

At the Game

Indians finish strong at tournament, take third

By Nathan Fiala
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Sainty finished up the Northwest Kansas League Basketball Tournament in Quinter last weekend, losing to the Ness City Eagles and coming out on top of the Rawlins County Buffaloes, securing third place overall.

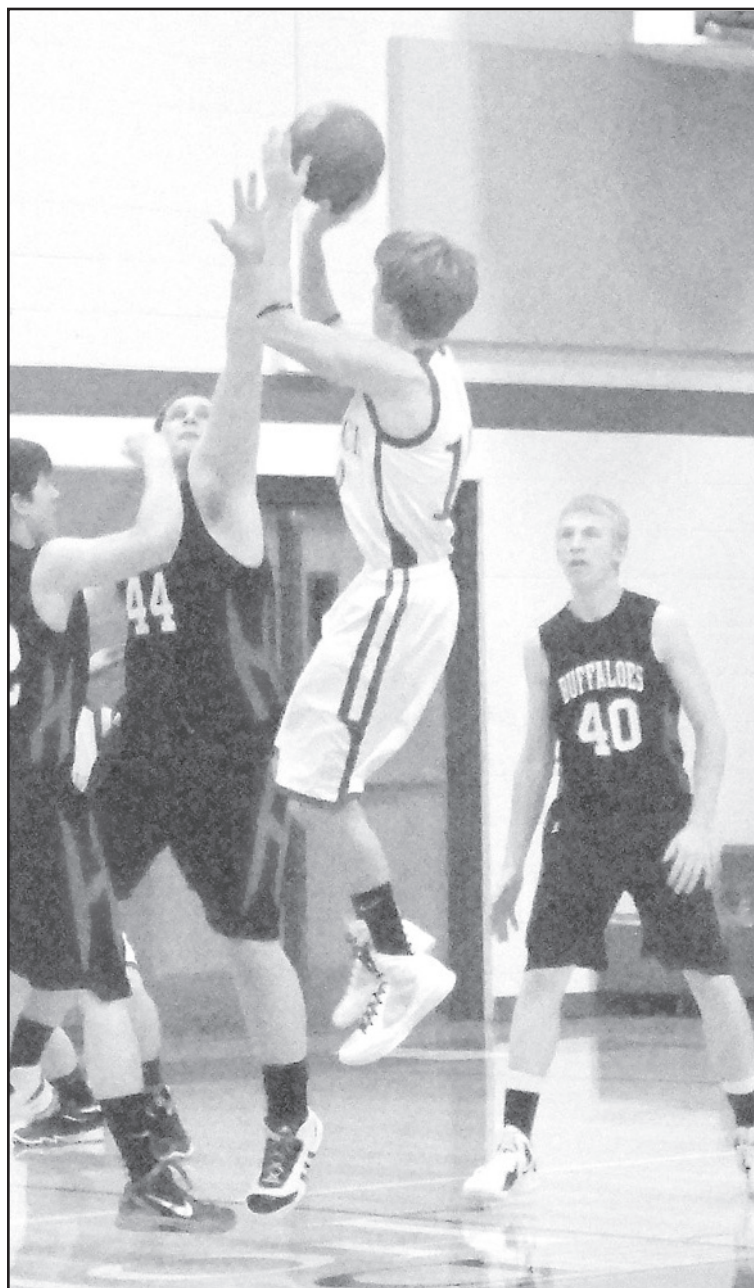
Against the Eagles on Friday, the Indians finished the first quarter with a big deficit of 35-18. The boys did better in the second quarter and were competitive in the third quarter as well, but the Eagles finished the game by doubling Sainty's fourth quarter score 22-11, and winning 78-55.

"Ness City has a real nice team," Coach Jeff Beims said of the Eagles. "They are coming off a season that saw them reach the state play-offs, and returned many of the players from that team. Having said that, we felt like we could give them a run if we played 32 minutes of our best basketball. Unfortunately we could only provide them with 26 minutes. They outscored us 15-3 to open the game, and the margin stayed within four points of that until the last three minutes when we were taking some chances to close the gap, and it backfired on us. I told the guys in the locker room that if we wanted to be considered among the elite teams in western Kansas if not the state, we have to find a way to beat a team like Ness City. Although we fell short I thought we represented ourselves pretty well, and most importantly I hope we learned what it takes to play at that level."

