

Girls Basketball

East returns to winning ways; South wins two of three

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville East bounced back from its first ECIC Division II loss of the 2006-07 season with a convincing 57-42 win over Iroquois at home on Thursday.

The Lady Flames lost, 38-36, to Hamburg on Dec. 14.

"It was huge to win the game but win or lose, it was important to get back on track and play well," said East coach Chris Durr. "We only had seven turnovers and Iroquois' a tough defensive team. They switched up defenses and played a 2-3-zone, man to man, 1-3-1, and 2-2-1 half court trap. For us to only turn over the ball seven times was pretty impressive."

Tied at 16-16 after the first quarter, East led 31-26 by halftime then picked up their defense and got fast-break baskets to outscore Iroquois, 18-10, in the third quarter to go ahead, 49-36.

"It might have been our best quarter overall of the year," said Durr of the third quarter. "We scored 18 points and held them to 10 which included two baskets and five free throws."

Kaitlin Roseti led East with 11 points and nine rebounds. Christa Morgante and Mol-

ly Bojanek each scored 10 points each. Jessica Kowalski (eight points, five steals, four assists), Bridget Steele (five points), Aleece Burgio (four points, eight rebounds), Meghan Scheidemann (four points, six rebounds), Taylor Klun (three points) and Anna Stolzenburg (two points) also contributed for the Lady Flames, who improved to 4-1 in league play, 5-2 overall.

East shot 26-for-62 overall.

The Lady Flames return to action this week in its own tournament. East faces Sweet Home at 6 p.m. on Thursday following Williamsville North and Williamsville South. The consolation and finals are set for 4 and 6 p.m. on Friday.

"It's nice to have four teams from one town play against each other," said Durr. "There are natural rivalries so it's a good competitive tournament every year. Plus all four coaches get along and the kids know each other."

East returns to league action at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4 at Lake Shore.

Williamsville South

The Lady Billies (3-4, 1-3) proved last week they are not a one-person team.

Without Katie Ostroot, who is nursing a knee injury, South went 2-1, defeating

daVinci, 59-23, last Tuesday and Lake Shore, 57-36, on Thursday. They also had a 26-23 halftime lead on Amherst on Monday before falling, 49-39.

"If Katie comes back healthy with the way these other girls are playing, we'll have some options," said South coach Duke McGuire. "Before, everyone relied on Katie. But Cassiana Hyppolite has stepped up and Sarah Marcus is playing outstanding so I think we'll have more offensive threats."

Hyppolite scored 13 of her career-high 27 points in the third quarter as South outscored Lake Shore, 23-14, to go ahead 38-25.

"In the second half, she came out smoking," said McGuire. "We started to run the ball pretty good and she got a couple fast-break baskets. She got a steal for a layup. She hit two three's and once she got fouled on a three and hit three free throws."

Marcus added 11 points despite missing the first half with the flu.

Center Alison Marcus added a career-high 10 points. Alison Couche chipped in four points, seven assists and four steals. Heather Caputi had five points.

South scored the first basket of the third quarter against Amherst but only made one bucket the rest of the quarter to trail, 38-30.

"It was a good game," said McGuire. "I was proud of the kids. Without Katie, I didn't know what to expect and the kids really stepped up and did a great job. They went on a run in the third quarter and we just didn't have the firepower to come back without Katie in there."

Marcus led a balanced scoring attack with 13 points. Hyppolite (seven points), Licata (six points) and Couche (five points) also scored for the Lady Billies.

"It was good because we didn't rely on just one person," McGuire said. "We moved the ball around pretty good and got some balanced scoring."

Liz Reid led Amherst with 14 points and was 6-of-6 from the free throw line. Jodi Battaglia added 13 points and was 11-of-17 from the line. Duke's daughter, Shannon, added seven points.

Ten South players scored against daVinci, including eight points each from Marcus, Heather Caputi, Licata and Lashay Moore. South was ahead 35-9 at halftime.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

Sweet Home wins nail-biter over Williamsville North

It wasn't easy but Sweet Home was able to hold off Williamsville North, 53-51, at home on Thursday in ECIC Division I varsity girls basketball action.

North led, 47-46, with five minutes left in the game but costly turnovers resulted in a four-point Sweet Home advantage 3½ minutes later. North cut it to two then had a look with about three seconds left but the ball rimmed out. Sweet Home inbounded to seal a hard-fought victory.

"I wish we would have done a few things differently but I guess a win is a win and our girls hung tough," said Sweet Home coach Matt LaRoach.

"We didn't get that big stop when we took a lead," said North

coach Mike DelValle. "Plus they were much more experienced than us and their pressure forced mistakes."

North opened the game with a 9-0 run and was ahead, 15-11, by the end of the first quarter. Sweet Home mixed up its defenses in the second quarter to outscore the Lady Spartans, 19-6, to spark a 30-21 halftime advantage. The Lady Panthers were up, 40-35, after the third quarter.

