

Second quarter costly to Oracles

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

If not for the fortunes of the second quarter, Delphi boys might have experienced a different outcome in both weekend contests with home losses to Class 2A's #3-ranked (12th overall in the state coaches poll) Tipton 75-32 on Friday and in a much-closer game to Frontier 63-49 on Saturday.

The young and injury-depleted Oracles trailed by four at 15-11 after the first period on Friday night against the much taller Blue Devil team. They were ahead of the Falcons by the same score on Saturday.

If not for the second quarter Saturday night, Delphi defeated Frontier by four, 42-38 the rest of the game.

But that second quarter.... Tipton used it to extend a 27-0 run that started with the Oracles leading 11-10 after a Dustin Salyer basket with 1:10 to play in the first quarter to take a commanding 37-11 lead with 1:07 left in the half. Freshman Matt Brown scored Delphi's only points in the second period with :40

seconds remaining.

Indiana University-recruit Derek Elston then finished off the quarter with a three-pointer to put the Blue Devils in front 40-13 at the half, outscoring the Oracles 25-2 in the second quarter.

On Saturday night, the Falcons (2-0) used the second quarter to manhandle Delphi, outscoring them 25-7 to turn a four-point deficit at the end of the first period into a 14-point halftime lead at 36-22.

After an Austin Hawn three-point field goal gave the Oracles a 15-9 lead over Frontier with :50 seconds left in the opening quarter, the Falcons went on a 33-7 overall run that ballooned the lead to their largest of the game at 20 points, 42-22. A Paul Zink bucket with 5:20 left in the third quarter finally stopped the onslaught.

Delphi's tenacity helped cut the lead to a manageable 10-point margin at 47-37 after a basket and two technical free throws from Hawn with :41 seconds to play in the third period. Delphi had the ball for what would be the final possession of the quarter and a chance to cut the

deficit to within single digits to open the final period. But the Oracles could not convert, and Frontier connected on 13 of its final 17 free throws to close the game.

The only glaring statistic from the scorebook that told a difference in the contest and where the Oracles were a bit deficient was turnovers - Delphi (0-4) committed a season-high 25, compared to just 15 for the Falcons.

"Turnovers continue to plague us," Delphi head coach Brian Tonsoni said. "We must work on understanding and executing against trapping defenses."

But no-one can fault the effort exemplified by the team, a valuable attribute noted by the man in charge.

"The one constant thing is our effort," Tonsoni said. "I am extremely proud of how hard our guys are playing."

Hawn led all scores with a career-high 28 points, including 6 threes, while Salyer added 8 points and 6 rebounds, Zink 6 points, Brown 4 and Tanner Cripe 3 points, 6 boards and a game-high 6 assists.

Mack Lopp led the Falcons

with 18 points, followed by Dylan Sterrett and Jon-Marc Ream with 14 apiece.

Friday night vs. Tipton

The Oracles knew going into Friday night's contest that they were facing a serious height mismatch against the Blue Devils (3-0), who featured a front-line that measured 6'8", 6'9" and 7'0" during parts of the game. To add to the shortcoming, Delphi was also playing without injured junior starting guards Justin Snider and Kris Bender, forcing them to start a very young and varsity inexperienced lineup that included three sophomores.

Despite the disadvantages, Delphi played an inspired first period before Tipton's overall talent and size took over behind a 32-point, 14-rebound effort from the highly-regarded Elston.

A disappointment came in the fourth quarter with Tipton ahead by 46 points at 70-24 and just over four minutes left, was still using its aggressive, trapping defense and had several starters still in the game.

The Blue Devils out rebounded Delphi 37-23 and

forced 24 Oracle turnovers in proving that they are indeed a Class 2A state-title contender on the heels of last season's sectional-winning 21-3 team.

Tonsoni is anxious to get a healthy team back on the floor, but revealed a couple of areas that he would like to see his team improve upon for the remainder of the season.

"We need to shoot better as a team and take care of the ball in order to compete," he said.

Salyer led the Oracles with 9 points, followed by Brown with 8 points and a team-high-tying 6 boards. Hawn scored 5 points early, with both Cripe and Zink adding 3 and Jordan Wagner and Quniton Pearson 2 apiece. Zink also had 6 boards to tie for team-lead.

JV beats Frontier

Cole Whitaker led a balanced attack with 10 points, followed by Wagner's 9 and Tyler Smith's 7 to lead the Delphi JV to a 35-24 victory over Frontier.

The Oracles (2-2) turned an 8-0 first quarter deficit into a 14-13 lead at halftime

and outscored the Falcons 21-11 in the second half en route to the victory.

