.

The G's were able to stop the bleeding when Aaron Benton splashed and Johnson turned around and splashed a 10 footer to make it a 9-5 Clare ball game.

Vida answered Gladwin's mini-run with a baseline slash and scoop-roll just before the end of the 1st quarter to put his Pioneers up 11-5.

Clare continued to edge out and balloon their lead.

Zinser stroked an elbow-J. Gladwin's Javan Medema answered back with a score in the low post, splashing over two Clare defenders. But the Pioneers quickly responded, as Vida connected from the top of the key, then Petree tore down a rebound, battled for position, went up strong, drew the foul and scored a deuce. Petree flushed the point after to give Clare a 10 point lead.

Gladwin's Dylan McDonald went on a five point flurry to keep the G-men with in arms length of the Pioneers. McDonald bellied up to the 3-point line and blew out the bottom of the net, then the savvy floor orchestrator Devin Boylen cut a dime across the meat of the Pioneers defense and caught McDonald in stride for a lay in to make it a 18-13 affair. Gladwin had made it a three point game and showed flashes of a come-back after Medema worked himself inside, pounded the ball down low to create some space, and connected with a bunny, but back to back buckets by Tucker Roe and Vida allowed the Pioneers to take a 10 point lead heading into the break, up 25-15.

Known as a grid-iron genius, Coach Kelly Luplow must have gave an inspiring half-time talk, as his boys came out of the locker room with renewed vigor and hustle and sprayed four points up on the board to start the third, with Zinser splashing a pair from the charity stripe and Roe lacing a long jumper.

"I think I missed my calling as a basketball coach," chuckled Coach Luplow.

Luplow's boys continued to hammer the G's with their methodical, fluid offensive rotations and suffocating defense, building a 15 point lead after Petree recorded yet another offensive rebound and put back to make it a 32-17 Clare ball game and eventually went on to claim the 40-26 victory over the visiting Gladwin cagers.

Javan Medema paced the G's with 10 points while Aaron Benton contributed 7 on the night. Dylan McDonald netted 5.

Clare had a wide arrange of ballers scoring from all sorts of angles. Travis Vida led all scorers with 11. Colton Petree had his way in the middle, adding 10, while Gabe Denton finished with 8 and Brandon Zinser recording 7 points.

Gladwin takes advantage of Clare's slow start

CLARE - Basketball is a game of momentum. A team can get hot, a team can go cold - all in the change of one possession. Its tough to control the waves of emotions, the confidence and doubt that perpetuates the rolling of the tides on the hardwood, and Monday's basketball game was an example of this dynamic in full force.

The Gladwin Flying G's stormed out with a heightened sense of mojo and swagger, and everything seemed to bounce their way. The G-men were able to hold the Pioneers scoreless throughout the entire first half, but then the Clare cagers regrouped at half-time, surged back and out-scored the G's 17-8 in the second half. But Gladwin's first half offensive barrage coupled with the Pioneers moribund offense allowed the Gladwin regime to take the 28-17 victory.

Gladwin started out their surge with Charlie Hair working ball through Clare's perimeter defense, knifing across the seam and finding a passing lane across the box to catch Brian Wegner for the opening score. Then Blake Otto strung up a deuce, then Wegner splashed from the top of the key.

The G's were able to collect defensive rebounds, force turnover, and take off in transition and find open looks as the Pioneers frantically tried to shuffle back into fortified positions.

With the Clare cagers disheveled in their assignments, Nate Joslin-Pence stroke one from the elbow, then Charlie Hair weaved through the white and green jerseys, found a little hole, and spurted to the cup to give Gladwin the 10-0 lead after the first quarter of play.

In the second quarter it was more of the same,

as Wegner again worked the edge, pump faked, drew his defender off-balance, and sank a long jumper. Then Kolby Bell started to join in on the dance party. Bell stormed the baseline and smooched off glass, then Sabastion Greer connected and the G's were up 20-0 at the end of the first half.

Coach Reyna Luplow didn't head into the locker-room, instead she regrouped, made her boys run through drills, and focus on getting into their comfort zone. Coach Reyna Luplow's simple, yet effective half-time adjustment allowed her Pioneers to scrap and claw back to make it a ball game.

Oakley Carpenter, a big, burly and mobile low post player started to get feeds and took advantage of his size. Then Corey Lang started converting in heavy traffic, controlling his body, contorting and using the back board to his advantage. Clare's refund offensive swagger allowed them to out-score the G's in the second half to make things interesting.

But Gladwin's 20-0 opening start was too much to over come.

Gladwin was led by Kolby Bell who scored 10 and Brian Wegner who added 8.

Clare was paced by Oakley Carpenter who dipped 7 and Corey Lang who netted 5.

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CLARE PIONEERS

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Travis Vida set the tone early in the rivalry match up against the Gladwin Flying G's. Vida controlled the tempo of the game with his dribble drives to the cup, scoring up and over the G-men's interior, lacing long jumpers, and playing aggressive defense. Vida led all scorers with 11 points on the night, despite playing limited minutes in the 4th quarter.

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Above, Gladwin's Kolby Bell peels around a screen, finds a little driving lane across the baseline and runs a floater up and over the Clare's defense for the score. Pictured right, Clare's Oakley Carpenter grabbing another rebound, tucking the ball in and looking for a good outlet pass to get his Pioneers rolling.

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INSTANT ANALYSIS

ERIC DION

Mustangs controlled the entire game

Meridian had just suffered their loss to Beaverton, and came out and made Farwell pay for it by dominating the entire pace and possession of the game. Farwell played hard, but could not contend.

MOSBY’S WAS CONTAINED ALL NIGHT AND IT HURT FARWELL

WALTER MOSBY

FARWELL

Walter Mosby was held to just 7 points against the Mustangs, and despite his ability to drive and shoot, the sheer size of the Meridian players kept him out of the paint most of the night. Mosby was able to hit a triple in the game which gave his team a bit of a spark, but without his explosive drives, the Eagles were helpless..



DANIEL JOHNSON DOMINATES THE POST FOR THE MUSTANGS



HAM PLAYED LIKE A MAN POSSESSED ALL NIGHT

JACAB HAM

MERIDIAN

Jacob Ham is a clear cut first team all conference pick, and he played like it against Farwell. He tore the wood off the home court with his speed and ability to do what he wants with the ball. He had enough steals in the game to put him in Federal Prison, and he led the team with 16 points, with a triple in there. He is arguably the best in the conference.



Jacob Wenzlick and company had their way with the Eagles, and they look to have gotten over their loss to Beaverton

CONTINUED FROM P.1

team with some nice talent on it, but they just could not match up against the Mustangs.

The first quarter started out well for the Eagles, despite giving up the first two buckets to Meridian, with Mitch Kucharek putting one in off the glass down low, and Jacob Ham getting the offensive board and put back. Walter Mosby answered back from deep baseline with a nice jumper to put Farwell on the boards. Unfortunately, Ham had just started his scoring for the day, and it did not take long for him to electrify once more with a underhanded shot off the glass that hit silk for two, and following a Dylan Brown basket to make it 6-4, Ham took the ball once more the length of the court, splitting the defense and putting another mid air underhander in off the glass. The first quarter would end with Meridian holding a 14-6 lead.

