

Delphi wins regional

Five Oracle wrestlers to compete at semi-state

Comet staff report

Delphi Oracles Wrestling Team won its first regional title ever by defeating Winamac and Harrison last Wednesday in Lafayette. They are now one of 16 teams remaining in the state.

The Oracles first defeated Winamac 46-22 in round one and then beat Lafayette Harrison in the championship match 38-28.

In round one, the Oracles had wins from Donovan Alderman at 119 pounds, Nathan McTigue 130, Cory Smith 140, Braden Atwood 160, Brandon Delaney 189, Wesley Everett 285, Randy McClrath 103, and Bob Floyd 112.

"Even though we did not have all our kids win, the kids who did not win saved team points by not getting pinned or keeping their match close," said Coach Mike Atwood.

In round two, winners for the Oracles were: 125 Aaron Back,

130 McTigue, 160 Atwood, 171 Shane Evans, 285 Everett, 103 McClrath, 112 Floyd and 119 Alderman.

"There were many great matches in this duel," said Coach Atwood. "Floyd had a huge pin of one of Harrison's best kids. The heavy weight match had the whole gym on its feet. Everett rose to the occasion and beat the Harrison heavy 8-6."

"The fan support was amazing for the Oracles," said Coach Atwood. "I may not be a smart coach but I have learned through the years if you surround yourself with good people, good things will happen. This victory goes to the coaching staff and the kids. I have a great staff in Craig Shaw, Joe Fassnacht, Mark Back Jeff Delaney, Ted Lynde, and Chip Dale. I can't say enough for how these guys work at making our kids better. Shaw has raised the enthusiasm and wrestling skills

ever since he has been here. We have the kids believing in themselves and working their butts off to achieve what we have. It is a tribute to the staff and the kids for the victory."

"There were many ex-wrestlers at the meet and they are just as much a part of it as the guys here," added Atwood. "Wrestling is a crazy sport where you make up one big family. Once you are in, you are always in. This was for them, too."

The Oracles are now 24-9 on the season and will wrestle tonight, Feb. 6, at 7 at Rochester High School. They will wrestle Mishawaka in a duel to see who goes to the state.

The Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association final Top 20 teams for 2007-08 has Delphi ranked 16th.

Individual competition

Three Oracle wrestlers earned champion honors in the Individual portion of the regional

wrestling tournament, held Saturday in Logansport.

At 112 pounds, Floyd beat Craft from Seeger in a close match, 3-2. Floyds' record is now 44-4. At 119, Alderman remained undefeated at 43-0, defending his '07 regional title by pinning Hicks from Seeger in 2:46. Atwood at 160 pinned McCoy of McCutcheon in 5:49 to defend his regional title and run his record to 45-1.

Back at 125 placed second to a tough Winamac opponent. Placing third for the Oracles was 103 Randy McClrath, pinning Draper from Jeff in a time of 0:45.

These five wrestlers advance to semi-state competition on Saturday at Merrillville. The champions will have first round byes.

Placing fourth for the Oracles were: 152 Tyler Cooper, who lost 4-10 to a West Central wrestler. At 189, Delaney lost to a strong

Logansport opponent. Everett lost a close match to the heavy-weight from Harrison, 3-5. Cooper, Delaney and Everett are alternates to semi-state.



*Carroll
County
Comet*

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Carroll's Meade advances to semi-state

Chase Meade, a junior at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School, will compete in the Merrillville Wrestling Semi-State after placing third at the Logansport Regional.

In his first match of the day he pinned Evan Morrow of Twin Lakes. He lost by pin to Aaron Back of Delphi in his second match. He earned his third place finish by pinning Scot Fidler of McCutcheon.

Bender's put-back lifts Oracles over Cougars

By Greg Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

Carroll (6-9) split a pair of home games over the weekend, falling to county rival Delphi (6-11) Friday 67-65 and coming back Saturday with a 56-45 win over Clinton Prairie (7-10).

In a game that was tight all night, Jason Hazel got the Cougars going against Delphi with a two-point bucket. Six ties and two lead changes later

the score was knotted at 16 after one. Jacob Craig led Carroll with 5 points, while Michael Myers and Kory Banes had 8 points each for Delphi.

Two more ties and lead changes followed to start the second quarter before the visitors went on a 16-4 run to take a 12-point, 35-23, lead. The Cougars closed the gap to 7 by half-time, 37-30. Leading scorers in the quarter were Adam Tussinger for Carroll with 5

points and Kyle Bender for Delphi with 7.