Brown added 6 points, Karson Bender finished with 2 points and Ethan Ross added a free throw for one. Ethan Zarse led the Falcons with 12 points and 7 rebounds.

Against Tipton, the Blue Devil JV also used a big second quarter, outscoring Delphi 27-2 in the period to take a 42-8 halftime lead, paving the way for a 63-15 victory.

Ross led the Oracles with 6 points, followed by Wagner with 4, Brown and Bender with 2 apiece and Gafford with one. Connor Rich nailed 7 three-pointers to lead Tipton with 21 points.

Delphi plays only one game this week at Benton Central on Friday night with the JV starting at 6:30 p.m.

Carroll and Delphi students selected to attend Lugar symposium

Comet staff report

Allyson Sproul and Andrew Miller from Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School and Samantha Mayhew and Cody Ingle from Delphi Community High School

have been selected to attend U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar's annual "Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders" at the University of Indianapolis on Saturday.

Sen. Lugar will open the day-long program with an

address on national and world affairs. Students may choose from the following discussion groups to participate - energy security, Iraq, media responsibility, U.S. leadership in the world, immigration, global warming

and truthfulness. Students will debate opposing views under the leadership of major state and national advocates.

Students are being encouraged to bring canned food items to be donated to

Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis.

4-H News

Junior Leaders

Carroll County Junior Leaders met Monday evening at Monical's Pizza in Delphi. Aaron Goodman and Owen Hicks planned the meeting.

The next meeting was rescheduled to go ice skating in Lafayette on Jan. 31 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Junior Leaders' community service project for December was to bring a gift for the community toy store.

Capital Comments

Indiana's historic referenda

By Larry DeBoer
ldeboer@purdue.edu
Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

It was a historic election for the United States. Indiana held some historic elections, too, though quite a ways down the historic scale from the big presidential vote. We asked voters in 43 townships whether or not to keep their township assessors. And we asked voters in five school corporations and one county whether or not to approve big capital projects.

We've never done either of these things before.

Assessors are the government officials who value property for taxes. The property tax reform passed in March moved the assessing duties of the township trustees to the county assessors, as of July 1. Trustees won't do assessing, but they'll still be responsible for poor relief and fire departments in most townships. Bigger townships had separate elected township assessors. The reform eliminated most of those offices. But the 43 largest townships held referenda to ask the voters whether or not those offices should be dropped. In 30 of 43 townships, a majority of voters said yes.

At the start of 2008, Indiana ranked in the top 10 among states with the most assessing jurisdictions. There were 1,008 townships and 92 counties with assessing responsibilities, 1,100 in total. Now, there will be 92 county assessors and 13 township assessors. That's 105 assessing jurisdictions.

There is research evidence that full-time assessors with modern assessing tools (like computer-assisted mass appraisal) tend to assess property closer to their selling prices. Most township-trustee assessors were part time. There isn't enough property in those townships to keep an assessor busy year-round. The move of assessing duties from township trustees to county assessors ought to improve assessment quality, if the research results hold up. Elected township assessors work full time, so we may not see big improvements where those offices were eliminated.

Research also supports the idea that there are economies of scale in assessing. Big jurisdictions with more properties can as-

sess them at a lower cost per parcel than small jurisdictions. That may apply to moving the work of full-time elected township assessors to the county level. It probably doesn't apply to township-trustee assessors, because we'll be replacing part-time assessors, who were paid little, with full-time assessors with full-time salaries. County-based assessment probably won't reduce costs very much, in most cases.

Curiously, most of the remaining township assessors are in five counties on our northern border, stretching from Lake to Elkhart. The others are also in the northern half of the state, in Allen, Howard, Vigo and Wayne counties. All the township assessor offices in the Indianapolis, Evansville and suburban-Louisville regions were voted out.

Moving property assessment to counties was one of the recommendations of the Local Government Reform Commission (that's the Kernan-Shepard Commission). The commission made 27 recommendations all together, including the complete elimination of township government. If the governor chooses to promote some of these other recommendations, will he face a north-south regional divide?

Capital referenda are another result of the March property tax reform. Money can be borrowed for big projects and repaid out of

property taxes, but only if voters approve. Five school corporations and Jay County held referenda. Voters in four school corporations and Jay County approved. Voters said no in one school corporation.

Research implies that people weigh the benefits and costs of a project when they decide how to vote. Voters who benefit — like parents with kids in school — are more likely to vote yes. Voters who would see their taxes rise a lot to pay for the project are more likely to vote no.