The second quarter belonged to the Mustangs, as they dominated the wood, and looked like they could not miss. Farwell managed a three by Austin Hickey, and a bucket by Mosby from the free throw area. Meridian opened the scoring with a three from Jacob Wenzlick, and a two for two from the line from Kevin Scheibert, and ended the half with a total of 31 points on the board, and Farwell were happy to get the 11 they fought for.

The Third belonged to the Mustangs as well, with Zach Arthur starting the quarter off with a 12’ jumper, and after a Seth Baginski rebound and score for Farwell, Arthur ripped off five more points for his team with a triple from the elbow, followed by a board and bucket to make it 38-13 Meridian. Farwell was able to get scores from Dylan Brown down low for two, Jacob Sutton who splashed a three, and perfect showings at the line for both Brown and Sutton. Meridian piled the points onto their score, with Ham, Arthur, and Brad Atkinson leading the way as the third ended with Meridian well on top of the

Farwell visitors to the tune of a 47-22 score.

Ham tore the final quarter up with some high speed entertainment, with a nice baseline jumper, followed by a mid air behind the back pass to Josh Gillette, who put in the easy lay up, and Ham followed that with a three pointer from out deep to give the Mustangs the 54-22 lead early on. Farwell had everything they could do to find room with the ball, and even completing an inbound pass seemed difficult, as the Mustangs were getting their hands on everything. In the end, Farwell fought tooth and nail, never giving up, but Meridian pounced on them to the tune of a 61-33 score.

Jacob Ham led the Mustangs with 16 points,



Curtis Robinson tries his best to contain Zack Arthur’s drive to the zone.

and a triple as well as countless steals from errant inbound passes. Zack Arthur put in 15 points and had a triple on the night as well. Daniel Johnson netted six points for the Mustangs.

Farwell was led by the hard working Walter Mosby, who netted 7 points and had a three pointer, and also never stopped playing at full speed, despite the score. Dylan Brown also played well, but was contained to just 6 points for the Eagles. Seth Baginski had 5 points and netted a three, but was kept at bay by the Mustangs for almost the entire night.

Mustang JV trounce Eagles

By Eric Dion

The JV boys of Meridian and Farwell clashed in what turned out to be a 54-35 win for the Mustangs. Coach Rick Fleming has worked hard with the Eagles, and was happy with what he saw, despite the score. “We had our best consistent offense, despite the loss. The early turnovers and losing the offensive rebounds is what hurt us, but the kids played very well.” Meridian was led by Spencer Yahrmarkt with 19 points and Christian Petre who had 8 points. Farwell was led by Kyle Danielson with 18 points and Eric Seibert who had 10 for the Eagles.

Clare falls to McBain

By: Adam Hall

The Clare Pioneers traveled to McBain Monday night to take on the Ramblers. Unfortunately it didn’t go Clare’s way losing to the score of 74 to 60. The first half was all McBain, out scoring the Pioneers 21 to 11 in the first quarter and 23 to 12 in the second, taking a halftime lead 44-23. Although down big Clare never gave up , outscoring the Ramblers 18 to 14 in the third quarter with big play from Scott Smith who had 16 points. Hunter Ruby also did a great job crashing the boards. He ended with 9 rebounds along with 6 points. Clare played tough in the fourth but the lead was to big to overcome. McBain’s Hunter Powell lead all scoring with 18 points on the night.

Beavers win big over Spartans

By: Adam Hall

BEAVERTON- Beaverton handled business Tuesday night by beating the Pinconning Spartans 68 to 29. Beaverton came out on fire ending the first quarter with a 24 to 4 advantage. After an even second quarter the Beavers went into halftime with a 37-17 lead. Beaverton came out on another big run outscoring the Spartans 31 to 12 in the second half. Travis Shields had a breakout game scoring 22 points while shooting 100% from the floor. He also had 8 rebounds and 4 blocks to go along with it. Erik Maxwell and Casey Blades also had solid games. Maxwell had 10 on the night and Blades ended with 9 points and 6 rebounds.

Pioneers erupt on Bucks

By: Adam Hall

CLARE - The Clare Pioneers defended home court Tuesday night by taking down The Roscommon Bucks 70-46. Clare was only up five at the end of the first quarter but made a huge surge in the second,putting up 25 points in the quarter to take a commanding lead 35 to 23. Clare never looked back, scoring 35 more points in the second half. The pioneers were lead in scoring by Scott Smith who had 16 points and 6 rebounds. Hunter Ruby also played a big game with 12 points, 12 rebounds, 5 assist and 4 blocks. Brett Jobin was the leading scorer for the Bucks with 15 points. Hunter Mires also had 11 points and four steals.

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Jacob put in 5 points and controlled the tempo of the game .He also played well defensively, owning the boards

JACOB WENZLICK-MERIDIAN


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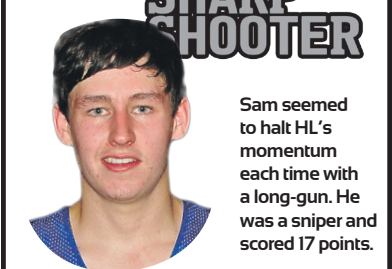
INSTANT ANALYSIS

Coleman shoots down the Bobcats

SAM WALTHAM, TIM ANDERSON, LARS MURRAY, RILEY BELL and **MATT WARNER'S** ultra intensity, steady waves of offensive bombarding, upended HLHS. **COACH BYRON SCHUNK** motivated his troops to an impressive well rounded triumph..



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Sam seemed to halt HL's momentum each time with a long-gun. He was a sniper and scored 17 points.

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JARED DULL



IMPACT PLAYER

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Jared was wildly active in all facets of the game against the Comets. Dull looked up and saw the whole floor while he dribbled, enabling himself to pass to open cutters for baskets. Dull scored 17 points and he was a menace defensively.

MATT WARNER



IMPACT PLAYER

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Matt Warner was a spark-plug all night for Coleman as he was firing on all cylinders in all phases. Warner tallied nine points, but they were timely points and high degree of difficulty buckets, hanging and contorting in the air. Warner sliced up the defense and dished open mates for shots.



Each Comet who stepped onto the hardwood was a terror on defense, moved the ball efficiently, rebounded and worked to contribute on the offensive end.

Shooting stars lit up the Cats

HOUGHTON LAKE - Despite Coleman's star guard, Riley Bell being sidelined with foul trouble, much of the game, Coleman outworked a scrappy Houghton Lake squad and collected a 68-50 road, non-league victory.

At the 5:57 mark in the opening quarter, Coleman's Lars Murray splashed a three-pointer. Jared Dull drew a foul and drilled two free throws, Tim Anderson came right back and powered in an interior hoop, 5-2. Nate Shavalia flicked in a put-back bucket, 5-4. Anderson caught a nice feed from Matt Warner and scored. Tyler Sluck responded by splitting defenders and slash scooped. Sam Waltham answered right back with a triple, making it 12-6.

Sluck and Shavalia had back to back rejections on Anderson, this led to Justin Blanchard, who played very spirited, gritty and productive, to nail a long-two with his foot on the line, Anderson followed this up with a drive for two and at the end of the first quarter, CHS led 15-9.

