

# Aggressive Lady Cougars *DCHS* football win county rivalry coach resigns

By Todd Swank  
Contributing sportswriter

Most people going to the girls' basketball game last Wednesday at DCHS had to think that the Lady Oracles (2-2) had a good chance of posting a win against winless Carroll (0-3). Luckily for Cougar fans, some of those people were not the players. After a close opening quarter, the Carroll girls dominated the game and won going away, 46-22.

Brooke Yoder hit a trey and Delphi fell behind early 8-2 against a team that was a step ahead of Delphi the entire evening. Carroll did slow down long enough to let Oracle Emily Kayser hit her own three and make the score 10-9 in favor of Carroll late in the first.

Hannah Strasser scored a bucket to open the second period. That would be the last time the Oracles would score until the second half. The quicker Cougars repeatedly harassed Oracle ball handlers, forcing five consecutive turnovers. The turnovers and the missed shots meant that Carroll would lead at the half, 26-11. Quincy Eller had scored seven points for Carroll.

Delphi finally broke the drought with a free throw less than a minute into the third period. Carroll had held the Oracles scoreless for over eight minutes. The Oracles seemed slow-footed at times and were committing error-after-error against Carroll. Delphi could manage to get only five points in the third period. The score after three was Carroll 36, Delphi 17.

The last quarter was a carbon copy of the second and third. The Cougars forced the Oracles into numerous errors and when the Oracles could get a shot off, it was with a Carroll player's hand in their face. Carroll doubled up Delphi's score in the final period, 10-5.

The 46-22 final score was a good indicator of how the teams



**Sticky 'D'**  
Carroll's Morgan Yoder and Brooke Yoder apply pressure on Delphi's Whitney Arion during county basketball rivalry action last week. Delphi never found an answer to Carroll's suffocating press. Bill Stauffer photo

played. The Cougars were ready to play and did it at both ends of the court while the Oracles, it seemed, were mentally out of the game.

"We had a superb practice Tuesday," commented Carroll Coach Mike McCroskey. "It was not a physical practice, but we walked through what we wanted and what we expected Delphi to do. You saw the effects of that good practice tonight."

"I haven't been with these girls very long, but I felt they were ready for this game. They were excited to play Delphi, but were not too high."

"I thought we rebounded well, and our full-court pressure defense was without a doubt the difference in the game."

Carroll improved to 1-3 while the Oracles fell to 2-3.

The JV score was Delphi 39, Carroll 30.

#### Vs. Rensselaer

I don't know what, if anything, Coach Dan Dawson said to the Oracles after their drubbing by Carroll. Whatever it was, he should bottle it. The Ladies played a much more inspired game and came within a missed lay-up of beating a 3-1

Rensselaer Bomber team on Saturday. The Oracles lost in overtime 44-43.

Strasser hit a basket and free throw for an early 3-0 Delphi lead. The taller Bombers countered with a 9-2 run before Delphi ended the first quarter with a 10-9 lead. Whitney Arion and Strasser each had five points. The Oracles played well in the second, scoring seven unanswered points, while holding the Bombers without a point for nearly four minutes. The Oracles, though, could not keep it up. Holding a 17-14 lead with two minutes to go, the Bombers finally warmed up and cut through the Oracle defense for seven points, taking a 21-20 halftime lead. Arion (8) and Strasser (7) had 75% of the Oracle points.

The third quarter was all Delphi. While they didn't score a lot of points (9), they did manage to keep the Bombers from scoring. Erika Hawn hit the only bucket, a three pointer. What was a 29-21 lead could have been a double digit lead. The Oracles had a dozen free throw attempts, but only connected on six of them. Leading 30-21, the Oracles

failed to sustain the defense that had earned them the lead. The Bombers scored three baskets around a free throw by Strasser. The lead was down to four at 31-27 with five minutes left. Two minutes later the lead was down to two at 33-31.

With a minute left and Delphi holding a 37-31 lead, it looked as though the Oracles would end their three-game losing string. But Rensselaer scored two quick buckets before the Oracle's Kayla Yates countered with a pair of free throws. Trailing 39-35, the Bombers drained a three with 21.8 seconds left. After forcing a Delphi turnover, the Bombers had a chance with 9.9 seconds showing to take the lead with a pair of free throws. Brianna Sammons hit the first to tie the game. Her second shot bounced off the rim and the Oracles got the rebound. They passed the ball up the court and actually had an open lay-up that came up short as time expired.

In overtime, the Oracles held the lead twice, but couldn't protect it. Trailing 44-43 the Oracles' last ditch shot caromed off the rim as the clock buzzed.

