

Girls basketball

Lady Flames defeat Iroquois, NT; South wins

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville East's girls basketball team earned the third-seed for the Section VI Class A-1 Tournament after beating Iroquois, 46-42, last Wednesday at East.

Trailing, 30-23, after the third quarter, East outscored Iroquois, 23-12, in the final quarter to pull ahead for the victory.

East seniors Aleece Burgio and Jessica Kowalski each stepped up in the fourth. Burgio scored eight of her nine points and Kowalski hit a three-pointer with two and a half minutes remaining to break a 39-39 tie. Kowalski also went 4 of 4 from the free throw line. She was 6 of 6 from the line in the game. She finished with nine points. Burgio also grabbed six rebounds.

The game was tied 8-8 after the first quarter and East went up, 18-17, at halftime. East was in foul trouble in the first half. Neha Bakhai, Bridget Steele, and Taylor Klun each had three fouls. Iroquois made 9 of 15 free throw attempts.

Iroquois outscored East, 13-5, in the third quarter. Rachel Sluberski (13 points) hit two of Iroquois' four threes in the third quarter.

Other players who contributed for East were Taylor Klun (nine points), Steele (six points, six assists), Sarah Dipofi (four points), Bakhai, Jordan Kowalski and Courtney Hawkins (three points each).

East shot 16 for 48.

The Lady Flames closed out the regular season 14-6 and 9-3 with a 52-36 home win last Friday at North Tonawanda.

East led, 31-28, after the third quarter and outscored North Tonawanda, 21-8, in the fourth quarter, including a 17-2 run to

close out the game.

"It shows what we can do when we want to play," said East coach Chris Durr. "That kind of summed up the season so far. We have spurts where we either don't do things well on offense or don't play good defense."

Senior Anna Stolzenburg led East with 16 points on 8 of 11 shooting on senior night. Burgio, another senior, added 10 points and nine rebounds. Burgio went 4 of 4 from the free throw line in the first quarter. The four attempts were East's only free throws in the game. Twelve fouls were called between both teams opposed to 39 against Iroquois.

"NT played a zone and we were settling for jump shots and NT was not penetrating much either," said Durr.

Klun and senior Jessica Kowalski each scored six, Steele and Ally Kotz each had three and Bakhai, Jordan Kowalski and Becca Rumschik each scored two. Rumschik also dished out five assists.

Hawkins, Kotz and Steele are also seniors.

East led NT, 10-7, after the first quarter. The score was knotted at 18-18 at halftime.

Williamsville South

The Lady Billies closed out the regular season 8-12 overall and 6-6 in ECIC Division II with a 56-47 victory last Wednesday at South.

The game was senior night and seniors Claire Licata, Molly Hoffner, Alyssa Ashcroft and Laura Pfannschmidt opened the game on an 8-2 run. The score was tied, 12-12, after the first quarter.

South went up, 29-21, at halftime and 42-32 after three quarters. South coach Erik Solomon said his team went up by as many



Williamsville East's Jessica Kowalski fires a shot past the reach of North Tonawanda's Joanna Freithold during the Lady Flames' 52-36 win last Friday at East. Also pictured is NT's April Walker (13).

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as 18.

"We got a lot of steals off our man-to-man pressure defense and Lake Shore struggled with it," said Solomon.

Sarah Marcus led the Lady Billies with 19 points on 6 of 11

shooting. She also made 4 of 7 free throws and dished out three steals.

Cassiana Hyppolite chipped in 13 points on 5 of 9 shooting and four steals. Joanna Ostrout tossed in 10 points and nine re-

bounds. Licata had six points. Ashcroft and Allison Couche each scored four points.

Sacred Heart

The Sharks closed out the regular season 17-6 overall and 10-3 in league play after winning two uneventful games last week.

Sacred Heart defeated Nardin, 31-24, last Tuesday at Daemen College and St. Mary's of Lancaster, 45-23, last Wednesday at Villa Maria.

The Sharks led, Nardin, 14-12, at halftime.

