

Oracle wrestlers win Super Invitational

Five wrestlers are champions

Delphi's wrestling team won the Logansport Super Invitational Saturday, defeating five other teams.

The Oracles wrestled Peru in round one, winning 48-33. In round two the Oracles faced Hoosier Conference foe Benton Central, winning 54-15. Round three was a rematch for the Oracles against Culver Academies. Again the Oracles were victorious, winning 52-21. In the fourth round the Delphi team wrestled Fort Wayne South Side, winning 58-21. In the final round, Delphi squared off with Logansport, defeating the Berries 66-10. The Oracles as a team are now 13-4 on the season.

Champions for the day were: 119 lbs. - Stephen Back, 130 - Nathan McTigue, 140 - Tanner Lynde, 171 - Braden Atwood and 285 - Wesley Everett. Winning four matches were 112 - Randy McIlrath, 145 - Aaron Back, 160 - Brandon Delaney and 215 - Travis Yoakum.

The 125 and 152 pound classes won three matches on the day were Cody Alderman and Dayton Rummell. Daniel Clawson won two matches and Austin Jones at 103 won one match.

In a dual meet at Frankfort last week, the Oracles defeated the Hot Dogs. Winners were 103 - Jones, 112 -

McIlrath, 119 -S. Back, 130 - McTigue, 140 -Lynde, 145 - A. Back, 160 -Rummell, 171 - Atwood, 215 -Yoakum, and 285 - Everett.

The Oracles wrestled Tuesday against another Hoosier Conference foe Lafayette West side.

JV

The JV team traveled to Crown Point Saturday to wrestle in an individual tournament. Roy Anderson was Delphi's lone champion. Placing second were Blake Price and Taylor Rose. Placing third were Raul Flores, Cesar Cervantes and Nick Taylor. Brad Roth and Jared McCormick placed fifth and sixth on the day.



Wins on points

Delphi Junior Braden Atwood has his Frankfort opponent under control Saturday. Atwood went on the win his match 15-5 and defeated four other opponents in the Logansport Super Invitational. Bill Stauffer photo.

Lady Falcons grounded by Oracles

By Todd Swank
Contributing sportswriter

The Lady Oracles came home from Frontier with a 49-35 victory to even their record at 4-4. They dropped below .500 with a 61-32 loss to Central Catholic.

For the first time this year both Hannah Strasser and Jordayn Jargstorf were in the starting lineup together. On this night against the Falcons' zone defense they took advantage of the weak spot in the

middle and hit several key baskets to lead Delphi to the win. Not to be out done was the defensive performance of Kari Lake on the Falcons' Kierston Pullins, who is arguably Frontier's best player.

Stasser put back a missed shot to open the game, scoring for Delphi, and followed by consecutive scores by Jargstorf. Delphi led 6-4 halfway through the first quarter when the Falcons' Carly Wesner scored the next eight points for Frontier to

make it 12-8. Frontier. During the last minutes Jargstorf hit one of two free throws followed by baskets by Kari Lake and Randee Schultz to trail by one at 14-13 entering the second period.

Jargstorf put Delphi up 15-14 15 seconds after play resumed and the Oracle defense kept the Falcons from scoring for nearly four minutes. During this time the Oracles could not extend their lead so when the Falcons finally scored they took the lead

back and trailed 20-19 at the half.

After halftime it took less than a minute for the Falcons to score four quick points and grab some momentum. When Natalie Willbanks hit a three pointer for Frontier they had a 27-21 lead and seemed to be in control of the game. Oracle coach Dan Dawson called a timeout with the score 31-25 to set up Delphi's full court press. While this didn't produce many turnovers it did disrupt the Falcons flow. Jargstorf's basket started a comeback by the Oracles. Consecutive baskets by Dani Burge, one a trey, in a 30-second span to close the third brought the Oracles to within one at 33-32.

Whitney Arion hit a three coming out for the fourth to put the Oracles ahead to stay. Frontier could never get any momentum going again as the Oracle defense would only allow the Falcons to score two points in the fourth period while the offense was putting up 17, eight of them by Arion.

Vs. Central Catholic

During a ten minute span in the first and second quarters the Central Catholic Knights turned the tide against the Oracles, and won 61-32.

The Oracles had built an 8-7 lead through the early shooting of Lake, who had scored seven of those points. With that one point lead at the 2:40 mark of the opening quarter the momentum suddenly swung in favor of the Knights. It started when Coach Dawson received a technical foul. The Knights' Sarah Burks sank two free throws to give CC the lead. The Oracles would score a mere five points the rest of the first half while the Knights were putting up 17. CC held a 26-13 halftime lead.

Burge put four points on the scoreboard for the Oracles to open the second half of play, but the Oracles could get no closer than nine. The Knights kept adding to the advantage throughout and they had a 37-23 lead after three.

CC led by 22 (45-23) before the Jargstorf could get a ball to

go through the basket in the final period. It was too little, too late for the Oracles as they were outscored 24-9 in the fourth. CC won its fifth game in a row to go to 6-4 for the year while the Oracles fall to 4-5 on the season.

The Oracle JV team was attempting a come back from a double digit deficit but ran out of time and was edged by CC. 41-36.