The Oracles varsity record falls to 2-4 for the year.

The JV score was Rensselaer 30, Delphi 27.

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Delphi Community High School football head coach John Gasser resigned the position last week. He was head coach for three years and an assistant for nine years prior. He will continue to teach math and coach the high school track and field team.

"With changes in my personal life I can no longer sustain the time and effort that it demands to be a head football

coach," Gasser said Tuesday. "I have enjoyed my time at Delphi and will miss all of the players, but I cannot continue to push other priorities in my life behind football."

DCHS Athletic Director Vince Burpo said the position of head coach is time-consuming and difficult, but Gasser performed well.

"He did a great job," Burpo said. "The wins and losses might not have shown it, but no one cared more for the kids than John."

## Taylor spoils Oracle season opener

By John J. Dunn  
Contributing sportswriter

Head Coach Brian Tonsoni's second Delphi boys' basketball team opened the 2007-08 season at Taylor Saturday suffering a 69-54 defeat in a hard-fought battle against a much taller host team.

It was a game of runs, with the Oracles making several spurts to keep the game close most of the way.

The Titans, whose starting frontline measured 6'5", 6'5" and 6'4", scored the game's first seven points before Oracle senior sharpshooter Michael Myers put Delphi on the board with a 17-foot jumper from the wing.

Myers continued to scorch the nets with 12 points in the first quarter, including two three-pointers, as Delphi closed the quarter with a 7-0 run of its own to take a 17-14 lead.

Taylor again scored three consecutive field goals to open the second quarter before another Myers' jumper closed the gap to 20-19.

Another 8-2 Titan spurt spread the lead to nine at 30-21 before freshman guard Austin Hawn connected on a 3-pointer from the right wing to close within six.

The Titans answered right back with a three of their own and again traded buckets with the Oracles before taking a 36-26 lead into the half.

Hot-shooting would continue to be the theme of the second half as Taylor opened with four quick points to boost the lead to 14. But the feisty Oracles would not go away, trailing 43-28, Delphi struck back with three consecutive threes — two from sophomore point guard Justin Snider and another from Myers - to close to within six at 43-37.

It was the closest that they would get the rest of the way as Taylor went on a 13-0 run to end the third quarter with a

now commanding 56-37 lead.

Four threes in the fourth quarter, three from Myers and one from senior forward Dustin Oliver, would keep the Oracles within striking distance but was not enough to overcome a 49 percent shooting effort from the Titans, including 9-of-18 from behind the arc.

Delphi connected on 11 three-pointers of its own to help keep the game close, but was also outrebounded 35-22.

Myers led all scorers with 27 points, including 6-of-14 three-pointers, to go along with a team-high eight rebounds and five steals.

Oliver finished with eight points, while Snider had a game-high nine assists to go along with his six points. Hawn added five points, while Kory Baner and Kyle Bender had four apiece.

"We fought hard and competed," Tonsoni said. "We found ways to come back several times during the game and that is something we can build on."

"I also felt that we shared the ball well tonight, but we can improve our shooting percentage a bit and work on our transition defense," he said.

#### JV wins opener

Seferino Cervantes led all scorers with 10 points on 4-of-4 shooting, including 2-of-2 from 3-point range to lead the Delphi JV to an easy 40-14 victory. The Oracles outscored Taylor 20-7 in each half.

Paul Zink added nine points and six rebounds, sharing team-high board honors with Tanner Cripe, who also scored six points. Dustin Salyer finished with eight points, while Kris Bender added five and A.J. Erskin two.

Delphi will next travel to Tipton on Friday night with the JV starting at 6:30 p.m. and to Frontier on Saturday with the JV tip-off at 6 p.m.

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## Carroll FCCLA concentrates on community service

Comet staff report

Carroll FCCLA (Family Career & Community Leaders of America) members have had a lot going on the past few weeks.

Early in November, ten members traveled to Buffalo, New York, for a National Cluster meeting. Leaving on Thursday, the group drove to Cleveland for the night. The following morning they traveled straight to Niagara Falls, taking in the natural wonder. Following their excursion to Niagara Falls, the group headed to their hotel where the conference was being held.

While at the Cluster meeting, students attended several different sessions at which there were four keynote motivational speakers. The first speaker was

Jeff Yalden from the MTV show *Made*. Yalden talked about life, leadership and what really matters. The next speaker was Harriet Turk, who spoke about achieving your dreams. Ryan Morgan, an Indiana native, was also a keynote speaker. His presentation gave all a way of thinking and behaving that will allow them to make their school, community, organization, etc., a better place. The final speaker was Dr. Aldoph Brown III, who helped students think about their actions and reminded them about how good character and decisions are critical in their everyday lives.