Dull launched a dime to Dearreis Griffin for a streaking hoop in transition. Riley Bell came right back by weaving through traffic and laying in a smooth bucket, Waltham drained a three-pointer on Coleman's ensuing possession. Matt Muirhead got the defense to collapse and then he kicked out to Dull who drained a triple, because of Blanchard's hustle, HL worked back to 21-18. Bell then bounced a low, tight crossover dribble, blow by to score at the rim. Murray netted a three-ball, Dull dished to Shavalia for a hoop. Sluck knifed inside to score, then as the buzzer to end the second quarter resonated, Waltham slipped in another three and Coleman led 33-25. Houghton Lake outscored CHS by one in the third quarter, but it was all Coleman in the fourth and final stanza.

Sam Waltham rained three-pointers at timely

moments of the game, he led the Comets with 17 points. Tim Anderson and Lars Murray were both very active and they both tallied a rugged 13 points for the Comets. Riley Bell compiled 11 dazzling points. Matt Warner tossed in nine sleek points.

"This was a great overall team effort. Each man



Shavalia and HL were surrounded by Comets everywhere they went.

who entered the game contributed well in some way. Murray and Anderson were great on the boards. Warner is extremely athletic, he was terrific, this is the type of performance we've been waiting for from him. It was huge, especially with Bell on the bench with fouls," replied Coleman's Coach Byron Schunk.

Jared Dull led the Bobcats with 17 points. Nathan Shavalia poured in 10 points and Tyler Sluck chipped in seven points. Justin Blanchard also had seven points.

Coleman jv hold on to beat HL, 32-31

HOUGHTON LAKE - With four minutes left in the fourth quarter, Houghton Lake held a 29-27 lead. Coleman's Adam StremLOW buried a triple to give CHS a 30-29 lead. Houghton Lake's Joel Kubiak, Anthony Burtis and Chad Peterson were swarming all over the floor. Tristan Cottrell had a keen ability to see the entire floor as he matriculated the ball up-court. Cottrell rifled a bullet to Austin Blake for a hoop, he was fouled on the shot also, but failed to make the free throw. Tommy Press, did a great job of facilitation all night, launched a three to tie, it was rebounded by Burtis who went right back up to score, 32-31.

Burtis pulled in the rebound he crisply passed to Chad Peterson who missed long on his

baseline jumper as the buzzer rang.

"Both teams battled, it was ugly at times, but Houghton Lake matched our intensity and it was a fight to the finish. Adam StremLOW was tough on the backboards, he had several big shots, especially that go ahead three late. Tristan Cottrell was just awesome, he works his tail off. I'm very proud of our team defense lately, that was our third straight win, it feels good," commented Coleman's jv coach, Steve Fox.

Adam StremLOW propelled Coleman with his 17 points and his power on both ends of the paint. Brandon Leitz tossed in six points. Tristan Cottrell tallied four points as did Austin Blake. Kubiak led HL with eight points, Press and Burtis each tallied seven points.

Meridian falls to Nouvel

SAGINAW TOWNSHIP - Coach Mitch Bohn's Meridian Mustang cager crew fell victim to the Saginaw Nouvel Panthers, losing in a tough, grind it out defensive battle, 41-34. Meridian has been battle tested in a six day stretch where they've had to play Hemlock, Beaverton, Farwell and Nouvel, three very tough teams.

Nouvel led 12-9 at the end of the opening stanza. Nouvel took a 21-15 lead into the break at the half. They played even in the third quarter, 6-6, then Nouvel only outscored Meridian by one in the final quarter, 14-13 to hold on for the 41-34 win.

Point guard, Jake Ham spearheaded Meridian again, with 12 points. Jacob Wenzlick netted seven. Kevn Scheibert and Colin Dietrich each scored four points. Josh Gillette tallied three points. Mitch Kucharek, Dan Johnson and Zach Arthur all chipped in two points. Garrett Graham led Nouvel with 14 points, Ryan Sullivan tossed in nine for the Panthers.

Clare wins the battle of Surrey

By Eric Dion

The Battle for the Surrey township supremacy goes to Clare once more, as they won 77-58 over the Farwell Eagles. Despite a 15 point night by Walter Mosby and 12 points from Curtis Robinson, they could not contend with the monster that was Hunter Ruby as he put up 25 points, 15 rebounds and 4 assists. Conner Clickner had 11 points for the Pioneers and Spencer Harrell had 12 points and 12 rebounds to have two players with double-doubles on the night for Clare.

The Pioneers started out hot in the first quarter with 23 points, while Farwell earned 15. The score at half was 44-29 with Clare the leader. With a 16 point third quarter, the Pioneers tore apart the Farwell defense. However the Eagles put 10 points of their own up. The Eagles did outscore Clare 19-17 in the fourth, but it was not enough to contend with the massive lead that Clare amassed.

Hornets fall short in Meridian

By Eric Dion

The Hornets were forced to travel to the other side of the conference to take on a fiery Mustang squad that is on a mission to take momentum into districts soon. Although Harrison held the Mustangs to just 14 points in the first quarter, they were only able to produce 5 points of their own. The 33-10 halftime score was the ominous portent that all would not be well for the Hornets, an they could not bounce back in the second half, falling to the might of Meridian with a 58-33 score. Casey Rundell played strong for the Hornets, scoring 18 points for them. Justin Yager was behind him with 4 points for Harrison

Meridian was led by Kevin Scheibert who had 15 points. Jacab Ham was held to 10 points, with six of those points coming from two three pointers. Zach Arthur followed Ham with 7 points with a triple added to his stat sheet for the Mustangs.



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The Bobcats and Bucks unite for the common good

ROSCO WINS ONE FOR COMPO



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Nathan Compo

"I didnt think i was going to be able to make it tonight, but i told the nurses and my parents that i had a team that i needed to support. Im overwhelmed on how many people came and supported me! Im not happy about the situation but its nice to know that everyone was able to come together that is really heart warming! I know i will make it through this i am just worried about how my parents family and friends are all dealing with this. But thank you to everyone! Today was the best day ever because of the game "



MILLER EXPLOITS BOCATS WITH RAW ATHLETICISM

JOHN MILLER

ROSCOMMON

John Miller is an absolute freak of nature, which at 5-10, you have to be if you want to play the way Miller does on the court. Miller scored 13 points on an array of penetration moves, hanging in the air, absorbing blows, and finishing strong. He grabbed 7 boards, had 4 steals, and multiple deflections to cause mass terror, confusion and bewilderment on the floor for the Bobcats.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO PROPELL BUCKS

HUNTER MIRES

ROSCOMMON

Hunter Mires continues to prove how valuable it is to just have experience in high pressure situations. He's a gamer, as he has demonstrated with multiple game winning shots this year. Tonight was no different. Mires handled the rock, facilitated the offense, punished the Bobcats's guards and hammered in 13 points for the team.



ROSCOMMON - The Houghton Lake and Roscommon rivalry is as heated and as intense as any rivalry running in the state. But Friday night's game was extra special, for both ball clubs. Both teams set aside just a small part of the historic tensions and made room to support Roscommon's senior cager, Nathan Compo who had emergency cancer surgery.