The Cougars would fall behind by 9 in the third quarter before they started chipping away at the Oracle lead. By the end of the quarter they had pulled to within one at 50-49. After three, four players for Carroll had four or more points as Hazel led the way with 5. Myers led the Oracles with 7 points.

Delphi then pushed its lead to 6 points at 60-54. From there, Carroll went on a 7 to 0 run to take a one-point lead on a Craig basket.

Both teams gave the packed house its money's worth. The teams traded a pair of buckets when Myers hit for Delphi and Benson for the Cougars. Dustin Oliver's trey with 0:52 seconds left put the Oracles on top 65-63. Justin Brown drove to the basket and tied the game at 65 all.

A Myers drive cleared the way for Bender's game-winning put-back. Carroll's attempt to win or tie fell short.

Both teams put four players in double figures. The Cougars were led by Craig with 18 points; Tussinger had 11 points and Benson and Carson Spesard had 10 points each. Myers led Delphi with a game-high 24 points. Bender added 11 points and Oliver and Justin Snider had 10 points each.

The two teams shot well from the field. Carroll was 4 of 11, 35%, from behind the arch while Delphi was 6 of 11, 55%. Overall Carroll was 26 of 48, 54%, and Delphi was 24 of 48, 50%. From the line, Carroll was 9 of 15, 60%, and Delphi, 13 of 17, 77%.

Vs. Clinton Prairie

Clinton Prairie came out of the gate Saturday night and opened up a 10-2 lead. The Cougars came back with 10 unanswered points to take a 2-point lead at 12-10. Kevin Ives caught fire with a fielder and a pair off treys. Adam Spesard's fielder rounded out the scoring run and Carroll's bench had scored 10 of the teams' first quarter points. The Cougars

were up 13-11 after one.

The second quarter saw the return of Riley Eller to the Carroll line and fans responded with a standing ovation. He had not played since the second game of the season on Dec. 7 due to an ACL injury. He promptly hit two free throws after replacing Carson Spesard.

Five ties and six lead changes in the quarter and the score was tied at 21. The Cougars went on a 6-1 run as C. Spesard had a trey and Eller and Tussinger hit free throws to give Carroll a 27-22 lead. Prairie then closed the half with 4 straight points to cut the lead to one at 27-26.

Neither team could get much going in the third quarter, but the Cougars never trailed, holding a 35-33 advantage at the end of three. With Carroll up 38-35 with 6 minutes left to play, Primmer Zook (off the bench) hit a trey and a basket to push the Cougar lead to a more comfortable 43-35. The Cougars hit 13 of 15 free throws to hold Prairie off for the win.

Carroll's bench outscored Prairie 26 to 5 with Ives leading the way with 13 points. C. Spesard had 12 points and 6 rebounds and Craig added 8 points and 6 rebounds. Carroll out-rebounded Prairie 28 to 15 with Tussinger grabbing 8.

The game Tuesday night that was called because of the power outage at Clinton Central will be played Feb. 13. Next up for Carroll will be a Thursday night game against Class 2A #1 Tipton. The Junior Varsity game will start at 6 p.m.

JV wins 2 of 3

Carroll's Junior Varsity (11-5) defeated Clinton Central 34-27 and Clinton Prairie 52-26, but lost to Delphi 40-34. The Clinton Central game was called with 2:40 left in the game due to a power outage during last Tuesday's storm.

At Clinton Central, the Cougars fell behind 4-0 before going on a 12 to 2 run to take a 12-6 lead after one. Central used an 8 to 2 run to tie the



Carroll homecoming king and queen

Nick Jones and Cally Ayres were crowned Carroll basketball homecoming king and queen at the game last Friday night. Photo provided by Carroll yearbook staff

game at 14 but Carroll was able to regain the lead for an 18-16 advantage after two.

Three ties followed before Central took the lead at 26-23. Carroll's Kyle Geheb hit a basket and a trey to put the Cougars up for good at 28-26. At the end of three, Carroll was up 30-27. Zook was the only player to score in the fourth. He had a pair of baskets before the power went out. Geheb led all scorers with 10 points. Zook added 8.

Against Delphi, the Cougars found themselves down 7-2 after one and down by 11, 15-4 in the second quarter. From there, Carroll started chipping away at the Oracle lead and by half-time had tied the game at 19.

Neither team could get anything going in the third quarter as Delphi outscored Carroll 6-3 to hold a 25-22 lead after three. Carroll started the fourth with a 6-0 run to go up 28-25. Dal-

las Butcher had 2 points, Drew Yoder 3 and Zook 1 in the run. The Cougars could not hold the lead and the Oracles went on to claim the win.