Six referenda are not nearly enough to test these ideas. But three of the four

school referenda that passed were in urban school corporations, where the tax base has a lot of commercial and industrial property. Revenue can be raised at lower tax rates in such places. In years to come, will we find that capital referenda are more likely to pass in urban places? In rural places, with only homes and farmland to support capital spending, will referenda be less likely to pass?

Indiana's 2008 referenda were not historic by presidential standards. Still, if some day someone does write a history of Indiana local government, 2008 should get a chapter.



Students encouraged to serve as pages

Middle and high school students are invited to serve as pages at the Indiana Statehouse by State Senator Brandt Hershman.

During the legislative session, pages spend one day at the Statehouse working with their senator and Senate staff. Student pages start the day in orientation before touring the historic Statehouse. Throughout the day, pages spend time in the Senate Chamber observing the introduction of bills and resolutions, listening to debates and delivering

messages to senators and staff.

Interested students should submit page requests in a letter or e-mail. The student's name — as it would appear on a certificate — address, home telephone number, age and school affiliation need to be included with the request. Friends wanting to page on the same day should send requests together.

To be a page for Hershman, e-mail requests to Senator.Hershman@iga.in.gov or send by mail to: Sen. Brandt Hershman, Indiana Senate, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

APC issued 18 permits in November

Comet staff report

Eighteen permits were issued by the Carroll County Area Plan Commission during November, for improvements amounting to \$874,959.

A residential permit with \$69,830 value was issued to Richard and Ellie Mae Brumbaugh of Jackson Township.

Permits for remodeling and accessories were issued to the following:

Adams Twp. — John and Reta Reiff, addition.

Deer Creek Twp. — Mark and Sarah Royer, lean-to.

Democrat Twp. — Don and Cheri Roberson, porch.

Tippicanoe Twp. — Jennifer Hahn, deck.

Washington Twp. — Tom and Loretta Scagnoli, addition.

Camden — Rickey Zinn, storage.

Delphi — Neil and Abigail Lawless, covered deck.

Rockfield — Norman and Marjorie Been, lean-to.

Commercial/non-traditional permits were issued to:

Deer Creek Twp — Wabash & Erie Canal Association, boat storage.

Democrat Twp. — Richard D. Ayres, cattle barn.

Jackson Twp. — Marvin Graybill, storage.

Monroe Twp. — Samuel and Jane Zook, change roof pitch.

Rock Creek Twp. — Todd and Loretta Combs, storage.

Tippicanoe Twp. — Timothy Crowel, addition to shed.

Delphi — Duane Flora, storage; Jeffrey and Krista Watson, cabin.

The total collected from permits issued was \$2,167, plus:

Rick and Karen Koekenberg, variance application; Ritchey Farms Inc., CFO/CAFO pre-application permit.

Thirteen investigations regarding nuisance, ordinance violation/compliance, and construction were conducted. One flood damage inspection was made and four certificates of occupancy were issued. The department logged a total of 239 miles.



Drs. Wagoner & Wagoner PC
cosmetic & family dentistry

Gordon D. Wagoner DDS, MAGD - Brian D. Wagoner DDS, FAGD

Now offering the innovative new Snap-On Smile appliance

Redo your smile with no shots and no drilling!

Cosmetics ~ Dentures ~ Ortho ~ Sleep Disorders

(574) 967-4434

Toll free (877) 967-4434

17 South Division Street ~ Flora

We do lot loans.

Personal service.

We don't sell our loans.


House with Acreage?

Talk to us!

No acreage limits.
No escrows or PMI required.
Don't have to farm full-time.

Farm Credit Services
OF MID-AMERICA

Deb Jennings
Call 446-0809 or 888-232-9000
www.e-farmcredit.com
421 Meijer Drive, Lafayette




We Care

When you have a sick child, it's hard to tell who is more frightened ... you or your child.

Everyone in our hospital will work to get your child well and home as quickly as possible.

St. Vincent Frankfort Hospital



"The Spirit of Caring"

1300 South Jackson Street • Frankfort, IN • (765)656-3000



Cynthia Harmon
Attorney at Law

103 S. Howard St.
Flora, IN 46929
574-967-4333

Free Initial Consultation

- Divorce & Family Law
- Wills, Trusts & Estates
- Guardianships
- Powers of Attorney
- General Civil Matters

Internet

HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

Unlimited Hours

\$99 One Full Year!
Offer Ends 12/31/08

- FREE 24/7 Live Technical Support
- Instant Messaging - keep your buddy list
- 10 e-mail addresses with Spam Protection
- Custom Start Page - news, weather & more!

Express
Surf up to **6X faster!**
just 13 more per month

Sign Up Online! www.LocalNet.com

Call Today & Save:
LocalNet 765-564-6861

Reliable Internet Access Since 1994