

# Knights prove their ranking to Cougars

By Greg Hoffman  
Contributing sportswriter

Carroll (8-12, 3-2) probably played one of the favorites in the Class A state championship run Friday night, Lafayette Central Catholic. The Knights (16-5, 5-0) are ranked fourth in Class 1A.

On the line was the Hoosier Heartland Conference title. A win by the Cougars would give them a share of the title with Rossville and Central Catholic. A win by CC would give the Knights the title outright. CC won their home game and the conference title with an easy 73-37 victory.

The Cougars again had a hard time keeping their hands on the basketball on the offensive end. They committed 20 turnovers, 10 in each half. And against a team of Central Catholic's caliber, and your chances of an upset go down to zero.

Kevin Ives' trey gave Carroll its only lead at 3-0. CC

Carroll tied it at 3 and two ties later, the Knights took the lead for good at 10-9. They led by 8, 17-9, after one.

Back-to-back fielders by Jacob Craig pulled Carroll back to within 4 at 17-13. CC came right back with 11 unanswered points to take a 28-13 lead. By half-time they were up 37-21.

CC used a suffocating defense in the second half to hold Carroll to 8 of 29 shooting from the field. In the second half CC outscored the Cougars 36 to 16.

Craig was the only Cougar in double figures with 10 points. Adam Spesard had 6 and Brad Benson and Ives split 10 points.

The regular season ended Friday night for Carroll. Tuesday night starts the second season and sectional play for the boys' four-class state tournament.

Carroll moved up to Class 2A this season and will play in the Fountain Central Sectional. The Cougars will play

country rival Delphi in the first game Friday night, set for 6 p.m. Delphi beat the Cougars 67-65 at Carroll on Feb. 1. Carroll leads the overall series 30-22.

**Knights defeat JV**  
Carroll Junior Varsity (13-7) fell to Central Catholic 50-36 Friday night.

The start of this contest was a carbon copy of the varsity game with Kyle Geheb sinking a three-pointer giving Carroll the early lead. Two ties later, CC took the lead for good at 7-6. The Knights led 15-6 after one and 30-19 at the half.

The Cougars chipped away at CC's lead in the third quarter, outscoring their hosts 11 to 6 to pull to within 6 at 36-30 at the stop. A trey by Geheb closed the margin to 3 but a 12-0 Knight run gave them a 48-33 lead, putting the Cougars away.

Geheb led Carroll with 13 points. Noah Allen had 8 points and Riley Johnson, 7 points.



## Grabbing the rebound

Carroll's #33 Carson Spesard stretches for an offensive rebound against Central Catholic last week. Spesard pulled down six boards for the Cougars. Bill Stauffer photo

## Oracles lose regular season finale

By John J. Dunn  
Contributing sportswriter

Sometimes, words simply cannot due a game justice.

This is usually the case when trying to recapture in print-form the excitement and enthusiasm from a closely-played, nail-biter where the good guys nip the opponent at the buzzer!

Those games are fun to cover - even if you can't quite evoke the exhilaration that transpired in the contest.

However, the reverse is also true, albeit not as fun to cover, watch or participate in.

Such was the case last Tuesday night in Delphi's regular season finale against visiting Clinton Central.

On a night where the Oracles honored their seniors prior to tip-off for what would be their final home game, it was the Bulldogs who came away with a surprising 58-44 victory.

Clinton Central (now 8-12) beat Delphi by 14 points on the Oracles' home court on senior night.

Coming off of a spirited effort in a double-overtime loss at South Newton, Delphi gave an equally uninspiring effort in this one.

Usually in a regular season finale at home, let alone senior night, emotions are high and the energy overflowing for the opportunity to perform one last

time in the friendly confines in front of family and friends who are able to attend - it is a moment in time that participants will never have back.

Rarely does a team give as lackluster of an effort as the Oracles put forth against Clinton Central. Almost from the onset the Oracles seemed lethargic, lacking both energy and emotion.

And this was against Clinton Central, not one of the most talented teams on Delphi's schedule this season.

If you consider that both of the Bulldogs' wins over Clinton Prairie this season came after the Gophers lost perhaps their best player - the one whose three-pointer at the final buzzer beat the Oracles earlier this year - and take CP's record since his departure as a better reference, Clinton Central's wins coming into this contest came against teams with a combined record of 19-98.

In addition to Clinton Prairie, they had only beaten Bethesda Christian (5-14), Sheridan (1-18), Eastern (3-16) and Tri-Central (2-17) twice before adding Delphi to their resume.

After a back-and-forth first quarter which saw the Bulldogs in front 14-12 at the break, the Oracles were actually in the game up until the 2:28 mark in the second quarter when two Kyle Bender free throws gave Delphi its final lead of the game at 25-24.

However, over the next four minutes Clinton Central scored 13 straight points - the final six of the first half and the first seven to start the second half to take a commanding 12 point lead with 6:40 left in the third quarter.

Delphi finally came back with a bucket from Dustin

Oliver and a trey from Matt Lewis to pull within seven at 37-30 with 6:00 remaining, but could not get any closer, trailing 47-37 at the end of the third. Michael Myers was the lone Oracle in double-figures with 12 points, followed by Lewis with nine, Bender and Oliver with six apiece, Kory Banes and Austin Hawm with four apiece and Justin Snider with three.

Delphi, now 6-14 and loser in 7-of-its-last-8 games, now must regroup before squaring off against county-rival Carroll (8-12) in Friday night's Class 2A Sectional at Fountain Central (6 p.m. tip-off).

The game will be a rematch of the one played Feb. 1 at Carroll, which saw the Oracles sneak out of town with a 67-65 victory in a game that went down to the final buzzer.

**JV wins, finishes 14-6**

The Delphi JV team capped off an excellent season with a 38-23 victory over Clinton Central. After trailing 8-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Oracles took control of the contest in the second quarter, outscoring the Bulldogs 8-1 to take a 15-9 lead at halftime.

Delphi put it on cruise control the rest-of-the-way, extending its lead to 23-15 by the end of the third quarter and outscoring CC 15-8 in the final period for the relatively easy 15-point victory.

The Oracle JV finishes with a 14-6 overall record on the season and won 9-of-its-last-11 games. Kris Bender led Delphi with 12 points and five assists, while Paul Zink added 11 points. Dustin Salyer finished with six, Tanner Cripe four, Seferino Cervantes three and Jo Britt had two.

## Burton performs well

Friday at the state swim meet preliminaries Andrew Burton moved up from 32nd to 27th place in the 50 freestyle. He also finished 27th in the 100 freestyle, moving up one place.

This season Bur-



Burton

ton set Delphi Community High School records in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 freestyles, and the 100 butterfly. He also helped the 200 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay teams set school records.

## Carroll County Church Dartball



### Individual winners

Dartball league's individual award winners are (l-r): Front - Chuck Anderson, most singles; Landon Meek, Rookie of the Year; and Kenny Scott, most home runs and best RBI. Back - Bob Kingery, most triples; Matt Meek, most doubles; and Jack Lane, most home runs. Comet photo



### League champ

The Carroll County Dartball League champion team for 2007-2008 is the Flora First Christian Church. Team members are (l-r): Front - Josh Spray and Nick Hoffman. Back - Don Spray, Greg Hoffman, Mike Rosinski, Gene Knight, Mike Hoffman, and Jerry Albaugh. Comet photo



### Tourney champ

Valley View Baptist Church in Flora won the church dartball league tournament. Team members are (l-r): Front - Jim Draper, Trevor Ayres, Tim Lane. Back - Van Kauffman, Jack Lane, Eric Hooper. Comet photo



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