The players, coaches, students, and fans of the Bobcats and Bucks filled Roscommon's gymnasium, sporting stickers, banners, clad in pink to symbolize their support for Compo in dramatic fashion.

With emotions running at a fever high pitch, the Bucks found another gear to support their teammate. Collectively and individually, Coach Ewald had his cagers playing at a level the Bobcats simply couldn't match and the Bucks stormed away with a convincing 61-46 victory, as four different players reached double digits in scoring.

"It was a great, great team performance. Obviously there is the rivalry, but these guys tonight - everyone - gave it there all for a teammate," said Ewald on the victory. "Tonight was something really special."

The Bobcats had a lead early. Right after the Bucks's John Miller stroked a floater in the lane, skiing up and over a pack of wild Bobcats, the Prudenville warlords dumped a quick five points on the board.

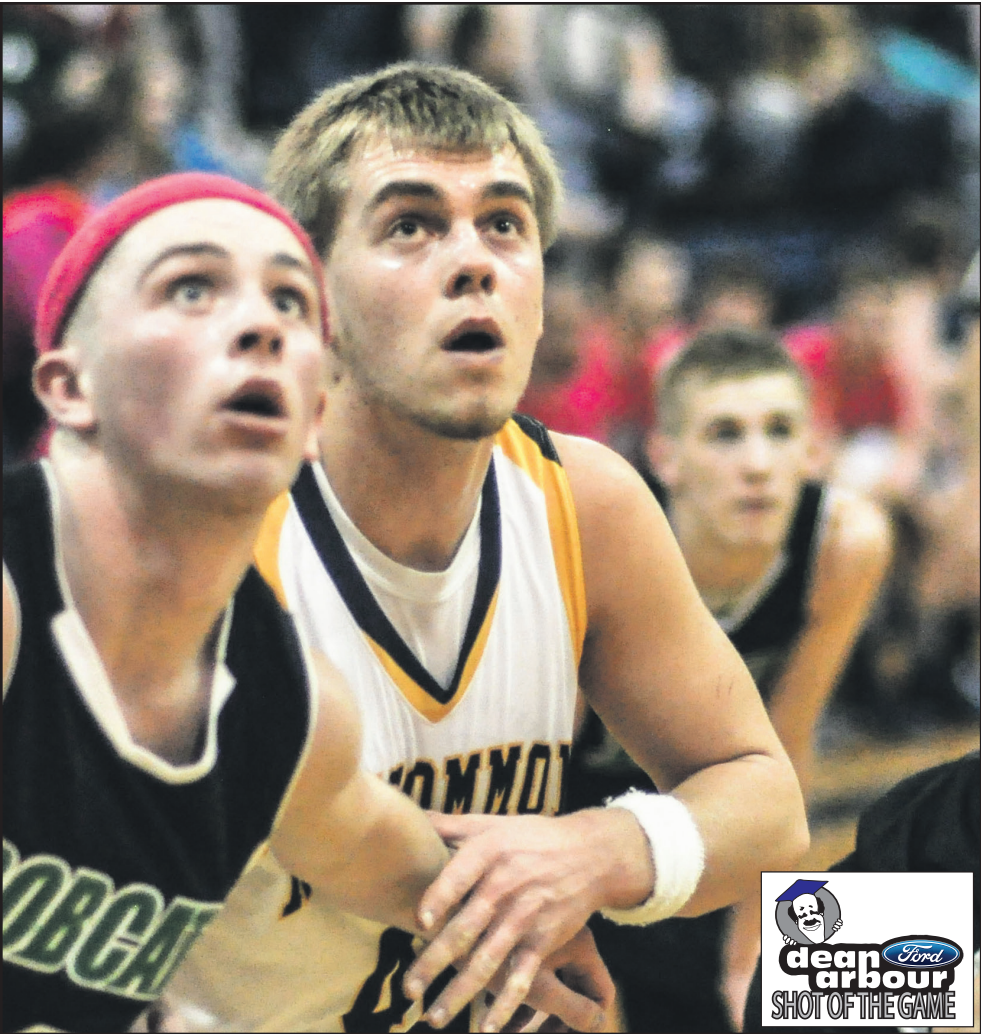
Houghton Lake's Matt Muirhead extracted the moneyball from the heap of wailing and gnashing bodies, sprung loose from the man-pile, curled around the edge and exploded across the baseline for a double. Then Jared Dull snatched up a loose ball, flurried past the line of defense and hung a triple to make it a 5-2 ball game.

The Bucks answered back wthi reckless abandonment. Brett Jobin peeled around a screen, making himself available on the wing and Hunter Mires pinched a dime after collapsing the defense. With a clean look at the hoop, Jobin twisted the twine. Then R.J. Friedrichsen went into complete beast mode in the paint, muscling down and bullying on guys in the paint. Friedrichsen tore down a rebound, ripped the ball out of a pair of Bobcats's paws, and throttled to the cup for a score.

The Bobcats were trying to keep pace and Tyler Sluck found a small little alleyway to spin to the cup. Sluck lashed out through the lane, soared over a brigade of Bucks, but dealt a heavy blow in the air. The ball went astray, but Sluck quickly regathered his mojo and polished off a pair from the charity line to put the Bobcats up 7-6. That would be the last lead the cagers from Houghton Lake would savor and relish on the night.

The Bucks would go on a 9-2 run to break the game open a bit. Jobin and Mires went on a bender, then Josh Seames stroked a 15 foot jumper to ignite the crowd.

The Bucks continued to exploit their athleticism and power up front and dictated the mood and flow of the game by feasting on offensive boards. They kept their bellies full on second



(Left) Houghton Lake's Nate Shavalia and the Bucks's RJ Friedrichsen battling in the paint. Friedrichsen hammer the Cats down-low.

chance points. Johny Miller anticipated the rebound, elevated up and over four different guys battling over the hardwood for the loot. While the other cagers started to realize their descent, unable break loose from the laws of gravity, Miller just continued to soar up until the ball was in his hands alone. Miller pounded the ball with both hands, crunched the ball on the ground, drop-stepped and mashed through a pair of defenders, and jolted right back up and wetted the net to give the Bucks a 15-9 lead.

Feeling under siege, Houghton Lake's Mike Ignat wiggled free under the cup, sealed off his defender, called for the ball on the blocks, caught the rock, spun and smooched off-glass to stop the bleeding.

Brett Jobin went right back for the jugular, slicing through the Bobcats's rotation, pulled up for an NBA long range triple and blew out the bottom of the net. Then Hunter Mires stroked a 15 foot jumper to give the Roscommon faithful a 20-13 lead.

The Bobcats stayed resilient and Muirhead snagged another long, hard to reach board, straddle the side-lines like an acrobat, somehow kept his composure and whistled down the court, drove in and cut across the meat of the Bucks's interior and laced a double.

Then the Bucks redoubled their efforts in the paint and the double-headed dog-beast of RJ Friedrichsen and Jamie Hammond went on a six point offensive bender of their own, slam-wrecking the interior for offensive boards and put backs to give the Roscommon ballers an 11 point lead, 26-15 .

Miller and Nate Shavalia would trade buckets, and the Bucks would head into half-time up 28-19 - and in complete

control of the game.