Prior to the Cluster meeting, Carroll FCCLA organized and put-on its first annual "Halloween Carnival & Costume Party." Over 100 children and adults attended. Canned goods were collected as an entry fee and those items were taken to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Currently the chapter is winding up a month of service to the Kokomo Crisis Pregnancy Center. Students and teachers have been working all month to fill 80 baby bottles with loose change and bills. Work on baby quilts has kept students who enjoy sewing busy, too.

Community Service is the focus of the Indiana FCCLA chapters around the state. Each month of the school year there is a different activity centered around community service for FCCLA members and the student body.

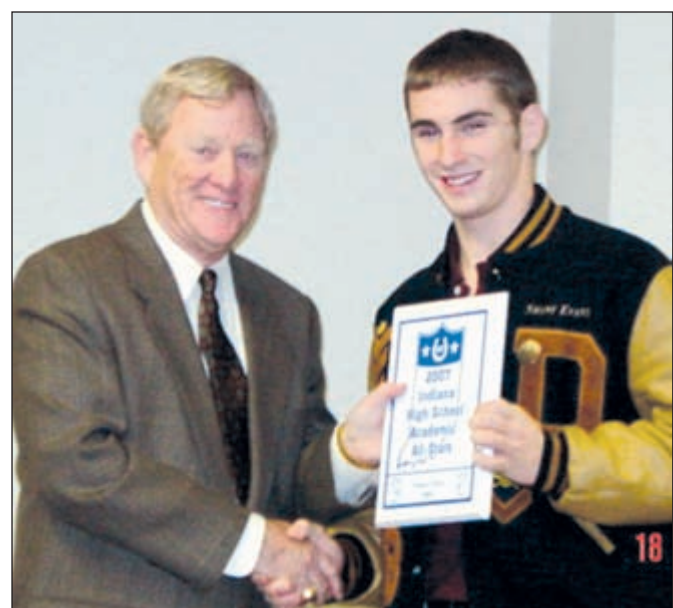
## A proud moment for DCHS senior Delphi claims Academic All-Star

By Jenna Buehler  
Comet writer-intern

Delphi Community High School senior Shane Evans was named a 2007 Indiana High School Academic All-Star Nov. 9. He was honored at the Indianapolis Colts-Kansas City Chiefs game Nov. 18 for his academic and athletic achievements.

Evans, son of Shawn and Shannon Evans, was chosen from 80 high school nominees state-wide to be rewarded by the Indianapolis Colts, Indiana High School Athletic Association, and the Indiana Football Coaches Association for his efforts in the classroom and on the field.

This is the ninth year the Indianapolis Colts All-Star program has celebrated the efforts of 24 Indiana high school football players in the top five percent of their class. Players are selected for the award according to their field positions. Evans was one of two running backs to receive the award. Winners were invited to a morning press conference held in the Indiana Convention Center and RCA Dome and awarded a plaque by Colts president Bill Polian. In addition, All-Stars were given four complimentary tickets to the sell-out game to be played later that afternoon. Evans' parents, sister Hannah and grandparents David



Delphi Community High School senior and 2007 Indiana High School Academic All-Star Shane Evans received a plaque from Indianapolis Colts President Bill Polian for his outstanding academic and athletic efforts. Evans was nominated for the award by DCHS teacher and football coach John Gasser. Photo provided

and Susan Kelley of Logansport, accompanied him to the game. After the first quarter of the game, All-Stars were escorted to the field for a stadium debut on the big-screen.

DCHS football coach and mathematics teacher, John Gasser, nominated Evans as an All-Star.

"I feel Shane is very deserving of this special recognition and will continue to excel in all areas," said Gasser.

Evans is the second winner to be named from Delphi high school. He described the event as a priceless experience.

"This was an unforgettable experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity," concluded Evans. "It felt great to stand on the field and be recognized next to all of these elite players, and to walk back up the stands with Colts fans telling me to keep up the good work."



#### FCCLA members attend national meeting

Ten members of Carroll FCCLA recently attended the National Cluster meeting held in Buffalo, N.Y. Those attending were Nicole Brafford, Devin Smith, Shun Kinra, Shawnee Carter, Holly Butler, Heather Prater, Kristina Sedwick, Eryn Grimes, Kelsey May, and Justin Conaway, along with chaperones Cindy Reinke, Diana Alter, and Shelly Brafford. Photo provided