"It was not one of our finer games," said Sacred Heart coach Sister Maria Pares. "We couldn't buy a shot. Luckily, we played good defense."

Nobody from either team scored in double figures but Krystal Watson did have eight points, 17 rebounds and one assist. Sam Arena added eight points, two rebounds and two assists. Kacey Bougard chipped in six points. Liz Trampusch tossed in five points and six rebounds.

Sarah O'Brien led Nardin with seven points.

The Sharks dominated St. Mary's, taking a 24-9 lead into halftime.

Ten Sacred Heart players scored, led by Devon Hornung's 10 points, four rebounds and one assist. Arena had eight points, one rebound and two assists. Watson had six points, six rebounds and one assist. Trampusch added six points, three rebounds and one assist.

"A lot of kids got a lot of playing time," said Pares.

Raeann Stillwell scored five points to lead St. Mary's.

The game was also senior night.

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Gaines fills in with career-high, North boys beat East

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

With leading scorer Alex Barth out of the lineup, someone on the Williamsville North boys basketball had to step up against Williamsville East last Tuesday at East.

And James Gaines V answered the bell.

The sophomore scored a career-high 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help the Spartans (17-3, 9-3) defeat East, 60-54.

"He did a great job," said North coach Chuck Swierski.

Alex Barth was out with a knee injury.

Seven of Gaines' 19 points came in the first quarter as North led 12-8. He scored seven more in the third quarter as the Spartans scored several transition baskets to extend its lead to 44-34. Steve Barth scored eight of his 11 points in the third quarter.

Steve Barth also grabbed a career-high 14 points, made four steals and dished out three assists.

North led, 25-24, at halftime.

Swierski said Josh Barrett added 11 points and did a nice job containing East's Kevin Castine (nine points, four assists). Belote said Castine defended North's John Piaggione well when they went man-to-man.

Alex Ullrich only scored three points but grabbed 12 rebounds and made East's Brian Wallden work for his 17 points and 15 rebounds.

Belote said his team took a lead early in the fourth quarter but couldn't hold on. East outscored North, 20-16, in the fourth.

Peter Heim added 14 points for East.

North closed out last week with a 70-57 loss last Thursday at Jamestown. East rebounded with a 52-41 win last Thursday at Iroquois.

North's biggest problem against Jamestown, who they beat at North earlier in the season, was turnovers.

Swierski said his team committed 24 turnovers.

"We didn't take care of the ball," he said.

He also thought his team did not play good enough defense.

"It was the first time our defense totally broke down," said Swierski. "They were driving on us, especially in the first half."

Jamestown led, 26-17, after the first quarter, 45-28, at halftime and, 52-41, after the third quarter.

"We scored the first 11 points of the third quarter then Steve Barth missed a wide open three, doesn't get back on defense and his guy scored and got fouled," said Swierski. "After that, we weren't clicking. I don't know if it was

because we were expending so much energy trying to come back."

Alex Barth returned to the lineup and scored 16 points. Steve Barth added a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Jamestown's Carlos Rivera, who was held to five points in the teams' first meeting, scored 20 this time.

Belote best described the Iroquois victory as a "team win."

"All 13 kids played that night and contributed," said Belote.

The Flames led after every quarter (14-10 first; 23-18 halftime; 39-30 third). Belote said his team was up by 16 at one point.

"We ran a lot of half court offense," said Belote. "That's why the score was so low."

Wallden scored 12 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked two shots.

"He stuck his nose inside and prevented Josh Walczyk (10 points) and Paul Evans (12 points) from doing much," said Belote.

Belote thought Castine played his best game of the year, scoring 12 points on 3 of 4 shooting from two-point range and 2 of 4 three-pointers, and dishing out six assists.

"Castine and Mike Silvestri each did a great job of pressuring the ball," said Belote. "Castine

controlled the ball up front."

Silvestri finished with eight points.

Heim added nine points. Mark Rutecki scored six points, hauled in nine rebounds and blocked five shots.

East shot 44 percent from the field, hit 50 percent of its threes and 64 percent of its free throws. The Flames (11-9, 7-5) also limited its turnovers to 10.

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