Stats for the Indians were Isaac Schiltz with 26 points and three rebounds, Dylan Peter with 13 points and nine rebounds, Wyatt Landenberger, six points, Mason Schiltz, five points, Matt Tygart, four points and three rebounds, and Steven Nelson, one point and four rebounds. Cade Bracelin had three rebounds, Jonathan Butler, two and Kyler Zwegygart, one.

vs. Rawlins County

The final game of the tournament was a much better one for Sainty as they won 60-59. The teams had already faced off twice this season, both teams winning and losing one game each. Rawlins County gained a considerable lead in the first half 39-26, but the Indians came back fired up in the second half won an exciting game by one point.



OUTJUMPING HIS OPPONENT from Atwood in last weekend's tournament, senior Isaac Schiltz has the clearance he needs to make his jump shot. *Herald photo by Kent Kechter.*

"Beating Atwood on a 'last second' shot was an exciting way to end a long week of basketball," Coach Beims said. "Much like the game against Ness City, we came out flat and got down early; by as many as 16 points in the second quarter. However, these guys don't know how to quit, and they clawed their way back into it. Consistency on both ends of the floor seems to be our biggest issue this season. Atwood was allowed to do whatever it wanted in the first half, and we refused to run our offense with any precision. In the second half our defense took a 'clamp down' attitude. Although it wasn't perfect, our commitment to defend better gave us more offensive opportunities to get back in the game."

Leading scorer for the Indians was I. Schiltz with 19 points and one rebound. Tygart, nine points and six rebounds; Butler, nine points and one rebound; M. Schiltz, eight points and six rebounds; Landenberger and Zwegygart both had six points and one rebound; Nelson, three points and three rebounds.

"We talk a lot in practice about doing the 'little things' that take a group of talented players and turn them into a formidable team," Coach Beims said. "Things like setting and using screens, helping and rotating down on defense. Things that nobody but coaches pay attention to, are usually the difference between winning and losing close ball games. We did just enough of those to beat a really good Atwood team."

with our defensive effort. And really that is much of what we are lacking - effort.

"For the most part, we are fundamentally sound, but to be a great defensive team there has to be a certain degree of 'instinctive anticipation. We need to be able to see a pass or shot coming and be in a position to take that away."

Stats for the Indians were Isaac Schiltz with 25 points and three rebounds, Dylan Peter with 21 points and seven rebounds, Mason Schiltz, 17 points and three rebounds, Jonathan Butler, six points and two rebounds, Cade Bracelin, five points and two rebounds, Matt Tygart, four

points and 12 rebounds, Steven Nelson, two points and one rebound and Wyatt Landenberger, two points and two rebounds. Jacob Baxter got two rebounds and Keegan Sherlock and Kyler Zwegygart both had one.

"We also have to improve our rebounding efforts," Coach Beims said. "We crash the boards like Black Friday shoppers at Walmart when we have a size advantage, but when we run up against somebody as big or bigger than us, we get pushed around. Maybe I should just holler, 'There's a fire sale on iPods!' I think however, that more work in practice might be more prudent."



JENNA HILL, senior, attempts to steal the ball from her opponent in last Saturday's tournament game against the Western Plains Bobcats. Hill's stats show she's made 19 steals this season, with a single game high of five against Stratton, Colo. and an average of 1.5 steals per game. *Herald photo by Kent Kechter*

Girls basketball win over Western Plains in Quinter

By Nathan Fiala
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The Lady Indians traveled to Quinter this weekend to compete in the Northwest Kansas League basketball tournament. The girls' first faced off against the Quinter Bulldogs and lost, but won against the Western Plains Bobcats in the final game to come in seventh place.

Sainty was competitive against the Bulldogs, staying close to their score the entire game, but Sainty was always trailing and the game ended 70-58.

"We played a much more aggressive game than we did on Tuesday evening," Coach Susan Dinkel said of playing Quinter. "I was pleased with the way we transitioned in the press and worked the ball around offensively. Unfortunately, we just didn't close out quick enough when they were shooting from the outside. They hit several 3-point shots. If we would have been able to stop them from hitting those, it would have been a different game."