Coretta Davis (16 points, 13 rebounds), Kiaya Burks (13 points, 18 rebounds) and Ellie Allen (12 points, 10 rebounds) each posted a double-double. Nadia Durno pulled down 10 rebounds.

"We did a better job on the boards but I still think our defense

and finishing needs to improve," LaRoach said. "This is a great team victory for our kids and I am glad to see our continued progress everyday in practice and games."

Amanda Cannizzo scored eight points and was 6-of-7 from the free throw line. Sweet Home was 17-for-29 overall from the line.

North's Corrin Genovese led all scorers with 23 points.

"Although she's in eighth grade, she was the best player on the floor in our last two games, counting everyone on the other teams too," said DelValle.

Katie Kubala added 14 points for the Lady Spartans.

Sweet Home and North each posted a loss earlier in the week. Last Tuesday, Sweet Home fell at home to Clarence, 63-48. North lost a non-league home game to Holy Angels, 44-32 last Monday. DelValle left Holy Angels in 2002 after winning 13 Monsignor Martin Association titles in 16 years. He had a 213-24 record.

LaRoach said he was pleased with his team's nice start against Clarence, leading, 13-11, after the

first quarter but they hit a dry spell offensively and defensively and turned over the ball in the second and third quarters. Sweet Home trailed, 26-35, at halftime and, 42-32, after the third quarter.

"We needed to get defensive stops in the second and third quarter and we just did not make those plays," LaRoach said. "Give Clarence credit. They hung tough and made plays every quarter."

The Lady Panthers cut Clarence's double-digit lead to four with about five minutes to go in the game but could not get closer.

Clarence was also more aggressive to the basket, making 17-of-24 attempts to Sweet Home's 6-for-8.

"That's not enough for us," said LaRoach. "We talked about the importance of getting to the free throw line. We need to do a better job."

Allen (17 points) and Burks (15 points) scored in double figures. Cannizzo and Durno chipped in six points each.

Clarence was led by Brianna Nemmer's 18 points, Holly Travis'

16 points, and Katie Lancelotti's 12 points.

Two early fouls in the first quarter and another in the third from Kubala made it hard for North to rebound offensively or defensively, DelValle said.

"We have to her on the offensive and defensive boards," said DelValle.

Despite foul trouble, Kubala led North with 11 points. Allie Ahern chipped in four points and nine rebounds.

Holy Angels led 21-19 at halftime. Abby Franckowk led Angels with 15 points.

Sweet Home (3-5, 3-2) and North (3-6, 2-4) return to action in the Williamsville East Girls Basketball Tournament on Thursday and Friday at East. On Thursday, North opens with Williamsville South at 4 p.m. followed at 6 p.m. by Sweet Home versus East.

"I'm happy with the way we're progressing," said DelValle. "They keep improving. By the end of the year, we're going to be young but dangerous."

(Patrick J. Nagy contributed to this article)



DRIVING — Amherst Central's Jodi Battaglia lays in a basket over West Seneca East's Lyzz Delbert during the Lady Tigers' 54-33 home win last Wednesday. Battaglia and teammate Liz Reid each scored 11 points. Amherst is 3-1 in ECIC Division II, 4-3 overall.

Photo by Joe Eberle

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCOREBOARD

Amherst Central

Boys Basketball — def. Hamburg 60-52, def. Newfane 76-70

Girls Basketball — def. W.S. East 54-33

Hockey — Palladino's Pizza Amherst Tourn. — def. Notre Dame (Batavia) 4-3, consolation — lost to Rush-Henrietta (Section V) 4-3

Boys Swimming — def. Pioneer 51-50

Sweet Home

Boys Basketball — lost to Orchard Park 58-53

Girls Basketball — lost to Clarence 63-48, def. North 53-51

Boys Bowling — def. Iroquois 6-1

Girls Bowling — def. Iroquois 6-1

Hockey — def. East 4-2

Boys Swimming — def. Jamestown 95-71

Wrestling — lost to Lancaster 48-14

Williamsville East

Boys Basketball — lost to Lake Shore 59-49

Girls Basketball — def. Iroquois 57-42

Boys Bowling — lost to W.S. East 6-1

Girls Bowling — def. W.S. East 5-2

Hockey — lost to Sweet Home 4-2, Batavia Tourn. — def. New Hartford 3-1, finals — lost to Batavia 3-2

Williamsville North

Boys Basketball — def. W.S. West 71-41

Girls Basketball — lost to Sweet Home 53-51

Hockey — lost to St. Joe's 4-2, def. Frontier 4-2

Boys Swimming — def. Hamburg 65-23

Wrestling — def. Hamburg 37-31

Williamsville South

Boys Basketball — def. W.S. East 88-58

Girls Basketball — def. daVinci 59-23, def. Lake Shore 57-36

Hockey — lost to Bishop Timon-St. Jude 3-0

Boys Swimming —

Wrestling — lost to W.S. East 64-9

Sacred Heart

Girls Bowling — def. Nardin 3-1