Rosco would extend their lead to 13 after Friedrichsen and Jobin came out firing after the break.

Sluck and Shavalia would keep the Bobcats in with in arm's reach throughout the third stanza; as Sluck penetrated into Roscommon's interior and either draw contact and finish up the mess at the free throw line, or fill up the bucket with an open look. Shavalia smoked a triple to nibble into Rosco's lead and make it a 41-32 affair.



Rosco's Jamie Hammond rips down a board and powers in a double.

But Roscommon had just too much fire and grit on the night. Mires stayed composed, handled the pressure, and Roscommon continued to wage war on the boards to claim the inspiring 61-46 victory over the Bobcats.

Roscommon had four different guys in double figures. Miller, Mires, and Jobin all netted 13 points, while Friedrichsen added 10 and contributed 9 boards.

Houghton Lake was paced by Shavalia who splashed 15 points and Sluck who dipped in 8.



Gladwin’s offense did not stand a chance

Coach Johnston knows how to keep the G’s from the scoreboard, and his team demonstrated their complete dominance of the court, as they allowed Gladwin only one basket in the third quarter, and one in the fourth to show that Beaverton rules the court when they want.

“BRUNASTY” UNLOADED ON THE G’S ALL NIGHT LONG

ANTHONY BRUBAKER

BEAVERTON

Brubaker made his passes look flawless, his movements were concise and he looked very fluid when he let the ball go. He put up 10 points against Gladwin, with two shots from outside the arch and a four for four night from the line. Anthony looked like he could move and score at will on the Gladwin defense, and he appeared to be toying with them in the second half.



LEWIS WAS THE BRIGHT SPOT FOR THE G’S LACKLUSTER EFFORT



MAXWELL KEPT THE PACE QUICK AND LED THE TEAM

ERIK MAXWELL

BEAVERTON

Erik led the charge against Gladwin in the battle for Butch, and despite the fact that he only had six points on the night, he made life miserable for the man he was covering on defense, and his passes set up most of the scoring drives that Beaverton had. Maxwell could be the x-factor in district play for Coach Johnston.



Anthony Brubaker had a stunning night of his own with two triples and a perfect 4 for 4 from the line to help the Beavers in their victory.

B-Town gave a beat down to the G’s

Beaverton has taken down all comers so far this year, and have avenged their only conference loss to Meridian with a thrilling home stand that is still being talked about. They had to face their neighboring rivalry in Gladwin, and everyone knows that a rivalry game can go either way. So Coach Johnston did what he always does; he prepped his troops for complete destruction of the hearts and minds of the Gladwin faithful as they loaded up the bus for the short journey to Gladwin.

In what is possibly the most one-sided affair in the season thus far, Beaverton walked onto Gladwin’s court and allowed the home team a meager 18 points, while mauling them with 57 points of their own.

Casey Blades had an impressive 21 points on the night as he controlled the boards offensively and he simply went over top of whoever was covering him. He finished the night by putting the exclamation point on his last visit to Gladwin’s gym, as he nailed the two handed dunk before leaving the court near the end of the fourth quarter.

Anthony Brubaker also had an impressive night, as he cut and weaved his way open out deep, and hit two critical threes to shutout the hopes of a Gladwin win early, and when he was fouled trying to cut in, he made the G’s pay for it with a four for four stint at the line.

Gladwin was only able to manage two points in the first quarter, with O’Shay Lewis finding room down low, going over a couple of Beavers and nailing the mid-air hook shot that kissed off the glass and in. But his one basket was no help compared to the 14 points that the Beavers had put up.

The G’s were able to sustain some sort of offense in the second quarter and added 12 points to their score with a couple of threes from Landon Grove, with one of them deep from straight out. The other points were from another impressive cut and jumper from Lewis as well as a perfect showing from the mercy line for two, and a Demetri Trice shot from out deep. However, in the time it took them to manage those points, Beaverton had added on another 17 points for the 31-14 halftime score.

Gladwin could only get one basket in the third from an inbound jumper by Jake Shell, and one in the fourth by Lewis from down low. Beaverton made a definite point that though they may struggle on the gridiron, the hardwood courts belong to the Beavers no matter where they roam. Gladwin has to do some serious soul searching before their district match.



BY ERIC DION

CASEY BLADES

IMPACT PLAYER

R.J. Grove Construction
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Office 989-435-4213
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Casey Blades played like a man possessed as he scored at will against rival Gladwin with 21 points, countless defensive boards and finished his visit to Gladwin’s gym with a two hand mash that caused the visiting student section to erupt in their chant of “Blades of Glory” B-Town has been forever changed



Beaverton’s Hogan Hayes tore holes in the G’s

B-Town JV boys out-muscle the G’s

By Eric Dion

Gladwin hosted the Beaverton JV squad that has been making an impression in the conference, as they are vying for the open spots coming next year in the varsity ranks. The G’s held tight with the Beavers early, ending the first quarter down just one point with the 10-9 score.

In the second quarter Beaverton turned up the heat and added 11 points to their score, and held the Flying G’s to just 4 points for the 21-13 halftime score.

The Beavers almost doubled their first half output in the third, as they racked up another 20 points, while the G-Men were only able to muster 12 points for a 41-25 score. The two technical fouls called on Gladwin in the third quarter is what hurt the team, and took the momentum away from them.

The fourth was quiet for Beaverton, as they only put in six points with Gladwin fighting to get seven points for the 47-32 score.

Hogan Hayes owned the interior of the post all game, and he scored at will on Gladwin’s defense putting up 21 points, and simply outworked the G-Men. Ronnie Remer followed that with 11 points for the Beavers, and he flew around the court the entire game. Adam Howard had 7 points, and looked good on defense.

Tyler Boylen was the spark plug for the G’s, leading them with 11 points, and keeping the team together when tempers started to flare. Keagan Hover put in a hard fought 8 points for the G’s, and Mason Nash and Mitchell Fitzpatrick each put in four points for Gladwin.



HOGAN HAYES

Hogan was a monster once again for the Beavers with 21 points and he owned the paint all night.



After starting the game in a moment of silence in honor of Nate Campo and his emergency surgery to remove cancer, the rival teams met up after the game to show their support by taking a group picture with the fliers depicting Nate and his accomplishments in the conference.



G-men gut one against rival Beavers

After taking a tough loss to the Pioneers on Monday, the Gladwin crew was set to get back on track and finish with a 'W'. Down the stretch, the Beavers didn't have an answer for Medema down low, then Schaaf stepped up big, hanging a triple and converting on big free-throws to edge the Beavers in a dramatic over-time classic.

MEDEMA EXPLOITS SIZE, ATHLETICISM, AND VERSATILITY

JAVAN MEDEMA

GLADWIN

Medema is a big, strong, and powerful baller; but more than that he is skilled - being able to play all five positions if needed. Medema showed his overall skill set on both sides of the ball, taking guys off the dribble, tearing down boards, making crisp pass to his teammates on the run, and led all scorers with 15 points and added 15 rebounds in the G-men's victory.