Carroll County Comet
Delphi, Indiana
December 17, 2008

Lady Cougars claw past Vikings and Panthers for 2 more wins

By Patrick Hickner
Contributing sportswriter

Carroll used aggressive defense, a hounding press and great rebounding to win the battle of two poor shooting teams, 37-29.

This game started as several recent games have started, slowly. Both North White and Carroll struggled to find the bottom of the net with the round ball. The Cougars did manage a 6-1 lead midway through the 1st quarter but NW came storming back and the quarter ended with Carroll leading 7-6.

Much of the same play persisted into the 2nd period, with slightly more scoring by both teams. Once again Carroll opened a lead against the Vikings, 17-11 with 3:12 to play, only to see the lead evaporate in the last half of the quarter and end the half tied at 17 apiece.

North White made 8 of 20 shots from behind the arc to keep the game close. Carroll countered by winning the rebounding category 27-22 against the larger Lady Vikings. The Lady Cougars opened a 31-23 lead by the end of the 3rd period, a lead they would not relinquish.

Coach Mike McCroskey used a slow-down offensive set in the final minutes of the game to preserve the victory. His lady Cougars struggled from the field; however, they

Carroll Classic
When: Saturday
Teams: Carroll, Lowell, Peru and Clinton Prairie
The Lady Cougars will play Lowell in the second morning game. All contributions from the Classic benefit the Carroll Memorial Scholarship Fund.

were able to convert from the free throw line when NW came out of their zone and began fouling. Carroll out scored North White from the charity stripe 13-1. Abby Reinke led the Cougars with 13 points and 6 rebounds. Jess Yoder added 9 points and 7 rebounds.

Vs. Pioneer

Saturday afternoon Pioneer brought two six-footers on the low post and left with a 15-point loss to the Cougars, 50-35.

The Lady Cougars found a shooting rhythm early in the game after Pioneer won the opening tip. The Panthers turned the ball over 13 times in the first quarter and 29 for the game. Carroll used these extra possessions to build a 21-4 first quarter lead.

The 2nd period saw the Lady Cougars cool from the field. The Panthers were able to find a small amount of success against the Cougar press. They tried to use their height advantage during the quarter with some success. The 6'11" Katy Fox scored and banged around for rebounds, but in the end Carroll held a 26-15 half-time lead.

During the third stanza, Carroll had opened its lead to 36-17 with 2:20 to play. Again, turnovers bit the Panthers hard as they gave up the ball 8 times in the period. Carroll continued to do an excellent job of keeping the larger Panthers off the boards as they continually had one shot and Carroll rebounded.

The 4th quarter opened with the Lady Panthers shooting 3s and missing them. Several possessions were extended as the Panthers rebounded their misses and tried again, usually without success. Carroll used good passing and open lanes to the basket to maintain a 20-point cushion most of the quarter. Carroll led 50-30 with 2:00 minutes left when coach McCroskey emptied his bench. Carroll struggled to hold onto the ball and allowed Pioneer several baskets that closed the gap to the final score of 50-35.

Carroll was led by Reinke's double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. She also contributed 5 assists. Quincy Eller had 14 points to go with 7 rebounds and 4 steals. J. Yoder added 10 points and senior Alisha Hedrick 6 points.

Cougars knock off Caston & Cass

By Greg Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

The Cougars kept their season perfect last weekend with a pair of road wins. Friday night they easily defeated Caston 74-41 and Saturday night defeated Lewis Cass 40-27. This is Carroll's first victory over Cass in 11 years.

The last time a Carroll team started a season at 4-0 the present Cougar squad was one or two years old and some were not even born yet. The 1991-92 team went 9-0 out of the gate and ended the season at 18-3.

At Caston, the Cougars dominated the younger Comets at both ends of the court. Carroll's inside game took off from the outset as baskets by Carson and Adam Spesard set the tone for the Cougars who quickly went up 4 to 0. By the end of the first quarter Carroll was up 19-8 and had increased their margin to 22 points by half time at 40-18. The Cougars steadily increased their lead to 34 points at the end of three quarters and held their biggest lead to 39 points (67-26) early in the fourth quarter. With the big lead, Coach Jeff Hodson was able to use his bench freely the final half.

On the defensive end, Carroll's harassing pressure defense kept the Comets off balance and forced them into 19 turnovers.

much for Caston to handle. They scored 16 and 15 points and combined the pair were 14 of 19 from the field.

Carroll was an excellent 32 of 55 from the field (50%) and hit 5 of 9 from the line (56%), while Caston was 14 of 34 from the field (41%) and 11 of 14 from the line (79%). Carroll's bench outscored Caston 25 to 4.

Vs. Cass

Carroll could not get it going offensively early at Cass. Both teams were ragged in their play. The Kings were up 3-2 when Riley Eller put in a lay-up with 30.3 seconds left in the quarter to put the Cougars up for good at 4-3.

Eller took over on the offensive end scoring 13 points in the quarter on 5 of 6 shooting. Five quick points and a basket by C. Spesard put the Cougars up 11-3 and back-to-back treys by Eller pushed the lead out to 17-3. A Brad Benson basket and an Eller 2-pointer put Carroll up 21-3 at intermission.

