

At the Game



Basketball season opens at home tonight



By Betty Jean Winston

The basketball season opens at home tonight (Thursday) when the Tigers and Lady Tigers from Dundy County invade Indian territory. Varsity games are played at the high school beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the Ladies playing first. Junior varsity games are played at the elementary school.

St. Francis fans enjoyed an excellent football season and are now ready to move on to winter sports in anticipation of some fast-moving action. To have the teams open at home gives fans an early opportunity view the squads, both varsity and junior varsity.

The teams get off to a running start with seven games in 20 days although tonight will be the only opportunity in December to see the Indians and Lady Indians on the home court.

During the second week of the season, the teams are always on the road involved in the Sagebrush Classic at Brewster. The initial contests are played on Tuesday with the semi finals on Friday and the finals on Saturday.

This tournament is composed of varsity action only and the two St. Francis teams are scheduled to play Cheylin on Tuesday. The Ladies have first action beginning at 3 p.m. in the north gym. The Indians will meet the Cougars at 4:30 p.m., also in the north gym.

Each team will play three games with the tournament made up of ball teams from Brewster, Rawlins County, Golden Plains, Idalia, Colo., Decatur Community/Oberlin, Cheylin, St. Francis and Stratton, Colo.

Finishing out the December competition, Sainty matches up with Cheyenne Wells, Colo., on Tuesday night, Dec. 13, in Cheyenne Wells and then Northwest Kansas League opponent Decatur Community on Friday, Dec. 16, at Oberlin. The third week of the month they play in Colby on Dec. 20.

Supporting Indians teams in all of their endeavors has always been important in St. Francis.

Lady Indians

The Lady Indians have been working hard since the opening day of practice. With so many

contests on the December schedule it is important that the team spends quality time on the court. Once the playing schedule

“The returning players are bigger, stronger and faster.....”

—Coach Ward Cassidy

begins, practice times are limited between games.

New offenses and defenses need to be learned and then practiced until they become familiar. With 24 Ladies on the squad, every player needs time on the court and each season it seems there are never enough minutes available before the first contest.

“The practice time is precious,” Ted Busse, head coach, said. “We need to work on both the offense and the defense.”

The eight seniors and six juniors will be the more experienced players and probably will form the nucleus of the varsity team, especially early in the season. Many of these players have been involved in the St. Francis basketball program since seventh grade.

Suiting up for their final year as Lady Indians are Maddie Knodel, Sam Marin, Schuyler Coates, Jade DeGood, Talisa Voorhies, Erin Neitzel, Sheryl Miller and McKenzie Grace.

Besides the group of juniors and seniors, three sophomores will be trying to work their way onto the varsity. The team is supplemented with a nice group of seven freshmen.

Coach Busse had returned to the helm of the Lady Indians after a two-year absence. He will be working with new assistant coach, Larry Flemming. Coach Flemming has been coaching the junior varsity squad at Dundy County the last few years but he is familiar with several of the St. Francis ball players as a result of working with them in the Atwood Summer League program.

“Coach Flemming and I have the same philosophy which is essential,” Coach Busse said. “I enjoy working with him as he brings a lot to the table. He is doing a great job.”

“We will be using a running offense and we are working hard to teach the Ladies to read the other team’s defense.”

“Defensively we will play a pressure man-to-man full court but occasionally when needed, will use a pressure 2-4 zone defense.”

“Offensive shots don’t always fall, but you can always play good ‘D.’”

Coach Busse feels that the attitude and effort shown by the squad is a definite positive but he has concerns that skills need to be developed in many areas.

“I am enjoying working with the girls,” he said. “Their attitude is very good.”

“Goals for the team this year include to be competitive in every game and to ‘play to win.’”

Coach Busse expects the Northwest Kansas League teams to be very tough again this year.

“It is just a tough league,” he said.

The opportunity to get out on the floor and evaluate their progress will happen tonight beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Roster

Seniors: Grace, Voorhies, DeGood, Coates, Miller, Knodel, Neitzel, Marin

Juniors: Lauren Ross, Addie Swihart, Megan Rice, Alecia Zimelman, Danielle Flemming, Brittany Lucas

Sophomores: Holly Keller, Katie Marin, Kattie Ford

Freshmen: Andrea Holzwarth, Elizabeth Gienger, Joni Pevler, Jami Pevler, Sidnee Crabtree, Cara Hunt, Candice Wiese.

Sara Miller, sophomore, is the manager.

Indians The 2004/05 squad finished the season

with a 7-13 record and lost three seniors, Nick Raile, Tanner Kinen and an injured Andrew Feikert to graduation.

“The returning players are bigger, stronger and faster than last year,” Coach Ward Cassidy said following the initial practice sessions. “They also like each other and get along great.”

Two seniors plus seven other returning letter winners will be on the court when the season begins.

The two seniors are JD Hawkins and Heath Owens.

“I expect Hawkins to continue with his three-point shooting and I’m looking for him to improve his ball handling while Owens gives 100 percent in every position but needs to score more off the offensive boards,” Coach Cassidy said.

The five juniors are AJ McAtee, Joel McAtee, Adam Peter, Levi Weeden and Mac Frewen.

“AJ is one of the best defenders in the league but I am hoping for him to make better decisions from the point guard position. Joel needs to have less fouls so he can stay in the game and to improve his outside shooting. He has positive leadership ability and was the team’s leading scorer last year. Peter is a wonderful jump shooter



THE LADIES prepare for the season opener tonight by working on both their offense and defense in early practice sessions.

Rebounding is an important aspect of the game.