JOHNSTON CARRIES SCORING LOAD FOR BEAVERS



CARTER JOHNSTON KEEPS BEAVERS ROLLING

CARTER JOHNSTON

BEAVERTON

Carter Johnston made a razzle-dazzle cannonball of splash on the court against his rivals from the north. Despite picking up two fouls early in the first quarter, Johnston continued to play rugged defense, make steals, run the offense, grab rebounds, and keep the Beaverton's motor running hot. Johnston finished with 13 points.



SCHAAF COMES UP CLUTCH DOWN THE STRETCH

HUNTER SCHAAF

GLADWIN

A rugged and ultra nasty competitor, Schaaf played stiff defense and took advantage of opportunities when they presented themselves. Schaaf drilled a 3 pointer late in the fourth to spark the comeback, then in over-time, with a chance to create significant space, Schaaf pumped in a pair of free throws to make it a two possession ball game and essentially seal the deal for Gladwin.



Beaverton's Carter Johnston finds a lane between Gladwin's Dylan McDonald and Devin Boylen and scores with a gunner.

G-Men maintain bragging rights in OT

GLADWIN - This is just another chapter in one of the league longest running inter-county rivalries. Wednesday night's donnybrook between the G-men and the Beavers didn't disappoint. Featuring two of the leagues best players in Beaverton's Carter Johnston and Gladwin's Javan Medema, then a host of other athletic, crazy cagers on both sides, the game was destined to be a thriller. And that it was, as the G's came from behind in the last seconds of the 4th quarter to force over-time and eventually went on to win in crunch-time 35-31.



BY CODY O'ROURKE

Both teams were exchanging punches throughout the course of the game. Gladwin's Javan Medema started out the scoring early, mashing through the meat-pile in the paint, soared over a pack of Beavers, tore down a board, muscled into position to give himself a good look. Medema elevated with several out-stretched hands waiving his grille and splashed a jumper. The Beavers buzzed down the court and the G's defense jarred the ball loose. In typical Beaverton fashion, the boys in red executed Coach Jeff Johnston in-bounds play to perfection, allowing Luke Owens a clean look under the cup for the score.

Both teams were hustling, slamming the boards. Mason Fitzpatrick caught a pass from Devin Boylen on the wing and slashed to the watering-hole for a quick strike to put the G's back up, then the Beavers savvy little guard Carter Johnston wiggled through the G-men's rotation and cut a triple to make it a 5-4 Beaverton affair.

Gladwin looked they were set to pull away early, as Beaverton's interior was getting mauled by Medema gnashing baseline and splashing back to back buckets, but at the buzzer, Austin Rhodes sank a mid-ranger jumper. Then to start the second, Rhodes ambushed the paint, drew the foul and hung one of two from the charity stripe to tie up the game for the Beavers at 8-8.

The boys continued to go tit-for-tat. Hunter Schaaf stroked from the elbow, Carter Johnston countered for the Beavers by piercing through a pair of blue jersey's, hanging, contorting, and smooching off-glass . The onslaught continued. Gladwin's Devin Boylen collapsed the Beavers defense and then kick it back around to Jason Johnson for the 8 foot bunny, Carter Johnston made a huge defensive swipe, blazed coast to coast for the lay in.

But just before the end of the half, Medema towered on the defensive end, extracted a rebound out of the man-pile, found a lane down the edge. As Beaverton hustled back, Medema caught Boylen knifing the opposite side. Medema flung a dime to Boylen in stride and the G's gnarly point guard caught the ball and in all one fluid motion and deposited the moneyball in the bank to put the G-men up 14-12 after one half of play.

The pace of the game heightened after the Fitzpatrick scored off the block for the G-men, Johnston one-upped him with a triple on the run to put the Beavers up 15-14. The momentum had swung into Beaverton's favor, as Nick Hartner curled around the edge on the next trip down, peeled off a screen and dropped a 13 foot jumper

to put the Beavers up by three. Unwilling to allow the game to spiral out of control, Medema pressed the issue in the paint, exploded to the cup, drew the foul and went to the line to fill it up two times. The Beavers extended their lead back to four after Luke Owens connected down low again and Carter Johnston split a pair from the line. But just as soon it looked like the Beavers were going to flurry out, Dylan McDonald hit from the corner to cut Beaverton's lead to two just before the 4th, 20-18. Gladwin tied it right back up to start - what the fans thought would be the final stanza - hitting two from the free throw line. Beaverton responded by building another four point lead, with Carter Johnston carving out a little open swathe of real-estate for Mark DeMoines at the top of the key. Johnston drove in then spun a dime to DeMoines for two. Then Johnston hung up a deuce of his own to make it 24-20 Beaverton. Just when it looked like Beavers were going to make the final run, Hunter Schaaf responded back for the G-men by stroking a huge three pointer to cut Beaverton's lead back to one. Gladwin went on a bender to build a three point lead, after Aaron Benton went coast to coast to take the lead, then Schaaf fed Medema in the paint to put the G-men



Gladwin's Devin Boylen facilitating the G-men's offense.

up 27-24. The Beavers responded, as Carter Johnston found Hartner bellied up to the three point line. Hartner filled it up to tie it back up with a minute left. Then Hartner put the Beavers back up with a floater over Gladwin's interior. With just seconds left, down by two, Medema took matters into his own hand to force over-time, making it a 29-29 game after regulation. In over-time, Gladwin simply won it at the line, going 6 of 10, with Schaaf smoking in 2 huge shots to put the G's up by 4 with :39 seconds left - 33-29. Medema led all scorers with 15 points and 15 boards. Hunter Schaaf added 7. Beaverton was paced by Carter Johnston with 13 points, while Nick Hartner added 7.



Gladwin's Blake Otto feeding the low post

Gladwin crew halts Beaverton on home court

GLADWIN - The Gladwin crew was able to exploit their athleticism in the trenches with Gatlin Mansfield, take advantage of their big, physical point guard in Charlies Hair, and Coach Art Adamec would be able to deploy waves of able bodied ballers to keep the Beavers on their toes.

Gladwin's depth, ball rotation, and control of the complexion of the game allowed the G-men to take the 27-23 victory over their Beaverton rivals Wednesday night. Gladwin's Charlie Hair unfurled his heady, aggressive style of play early, knifing through Beaverton's defense and connected with Mansfield early and often throughout the game. Hair shook his defender at the top of the arc and sliced a dim to Mansfield under the cup out of the gates on back to back possessions. Beaverton responded with Micheal Durbin splashing from the line, then Evan Shaffer scoring in traffic in the paint.

Beaverton took the lead mid-way through the second after Paxton Brown found Durbin cutting to the cup for a lay-in to make it a 7-6 Beaverton game. Hair and Mansfield closed out the half by working in conjunction to go on a six point flurry to put the G-men up 12-7 at the break. Beaverton was able to make it a three point ball game late in the third after Dylan Crowl powered a board down low and Tyler Kanyo splashed from the fringes. Brown made a dump in off the in-bounds play to make it a 16-13 Gladwin game. But Mansfield, Blake Otto, and Tyler Muma exerted their will and built a four point for the G-men with .42 seconds left on the clock to make it 25-21 game and they held onto their defensive swagger to claim the 27-23 victory. Gatlin Mansfield led all scorers with 12 while Beaverton's Dylan Crowl dumped 7.



CHARLIE HAIR

Hair played the roll of the floor general, handling the pressure and setting the table for his teammates, he also chipped in 6 points in the win.