Kaitlin Figgins led the team with 27 points and five rebounds. Laura Brunk, nine points and four rebounds; Jenna Hill, seven points and four rebounds; Aly Schlepp, six points and four rebounds; Kyla Bandel, five points; Clarice Neitzel, four points and three rebounds; Justice Wiley, five rebounds.

"The highlight of the game was a beyond half-court shot by Jenna Hill at the end of the first quarter. That's every player's dream to make one of those. It was exciting to see!"

Coach Dinkel said. "All of the team members did a great job rotating on the press, looking to pass the ball inside, rebounding, and just played an overall good game."

Figgins was the Lady Indians' leading scorer with 22 points and

vs. Western Plains

The game against Western Plains was much different, as the Lady Indians started strong, outscoring the Bobcats 26-6 in the first quarter. Sainty led the entire game, the final score 67-31.

"We played a great game," Coach Dinkel said. "All of the team members did a great job rotating on the press, looking to pass the ball inside, rebounding, and just played an overall good game."

Figgins was the Lady Indians' leading scorer with 22 points and

nine rebounds. Bandel scored 18 points and got six rebounds; Neitzel, nine points and three rebounds; Schlepp, eight points and eight rebounds; Brunk, four points; Aubrey Mills, two points and four rebounds; Hill, two points and three rebounds; Wiley, two points and two rebounds.

"We need to work a little harder pushing the ball down the court, but we were able to make a few adjustments and the girls listened and did a good job doing what we asked," Coach Dinkel said. "We needed a victory and this was a great game for all of the team."

Lady Indians lose tournament opener

By Nathan Fiala
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The Sainty Ladies faced off against the Rawlins County Buffaloes in the first game of the Northwest Kansas League Tournament on Jan. 17 in Atwood. Sainty lost the game 65-39.

"Rebounding was a major issue for us this game," Coach Susan Dinkel said. "We allowed them to have 19 offensive rebounds, all of which they scored on. That killed us. We have to do a better job of blocking out and taking care of the little things. We also got into foul trouble early on. That hurt us because it took out a few of our bigger players."

Stats for the Lady Indians were: Clarice Neitzel, 15 points and four rebounds; Laura Brunk, 14 points and six rebounds; Aly Schlepp, four points and four rebounds; Kyla Bandel, two points and two rebounds; Jenna Hill, two points and four rebounds; and Kaitlin Figgins with two points and one rebound. McKayla Taylor got one rebound and

"We must continue to play aggressively, but without fouling. It's a small line- but it's one that can be done. We just have to work harder in practice to achieve that."

High school boys beat Quinter in first round of tournament

By Nathan Fiala
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The Indians won against the Quinter Bulldogs in the first round of the Northwest Kansas League Basketball tournament on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Sainty jumped into the lead early on and held onto it, the final score 82-57.

"Our offense returned from wherever it disappeared to against Quinter Tuesday night," Coach Jeff Beims said. "We got off to a hot start, scoring 32 points in the first quarter and had 51 by half."

"Although it was good to get a long-awaited win against Quinter, I still am not satisfied

Cheyenne County Spelling Bee

Wednesday, Feb. 1
1:30 p.m.
St. Francis Grade School



Junior high girls' travel to Oakley

By Nathan Fiala
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The season continued for the junior high girls' basketball team on Thursday, Jan. 19, in Oakley against the Plainsmen. The results were mixed, with the B-team losing 34-29 while the A-team winning 26-16.

"We played a good Oakley team and even though we lost, I felt we competed and played hard," Coach Ted Busse said of the B-team game.

Stats for the B-team were Emily Elfers with five points, McKenzie Taylor, Katie Schmid, Kayla Reed and Kylie Sherlock all scored four points each and CarolEve Harris, Journey Lee, Alexis Frink and Kattie Jenik all scored two points each.

"We (A-team) played better defensively this game than our last game which, in turn, helped

us on the offensive side of the game," Coach Busse said. "We were four of 18 from the free-throw line and that can only be improved with focus, correct shooting form and practice. I call it, 'individual time.'"

Stats for the A-team were Taylor with eight points; Sherlock, five points; Lee and Sidney Sunstrom, four points each; Elfers, three points and Reed, two points.