Geheb led Carroll with 8 points; Riley Johnson had 7 and Jordan Brumbaugh 6. Delphi was led by Paul Zink's 21 points. Dustin Salyer added 11.

Prairie had Carroll down 9-7 after one period. Carroll took over in the second quarter as a pair of free throws by Drake Harper and a fielder by Johnson tied the game at 11. Back-to-back fielders by Noah Allen sparked an 18-2 run by the Cougars who held a 29-13 lead at half-time. They continued their run to start the second half with 16 straight points. After the smoke cleared, Carroll had outscored Prairie 34-2 for the win.

Carroll had 9 players score. Geheb led the way with 10 points; Zook and Johnson had 8 points each.



No score for Carroll

Delphi's Kory Banes blocks a shot by Carroll's Brad Benson (#32) Friday night. The fourth quarter kept fans at the edge of their seats with the Oracles pulling out the 67-65 win. Bill Stauffer photo

Oracles lose in double-overtime

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

Coming off of an emotional and hard-fought win over county-rival Carroll Friday night, most wondered how Delphi would respond in its next outing back on the road Saturday against conference foe Rensselaer.

After a relatively flat first half of play, the Oracles did not disappoint anyone with their effort in the second half, although almost all were disappointed in the final result, a 65-54 loss in double-overtime.

As some might have expected after a big win in a rival game, Delphi did indeed come out a bit slowly, not scoring its first field goal until reserve Kory Banes' basket four minutes into the game.

But Justin Snider's three-point desperation-heave from just inside the half-court line at the buzzer to end the first quarter pulled the Oracles to within two points at 12-10.

Although the Bombers were able to maintain the lead, Delphi pulled to within one at 18-17 after an Austin Hawn three-pointer with 2:02 left in

the half. A final 7-0 Rensselaer spurt opened a then-game-high eight point Bomber lead at 25-17 at the intermission.

The Oracles would then begin to chip away at the lead

during the third quarter, pulling to within two points on three occasions - following a Snider trey at 31-29 with 3:47 remaining, again at 33-31 after a Michael Myers basket with

1:38 to play, and finally at 35-33 on a Banes rebound put-back to end the period.

Delphi would briefly tie the contest for the first time since the onset at 35 on a Myers jump shot with 6:11 left in the

final quarter before allowing a three-pointer 30 seconds later to put the Bombers back on top.

The Oracles kept fighting back, taking their first lead of the game at 44-43 following a

Banes lay-up with 1:27 left to play. Another Bomber three followed with a minute to play to put Rensselaer back up.

Myers was fouled driving to the basket with 40.8 seconds

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Royal winners

Delphi Community High School held its winter homecoming basketball game Jan. 18 against Sheridan. Delphi won the game. Two students also came out winners when they were crowned king and queen during halftime. Pictured are the royal pair, senior Kyle Stonebraker and junior Misty Hunt. Photo by Portraits by Lori

Carroll girls enter sectional on five-game win streak

By Jim McCarter
Contributing sportswriter

What a difference a year has made for the Carroll Lady Cougars basketball team. Twelve months ago Carroll had just lost its last nine regular-season games and promptly lost in the first round of the sectional to Lafayette Central Catholic, ending the 2006-07 season with 10-straight losses.

The Lady Cougars picked up two big wins last week to end the 2007-08 season with five-straight victories and an 11-9 record. Carroll girls have not had a winning record since the 1997-1998 season when they went 15-7 and won the Class A

Clinton Central Sectional.

The Lady Cougars got a first-round bye in Class 2A Sectional 37 at Clinton Central and won't play until the second game Friday night. They face the winner of Tuesday's Clinton Central/Delphi match-up. Carroll has not won a sectional title since 1998. That tournament was also played at Clinton Central.

Tri-County @ Carroll

As they have throughout their current winning streak, the Lady Cougars punished Tri-County with stifling full-court pressure to build a big early lead then coasted to a 51-35 victory.

Carroll led 7-5 midway

through the first quarter when coach Mike McCroskey went to the full court press. He got immediate results. Tri-County did not score in the last 4:11 of the quarter, turning the ball over five times in just over three minutes. The Lady Cougars took advantage of those miscues to score seven unanswered points for a 14-5 lead at the first stop.

"Our defense in the first half was awfully good," McCroskey said. "Jaime [McCarter] got her hands on a lot of basketballs tonight, and Jess [Yoder] is so strong. She's been improving all year."

Lay ups by Sarah Griffin and

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