GATLIN MANSFIELD

Mansfield was an absolute beast-warrior for the G's, powering down boards and finishing down low to lead all scorers with 12.



PAXTON BROWN

Although Brown only scored 2 points, he was really the center of the offense the way he handled the defense and made crisp passes to his teammates.



Clare boys advance to the state finals

Clare star seniors Jordan Hales and Brett Acton uncharacteristically slipped and didn’t have clean runs, this factored into Clare tying with Cadillac and Cadillac won the tie-breaker. Clare finished 2nd overall at regionals and still qualified for the state finals in Marquette.

ONCE AGAIN HARRISON WILL HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE AT STATE FINALS
DYLAN LAPORTE
HARRISON

Laporte seemed to get better and better as the season progressed and that’s ideally what a coach hopes for. Dylan compiled the fifth place spot in the slalom via his smoking times of 28.25 and 28.44. Dylan brings a steady consistency each and every day no matter how poorly his team might be doing, he’s a true leader and now he’s being rewarded for that persona.



HHS’S SMILING ALYSSA PRICE EARNS 22ND IN GS AND 26TH IN SL.



CLEARY CLEANLY CRUISES TO STATE FINALS STATUS IN THE SLALOM
MADI CLEARY
CLARE

Cleary continues to scald the slopes and impress wherever she might compete. Her stellar conditioning and rigorous practice work ethic, has propelled her to eclipse the mark needed to qualify for the state finals. Cleary was 10th in the slalom, which permitted her to advance. Madi was rock solid finishing 12 in the giant slalom.



CHSs state finalists team; top row, l to r, Charlie Bugbee, Brett Acton, Ryan Whiteman and Zack Brockway. Bottom; Coach Cleary, Jordan Hales, Jeff Staten and Tim Badour.

Clare boys tie with Cadillac for regionals

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN -The Clare girl’s ski team finished a solid fifth place at the Division II region five finals. The Harrison girls ended up in seventh place overall. Maple City-Glen Lake won it, Cadillac was second and Grand Rapids Northview was third, they all advance. Benzie was fourth, Clare, Manistee, HHS, GR West Catholic, MP and GRCC rounded out the standings. The Clare boys finished in a tie with Cadillac and the Vikings won the tie-breaker. Maple City-Glen Lake was the third place qualifier. Benzie was fourth, Onekema was fifth, Grand Rapids Northview was sixth, Harrison was seventh, Grand Rapids Catholic



BY CLINT KERN

Central was eighth, West Catholic was ninth, Greenville was tenth and MP was eleventh.

Maggie Merillat scorched the slopes in Thompsonville to the tune of 33.06 and 31.68 to finish seventh in the slalom. Madi Cleary was 10th, so they both qualified for the state finals, since the top 10 finishers at regionals move on.

Harrison’s Savanna Duggan finished 22nd, Hannah Hofweber of Clare was 25th, Alyssa Price of HHS was 26th, Sierra Kwiatowski of CHS was 28th, Clare’s Molly Merillat was 29th, Clare’s Leah Bugbee was 30th, HHS’s Samantha Seebeck was 37th, HHS’s Anaca Boulton was 38th and HHS’s Christian Meylan was the 49th place finisher.

None of the local ladies qualified for states in the giant slalom. Clare’s Madi Cleary did the best as she snared the 12th place. Maggie Merillat was 17th, Harrison’s speed slasher, Alyssa Price was 22nd, Molly Merillat was 24th and Harrison’s Savanna Duggan was 26th overall at regionals in gs.

Clare’s Jordan Hales finished fifth in the giant slalom, Clare’s Jeff Staten was sixth and Brett Acton was seventh leading the way for the mighty Pioneers.

Zack Brockway of Clare’s talent laden sophomore class was the 12th place finisher. Harrison’s Dylan LaPorte was 18th place, Clare’s Timmy Badour ended up in 23rd place,

HHS’s Ben Taylor earned the 37th spot, Thomas Sofka of Harrison earned the 39th spot, Harrison’s Kyle Corbin finished in 47th place and HHS’s Jake Jackson ended up in 52nd place.

Jeffrey Staten was the fourth place finisher in the slalom, Harrison’s Dylan LaPorte garnered the fifth place spot, Zack Brockway was the seventh place finisher, Clare’s Charlie Bugbee tallied the ninth place spot and Ryan Whiteman emerged large for Clare earning the 12th place finish. Ben Taylor was 26th.



Clare’s stalwart senior skier, speed slope specialists, Maggie Merillat finished seventh to qualify for the state finals in the slalom at Marquette, February 25th.

Jeff Staten was spectacular in the slalom, if he had been .07 seconds faster, Clare would have won the regional meet out-right. If senior standouts, Brett Acton or Jordan Hales could have had two clean runs in the slalom Clare would have beat Cadillac. Regardless, Clare still advances to Marquette Mountain to compete in the state finals February 25th. Ryan Whiteman has been surging, Charlie Bugbee has been great as has Zack Brockway and Tim Badour, this team is loaded.



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The team has positives to build upon

The Storm squad this year were young and had a new system to learn under a new coach. Some of the players will not be back next year due to age, but some of them have the ability to gel as a team, and welcome in the new blood next season. The Storm squad has their regional match coming up, and it will be a battle

WESTPHAL IS A BIG MAN WITH A BIG SHOT FOR THE STORM

LEVI WESTPHAL
Gladwin

Levi is in his final run with his team, and he has made quite an impression on them and his opponents. If the team is going to get past the regional game, Westphal is going to have to be a factor either on the score board or physically. A good combination of both of them could be the difference maker in how long the season goes on for the Storm. Look for Westphal to make an impact.



DESPITE THE RECORD THE TEAM HAS BECOME STRONG



“WOODSY” HAS TAKEN A BEATING THIS YEAR, BUT SHOULD BE PROUD

ZACK WOODS
Gladwin

As the season ends, Zach should not look at the goals against column in his stat sheet, but at the number of shots he faced all year. He took a total of 65 shots against Lakeville, and only allowed 6 of them which is around a 92 percent save average. He is the man in the pipes for the Storm and his services will be tested once more in Regionals against a tough Tri-Valley team that has tasked him in the past.



Michael Stanislawski had a goal in the game against Lakeville, and he has proven to be a good shot from the blue line for this young Storm squad.

Storm end season with loss

The Mid Michigan Storm hockey team are going into their regional game against the Tri-Valley Titans in Midland with a four win season in their rear view mirror. Following a 4-0 shutout loss to Gaylord in which the team played hard but were unable to get anything going offensively, they had their last game before regionals against a Lakeville team that they had beat earlier in the season. The team has been struggling to get momentum as of late, and are looking for something to get them fired up for the next level of play. Unfortunately, the 6-2 loss they suffered against the Lakeville squad was not the way they wanted to gain that momentum.

The team started off well in the first period, with good skating and effort, but could not break the deadlock against Lakeville, who were chomping at the bit to get revenge for the loss earlier in the year. Zack Woods was doing a good job of keeping the puck out

of the net for the Storm, in hopes that the team might start off the scoring and tilt the ice in the other direction. As the first period winded down, neither team could get anything going in the period and it remained scoreless.