Herald staff photos by Betty Jean Winston

but needs to continue to improve his rebounding; Weeden is a strong rebounder but needs to improve on his fundamentals and M. Frewen gives great effort and has a feel for the game so is in the right place lots of the time. Improving his shooting and ball handling would be a plus.”

The varsity squad will also have two sophomores, who are returning letter winners, Ted Crabtree and Keaton Frewen.

“Ted has a lot of athletic ability and will play only on varsity this year. He needs to learn several different positions and he will be backup for AJ. (K) Frewen works hard and might be one of the best shooters but he needs more experience.”

The other varsity player is Nathan Ketzner, who is new to the St. Francis basketball program.

Another letter winner, BJ Killingsworth will be out for the season with a knee injury. He will probably be the manager.

“This group has good defense. If they can shoot we will be in every game. They are ahead of last year and know what the coaches want. We hope to improve on our scoring.”

“We will play pressure defense and hopefully get some easy baskets. We’ll do some controlled running offensively and use pressure defense.”

Coach Cassidy said one of the positives is that the parents are very supportive and last year provided some fun activities for the players.

“Shooting is an area of concern,” he said. “But, the attitude is super although they had a hard time wanting to get started after losing the last football game.”

“They are competitors though.”

“Our goals are to increase our points scored to the 60s, up from the 50s last year. We also want to keep the other teams under 13 points a quarter. I expect a defensive battle every quarter.”

“Each player can be expected to see action every quarter.”

The schedule will be strong again this year with a number of league members having quality teams, along with Brewster, who is on the schedule this year. Quinter and Goodland will be tough.

“We have a work horse schedule but we are looking forward to the start of the season.”

Coach Cassidy is being assisted this year by Brett Petersen, a former St. Francis Indian.

“Brett knows basketball and is great with the kids,” Coach Cassidy said.

Roster - Varsity

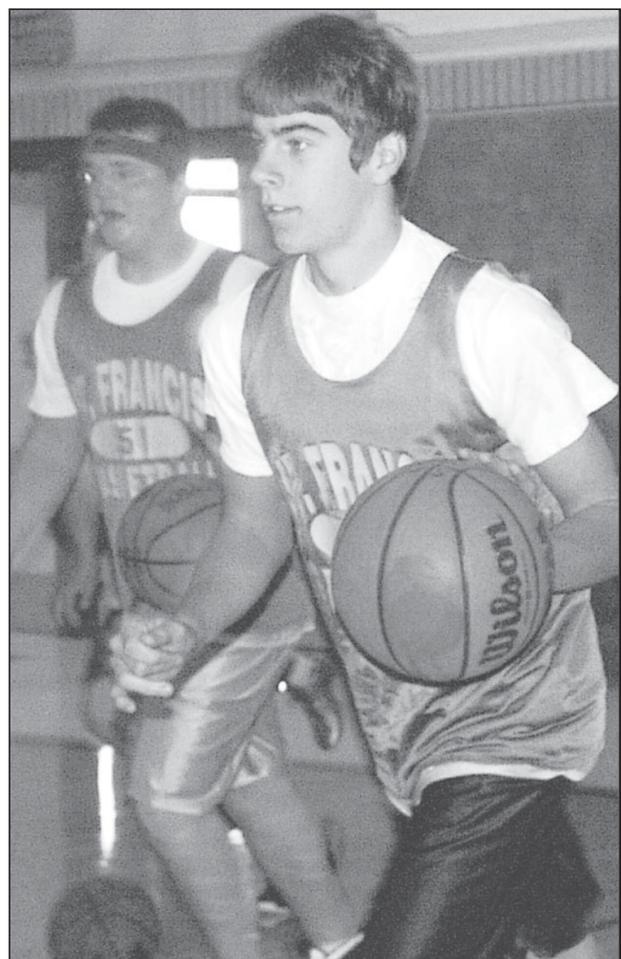
Seniors: Hawkins, Owens
Juniors: AJ McAtee, M. Frewen, J. McAtee, Weeden, Peter, Ketzner

Sophomores: Crabtree, Frewen

Roster - C-team

Juniors: Travis Havel
Sophomores: Chance Hobrock, RL Walz

Freshmen: Jacob Riedel, Trent Kinen, Ethan Zweygardt, Lance Owens, Jon Finley, Brennon Van Allen, Talon Jones



BALL HANDLING needs lots of practice and Ethan Zweygardt and Ted Crabtree are taking advantage of practice time to increase their skills.

Eighth graders post win over Hoxie

By Betty Jean Winston

Trent Raile poured in 25 points and the St. Francis eighth graders collected a team win on Monday, Nov. 21, in Hoxie. The final score was 50-44.

St. Francis scored in double figures in each of the first three quarters and held a 27-16 advantage by halftime. They held on for their ini-

tial win of the season.

“Well, we finally got a win under our belt, and it feels good,” Coach Jeff Beims said. “Hoxie has a good team, but we handled their pressure, and applied a little of our own.”

“We still suffered through a stretch in the third quarter where it looked like our turnovers and failures on the boards were going to

spell our doom.

“However, I was impressed with the character of these guys to right the ship and finish strong.”

“Our second team guys had the opportunity to play in the C-team game, and played pretty well while gaining some valuable experience.”

SF 10 17 14 09 50
H 06 10 16 12 44

Scoring: T. Raile 25, Terrence Lamb 8, Matt Raile 8, Drew Zweygardt 4, Alex Long 4, Darris Keller 1.

Seventh grade

Due to the fact there was no school on Monday and Tuesday, the seventh grade game information will be printed next week.