

Girls hoops

Big first half deficit too much for East to overcome in tourney finals

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Lockport went on a 23-4 run to close out the first half en route to defeating Williamsville East, 54-41, in the finals of the 25th Kiwanis Tournament on Saturday at Lockport High School.

"I thought we started great," said East coach Chris Durr. "We were ahead 9-8 with two minutes to go in the first half. Lockport called a timeout and after the timeout, they went on their run."

Durr said Lockport used an aggressive man to man defense to take his team out of their offensive rhythm, causing four straight turnovers in the second quarter alone.

"We had seven possessions from the end of the first quarter to the second where we didn't even get off a shot," Durr added.

Tournament MVP Lindsay Burke of Lockport scored 14 of her game-high 22 points in the

first half. Her sister, Bridget, scored 15.

Durr said when his team started to run its offense in the first half, they missed five straight wide open layups. East trailed, 31-13, at halftime.

"That's a big ten points right there," said Durr. "If we make them, the score is 31-23 at half-time instead of 31-13."

Lockport, ranked third among Western New York large schools, led, East, ranked tenth, 40-24, after the third quarter but Durr felt his team played with a lot more enthusiasm in the second half.

"It was just too big of a deficit to come back," he added.

East finished 16 for 40 from the floor, had 12 empties (shots inside the lane), and only grabbed four rebounds.

Bridget Steele led East with nine points. All-tournament selection Kaitlin Roseti (seven points), Courtney Hawkins (six), Christa Morgante and Aleece Bur-

gio (five each), Ally Kotz (three), Jessica Kowalski and Taylor Klun (two each) and Neha and Pooja Bakhai (one each) also scored.

East beat a depleted Nardin team, 35-24, on Friday. All Nardin seniors, including Kendra Brim, who is headed to Colgate University, were on a senior trip.

"I think there was kind of a letdown because we weren't playing as good a team as we should have been playing," said Durr. "I also think we took them lightly."

East led, 8-5, after the first quarter, 18-8, at halftime and, 27-17,

after the third quarter.

The Lady Flames won despite shooting 28 percent (15 for 55) from the floor and 20 empties.

Meghan Schiedemann had her best game of the season with eight points and nine rebounds. Roseti only scored three points but hauled a career-high 16 rebounds and blocked five shots. Steele, recipient of the tournament's all-hustle award, scored six points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Morgante (three points, six rebounds) Molly Bojanek (six points), Kowalski and Klun (four points each) and Anna Stolzen-

burg (one point) also contributed.

The East JV came in second at the Lockport tournament, finishing the season with a 17-3 record. They went 12-0 in the league for the sixth consecutive year.

East, who hadn't played in a Section VI prequarterfinal game in five years, hosted West Seneca East on Tuesday. Results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. If East (16-4, 10-2), seeded fifth, wins, they play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at McKinley (15-5).

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Kenmore West hockey upsets Sweet Home in Fed quarters

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Sweet Home will have to wait another year to win the Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation title.

Defending Federation champion Kenmore West dominated the Panthers from the opening faceoff en route to a convincing 5-0 shutout last Friday on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature Rink.

"We played probably our worst game and they probably played their best game of the year," said Sweet Home coach Dave Gerspach. "Every person except (goalie) Derek (Mohney) didn't play well. If it wasn't for him, it would have been 10-0 easy."

Mohney finished with 34 saves. Scott Moser put Ken West on the scoreboard only 22 seconds into the game from Nick Panepinto and Michael Vasquez. Second period goals from Panepinto (Anthony Farah, Pat Fisher) and Farah (Panepinto, Vasquez, on the power play) increased

the Blue Devils' lead to 3-0. Gerspach said his team had a five on three advantage later in the second but did not have one shot on goalie Patrick Browne.

Gerspach said his team could have easily scored on the first two shifts of the third period but could not score.

Vasquez (Moser, Panepinto) put the game away 2½ minutes into the period. Farah rounded out the scoring with an unassisted goal.

Sweet Home had beaten Kenmore West, 6-3, a week earlier.

The Panthers' season is not over. Sweet Home (17-3-4), ranked second in New York State Division II, hosts a regional game with a Section IX team at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3.

"The Ken West game was a learning experience," said Gerspach. "As much as we would have liked to win the Fed tournament, our No. 1 goal is to win a state championship."

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Boys Basketball: Section VI Class AA prequarterfinal — North at Clarence, 7 p.m., Class A-1 prequarterfinal — Iroquois at East, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22

Girls Basketball: Section VI Class A-1 quarterfinals — South/Iroquois at Hamburg, 7 p.m., W.S. East/East at McKinley, 7:30 p.m., Starpoint/Amherst at Ken. East, 7 p.m., Class AA — Sweet Home/Ken. West at Lancaster, 7 p.m., North/Clarence at W.S. West/Orchard Park, 7 p.m.

Boys Swimming: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at Section VI Championships, noon (Sweet Home)

Hockey: WNY Federation finals — North vs. St. Joe's, 8:30 p.m. (Buffalo State College)

Friday, Feb. 23

Boys Basketball: Section VI Class AA quarterfinal — Niagara-Wheatfield/Lockport at Sweet Home, 7 p.m.; Class A-1 quarterfinals — Riverside/Starpoint at Amherst, 7 p.m., Grand Island/Hutch-Tech at South, 7 p.m., Class AA — North/Clarence at Niagara Falls, 7 p.m.

Boys Swimming: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at Section VI Championships, noon (Sweet Home) - diving

Saturday, Feb. 24

Indoor Track: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at Section VI Championships, 9 a.m. (Fredonia State College)

Boys Swimming: Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at Section VI Championships, noon (Sweet Home)

Sports briefs

Williamsville residents Katie Lyons and Vincenzo Piraino, both Buffalo State College students, were recently named to the State University of New York Athletic Conference All-Academic team. Lyons plays soccer and is majoring in social work. Piraino also plays soccer and is majoring in psychology.

Williamsville North High School graduate and Williamsville resident Jon Bauman was part of the University at Buffalo's men's 4x400-meter relay team which earned an IC4A qualifying mark with a fifth-place finish at Penn State's Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup on Feb. 9-10. The team finished in 3:17.94, cutting two seconds off its time from a week earlier and earning the regional nod.

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