The Storm could not weather the attack of Lakeville in the second, and gave up two goals from the multitude of shots that Woods faced. Michael Stanislawski finally got one past their goalie, who was playing well, to make it a 2-1 game. But the team could not keep the one goal deficit for long, as the Lakeville squad put another one past woods to end the second quarter 3-1.

If the team were going to make a run, they had their opportunity in the third to tie it up and pull off the win, but they allowed Lakeville to pop another two goals in the third to make it a 5-1 affair. Levi Westphal let one rip in the third off of a Jacob Clayton pass to make it 5-2, however the team could not stop Lakeville as they scored again in the third to make it the 6-2 final.

The Storm were once again out shot by 65-30, and their power play was not very effective. The Lakeville squad had an excellent goal tender, and coach Fair knew that they were out for a fight in this one. “Hats off to their goalie, because he kept them in it.” Said Coach Fair. “We couldn’t beat their goalie. We just didn’t show up tonight and we didn’t play well. We need to work on our power play. In this day and age special teams can win or lose the game for you.”

The Storm have had a very testing season this year, that has seen their mettle and their will to play stretched thin. They have fought valiantly every game, and though some of their losses can be attributed to the team not giving everything they had, for the most part this group of athletes are to be rewarded for the hard work that they gave every shift they played. Some of these kids will lace their skates up for the last time Monday night for the regional game, and put on the Storm jersey for the last time, and their memories should not rest solely on their win-loss record, but the bond that they shared with their teammates, and the time that they spent from their days in pee wee hockey until now, and



Jacob Clayton played hard all year for his team, and earned an assist against Lakeville.

how far they came both as an athlete and an individual. Winning and losing is only part of sports, growing as a person and realizing how to become an effective teammate, and a leader of others is the lessons that every person who puts on their team jersey should remember. There is a chance that none of these players will ever get to play hockey at another level, but they have the time that they did play to reflect and build on, while there are many other kids who never had the chance to play the sport they love in front of a crowd. The team will play Monday night at the Midland Civic arena. The game starts at 5:00, and I would encourage anyone who is a hockey fan to make the trip and check it out. You will see a group of young athletes that fly on the ice and give everything they have.



Gladiators look sluggish in victory

The Bantam boys played their last home game in preparation of the ADRAY playoffs to decide who goes to the State competition. Hopefully they took this game’s lesson into the weekend, as they took the win, but they looked sluggish doing so. The journey to State begins.

COSLOW WAS STRONG ON DEFENSE WHEN CALLED ON BRENDAN COSLOW

Farwell

Brendan Coslow had to find another gear to keep up with the speed that the Cook’s Team brought with them. Coslow was forced to step up and get to the puck and get a clear. Coslow did well offensively, getting a goal late in the first to put the team in the lead going into the second. His two way skills are going to be called upon again in the next few games to get to State.



SCHNEIDER WAS STRONG BETWEEN THE PIPES CAMERON SCHNEIDER

Beaverton

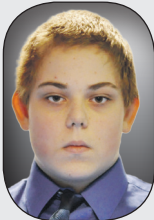
The Gladiators found themselves down early against the Cook’s squad, but it was in large part to the defense leaving forwards open down low. Schneider played well in gaol for the Gladiators, and his mettle will soon be tested, as they will be facing the best each ADRAY team has as they journey toward the State title. Cameron will need to utilize his speed and quick hands in the next couple of games to continue on.



FENTON HAS TO CONTINUE TO SKATE HARD EVERY SHIFT JESSE FENTON

Gladwin

Jesse Fenton has some great momentum when he keep his legs moving on the ice, and he was one of the key players that kept the other team from out scoring the Gladiators in this match. He knows how to work the angles and stay in the way of the shooter, and he will have to step up to help his team get back to the State title game. As long as he relies on his ability to skate, and keeps his head up on the ice, he can do it.



The Gladiator bantam squad earned the ADRAY East division championship with this win, and they have their sights set on the playoffs.

Bantam boys win the East

The Gladiators were tested in their last home game of the season, as they took on a very talented and quick Midland squad sponsored by Cook’s Custom Homes. Some of these kids will not return to the ice next year as a Gladiator, but will be looking to step up into the ranks of the Storm team, and they wanted to leave a lasting impression on the coaches and have a good memory of their last home game in the Bantam division.

As the puck dropped, it was apparent that the Midland squad came to play, and their small but feisty goaltender was on top of his game. Combine that with a Gladiator squad that come out flat and were not skating the best, and it combined into a game that was played in the Gladiators zone for the first part of the game. It did not take long of that style of play to cost the Gladiators the goal, and Midland scored at the 9:44 mark in the first period with a forward that was unattended in front of the net who jammed in the rebound shot off Cameron Schneider in goal. It was almost three minutes late in the period that Gatlin Mansfield tied the game at the 6:54 mark, when he put in the rebound from a Caleb Ostrander shot. Ostrander and Jesse Fenton earned the assist for the goal. The Gladiators would strike once more at the 3:05 mark with Brendan Coslow eating up the rebound and stuffing it in net, off a Mansfield and Drew Cantrell assist. The team had a narrow 2-1 lead as the buzzer sounded to end the first period.

Midland came out fast again in the second period, and tied the game up with a shot off the rebound in front of the net, by a forward who had no one near him. The Cook’s team kept the Gladiators at bay early on in the second as well, with the quick Midland tender making some very impressive point blank saves to keep the game tied up. With 6:44 left, Midland struck once more off of a rebound that went off Schneider and in front of the net, where a lone forward was waiting to play it. Despite the team finally tightening up on defense after that, the Gladiator forwards were unable to get anything going for the rest of the period, and the home team would take a 3-2 game into the third without them in their usual leading position.

Midland found themselves in a short manned situation with a hooking call early in the third, and Drew Cantrell would make the pay for the mistake by taking a pass from Gatlin Mansfield and rifling the puck high to the glove side of the Cook’s goalie to tie the game at the 9:18 mark.

The Gladiators were picking up their usual steam in the third,

and it could not have come soon enough. Ronald Rousseau put the proverbial fork into the Midland squad when he put an unassisted goal in with 8:08 left in the game when he used the defender as a screen to rip one past the surprised goalie, going top shelf on him. Despite a hard fought effort by Cook’s Custom Homes team, the Gladiators played keep away for most of the rest of the period, and fixed their earlier transgressions in front of the net, not allowing the Midland team any chances off the rebound. The Cook’s squad pulled their goalie in the waning minutes of the game to give



Defense and goaltending were the keys to the victory against a good Midland squad.

them the extra attacker, and with 11.5 seconds left in the clock, Mansfield found a gap from a Justin Cameron pass, and skated along the boards to get in range for the easy goal to put the game away with the 5-3 victory.

Coach Mansfield was happy with the win, but he knows his team has to step up for the playoffs; “I thought we did not come in ready to play today, and we played very sloppy in front of our net for the first period, but we managed to come back and get the win. I am happy that despite the problems we found a way to pull off the victory, but we will need to play a lot harder to get through our playoffs coming up. We have the talent to get the job done, but we are going to have to work hard as soon as the skates hit the ice.”

Dan Dan

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