

Northern Valley boys beat Bertrand; record now 3-3

The Northern Valley boys basketball team upped their pre-winter break record to 3-3 when they defeated Bertrand, Neb., 52-44 on Friday.

"After having scored 69 points against Smith Center, we knew we wanted to continue to aggressively push the ball and put pressure on the defense to get back," said Coach Jason Dibble. "We again did a good job of pushing the ball, but sometimes we took a quick early shot from the perimeter rather than forcing the defense to give us a better opportunity.

"In the second quarter we started doing this better and it resulted in a 30-17 halftime lead, part of which was the result of finding Joey in a lot of one-on-one situations, getting to the freethrow line and converting, and only having three turnovers in the first half.

"In the second half we did not do as good a job with their pressure and committed 12 turnovers, but continued to be persistent and aggressive on offense allowing us to continue to go to the freethrow line. Anytime you can go to Nebraska and go to the freethrow line 28 times, you are definitely earning the foul shots.

"It felt good to get a win and push us to 3-2, ensuring our goal of 3-3 before Christmas, but if we learned anything it is that when you have a team down we need to put them away. Bertrand did a nice job of playing hard to the end, but we also did a good job by holding off their run when they made one. Our last game against Brewster will definitely be our toughest test of the year, but I think we will be up to the challenge."

Joey Copper led scoring for the Huskies with 32 points. He was followed by Henry Griffiths, 7; Avery Thalheim, 6; Andrew Sheley, 4; and Jesse Hilburn, 3.

Rebounding honors went to Copper with 10; Thalheim, seven; Cole Kinderknecht, Griffiths and Sheley, three each; and Hilburn, two.

Hilburn led steals with 5, while Kinderknecht, Griffiths, Copper and Sheley each made 1.

Assists were made by Hilburn and Thalheim, three each; Griffiths, two; Kinderknecht and Copper, one each.

Griffiths made two blocks and Copper made one.

The junior varsity lost 42-15.

"Any time you go to Nebraska you have to be prepared for contact and pressure," said the coach. "In the first half, we handled it well enough and played good enough defense to give ourselves a chance only being down 15-9 at half. We talked about needing to give ourselves some more scoring opportunities by executing our offense.

"In the second half, they continued to pressure us and we again were unable to respond in a positive manner. The players' effort has not been an issue the last couple of games, but sometimes we do not make good decisions. We let other teams be aggressive toward us but do not always play aggressively at them.

"One thing to becoming better ball handlers is being able to go



Northern Valley junior Joey Copper was unstoppable as he scored 32 points in the contest with Bertrand on Friday. Copper also led rebounds, pulling down 10.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble

right or left and after working on this in practice this week we definitely saw improvement in our willingness to dribble with our left hand. The players need to just keep working hard and improvement will be shown as the season continues on, especially when we hit our league teams."

David Harris led scoring with 10 points, followed by Bryce Marble, 2; Chase Miller, Clarke Nelson, and Chance Miller, 1 each.

Rebounding honors went to Sheley with five; Harris, four; Nelson, three; Cody Lowry, two; Chase Miller, Marble and Chance Miller, one each.

Making steals were Marble, two; Harris, Lowry and Nelson, one each.

Harris and Scott Shearer both made one assist.

The Huskies are hosting Brewster today, beginning at 4 p.m. Then, they will compete in the Cambridge Tournament after winter break Jan. 3-4.

Northern Valley 52, Bertrand 44

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 12 18 9 13 — 52
Bertrand 10 7 13 14 — 44

Northern Valley

Copper 8 2 13-10 32, Griffiths 1 1 4-2 7, Thalheim 0 0 8-6 6, Sheley 2 0 0-0 4, Hilburn 1 0 3-1 3. Totals 12 3 28-19 52.

Bertrand

B. Winheim 4 0 0-0 8, J. Schwarz 1 1 4-3 8, J. High 3 0 0-0 6, B. Langenberg 3 0 0-0 6, J. Campbell 2 0 0-0 4, B. Spiegel 2 0 1-0 4, C. Smith 2 0 0-0 4, C. Kuck 1 0 0-0 2, S. Ford 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 19 1 5-3 44.



Northern Valley's Serena Woodside put up a shot in the game against Smith Center last Tuesday. The Huskies lost the contest 62-37.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble



The Huskies' Lindsey Graham pulled down one of her 17 rebounds in the game against Bertrand on Friday. Graham also led scoring with 19 points. — Telegram photo by Susie Marble

Lady Huskies win one, lose one

The Northern Valley High School girls basketball team was defeated 62-37 by Smith Center on Dec. 14, but then came back to beat Bertrand 53-49 on Friday.

Smith Center

"We let Smith Center jump out quick on us," said Coach Bill Lowry. "We fought back hard to close the gap before half, but we were unable to hold them off. Smith Center is a good team.

"I was very pleased with our junior varsity win against Smith Center. Our press was very effective."

Lindsey Graham led scoring for the Lady Huskies with 19 points, followed by Kelli Cole, 5; Jessica Holmes, 4; Jena Jessup, 4; Serena Woodside, 3; and Jayme Horacek, 2. The junior varsity won 29-26.

Scoring for Northern Valley were Jessica Largent, 7; Alysia Shearer, 6; Amanda Hopkins, 6; Andrea Lowry 5; Holmes, 4; and Joni Hilburn, 1.

Bertrand

"I am proud of how the girls played," said the coach. "They did a good job of taking what Bertrand gave us. Debbie Field did a great job of coaching as I was unable to be at the game.

"I thank Lonnie Brungardt and Chuck Fessenden for also helping out.

"The junior varsity had a very good game also, losing in double overtime."

Graham led scoring with 19 points, followed by Cole, 9; Woodside, 7; J. Jessup, 6; Lindsey Jessup, 5; Horacek, 5; and Holmes, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Graham with 17; Woodside, 14; Cole, seven; L. Jessup and J. Jessup, five apiece; and Horacek, two.

Assists were made by L. Jessup, three, Woodside, two; Graham, Horacek and Cole, one apiece.

Woodside led steals with six, followed by L. Jessup, two; and Cole, Horacek, Kelsey Kinderknecht, Holmes and Graham, one apiece.

The junior varsity lost 28-22.

Largent led scoring with 9 points, followed by Kyleneia Hager, 4; Shearer, 4; Hilburn, 3; and Holmes, 2.

The Lady Huskies are hosting Brewster today, beginning at 4 p.m. Then, they will compete in the Cambridge Tournament after winter break Jan. 3-4.

Smith Center 62, Northern Valley 37

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 4 13 11 9 — 37
S. Center 15 17 13 17 — 62

Northern Valley

Graham 7 1 4-2 19, Cole 2 0 3-1 5, Holmes 2 0 0-0 4, J. Jessup 1 0 2-2 4, Woodside 1 0 3-1 3, Horacek 0 0 2-2 2, Kinderknecht 0 0 2-0 0. Totals 13 1 16-8 37.

Smith Center

V. Peterson 3 4 3-3 21, T. Fuller 6 0 4-2 14, B. Cole 3 1 2-2 11, L. Isom 2 0 4-3 7, A. Shellito 2 0 0-0 4, D. Fricker 1 0 1-1 3, R. Burgess 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 18 5 14-11 62.

Northern Valley 53, Bertrand 49

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 10 14 8 21 — 53
Bertrand 10 9 11 19 — 49

Northern Valley

Graham 6 0 9-7 19, Cole 2 1 2-2 9, Woodside 2 0 7-3 7, J. Jessup 1 1 2-1 6, Horacek 2 0 2-1 5, L. Jessup 1 1 1-0 5, Holmes 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 15 3 23-14 53.

Bertrand

C. Barnes 5 0 4-3 13, M. Kuck 5 0 7-2 12, A. Ebmeich 4 0 9-2 10, K. Trautman 3 0 2-1 7, S. Freburg 2 0 2-1 5, B. Barnes 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 20 0 24-9 49.

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