When the smoke cleared, Carroll had outscored Cass 17-0 in the second quarter. Carroll's defense held the Kings to 1 of 17 (6%) shooting in the half and numerous unforced errors by the Kings led to 19 turnovers by the hosts.

Cass's three points for the half set the record for fewest points allowed in a half by a Carroll team (the

old number was 7).

The second half was a different story. The Kings controlled the offensive boards with 15 in the half and were able to close to within 8 points at 28-20 early in the fourth quarter. The Cougars connected on 8-of-8 free throw shooting down the stretch to hold Cass off and get the win.

Eller had his best offensive game of the season with 24 points. C. Spesard added 8 points and A. Spesard 6 points. Cass was led by Kitt O'Brien with 15 points and 14 rebounds (11 on the offensive end).

Carroll shot a poor 13 of 31 (42%) from the field and 12 of 15 (80%) from the line, while Cass was 10 of 46 (22%) from the field and 6 of 14 (43%) from the line. Cass outscored Carroll 33-22.

"Our defense has been the key to our success so far this year," said Coach Hodson. "I really thought we did a good job in our play this weekend." Next up for Carroll will be Hoosier Heartland foe Rossville at home.

JV remains perfect

Carroll's Junior Varsity, like the Varsity, stayed perfect at 4-0 with wins over Caston, 46-19, and Cass, 43-34, in overtime.

It was all Carroll at Caston. The Cougars led at all stops - 13-4 after one, 25-9 at halftime, and 33-12 after three. Carroll had three players in

Benton Central overpowers Oracles

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

Benton Central entered Friday night's home opener against Delphi with a clear offensive game plan: Pound the ball inside in order to benefit from its significant size advantage.

The rugged Bison were able to execute it to perfection during a 68-47 triumph against the smaller, younger and less experienced Oracles in the Hoosier Conference opener for both teams.

The traditionally-tough Class 3A Bison (3-2) used size, strength and experience to pummel Delphi in the paint with a talented senior frontline of 6'4" Taylor Schoen, 6'5" Mitchell Borgman and 6'3" Jordan Brier.

Bookend post players

double figures as Tim Ruby led the way with 14 points and Riley Johnson had 12 and Chad Griffin 10.

At Cass the game was tied at 9 at the first stop. The Cougars opened up the lead to 3 points, 19-16, at the end of two quarters. Cass fought back to tie the game at 24 at the end of three. The two teams played even in the fourth quarter and when time expired were knotted at 32 all.

In the overtime, Griffin took over and scored 9 of his 15 points as Carroll outscored Cass 11 to 2. Riley Johnson also was in double figures for the game with 10 points.

Last week's game

The Comet inadvertently omitted Hoffman's Carroll boys' basketball write-up in last week's issue. The write-up included how a sick grandmother's wish came true when four of her grandsons started a Carroll varsity basketball game together. Carol Spesard, who has been battling cancer, wanted to see her grandsons, brothers Carson and Aaron Spesard, and cousins, Adam Spesard and Drew Yoder, in a game at the same time. Coach Jeff Hodson made that wish come true when he started the four, along with Riley Eller, against Tri County. Mrs. Spesard was unable to attend, but the game, won by Carroll, was taped for her to see.

For the complete story on the game see the Comet's website.

Schoen and Borgman combined for 38 points on 15-of-20 shooting (.750 percent) from the field, most on size mismatches underneath, in helping Benton Central outscore the Oracles 26-18.

The huskier Bison also put a veteran team on the floor, starting three seniors and two juniors, in contrast to Delphi, still hurting without the services of junior Justin Snider, which usually starts two sophomores, two juniors and a senior, with only one of them measuring above 6'0".

Delphi head coach Brian Tonsoni rebuffs the opportunity to use the obvious on-paper disparities as a justification as he continues to look for areas of improvement for this year's team.

"We must keep digging deep to find ways to guard the post area," he said. "We are making improvements but they have not been big enough for us to win."

"Right now, one area gets better and another falls short....in this game we took care of the ball better and had 14 assists to 13 turnovers but we did not execute our post defense at all," Tonsoni added. "We need to improve our focus and concentration in all areas for us to change the results."

Indeed, not all was bad for the Oracles, along with the season-best-tying efforts in both assists and turnovers, Delphi shot well for the second game in-a-row from behind the three-point line (6-of-14, .429 percent) and was decent from the charity-stripe (9-of-13, .692 percent).

But it was not enough to overcome the Bison, who shot .613 percent overall (27-of-44) and .718 percent (23-of-32) from inside of the three-point arc, while commit-

Holda is 5-0 in Heartland Invitational

Carroll wrestlers competed Saturday in the Hoosier Heartland Invitational on Saturday. The Cougars lost to Seeger, Rossville, and Pioneer but finished strong at the end of the day against Central Catholic with a final score of 54-21.

Josh Holda received the "One Bad Cat" award. He went 5-0 with pins against Central Catholic, Pioneer and

Seeger. Holda also tied with Cody Kelly for the fastest takedown. Chase Meade had the fastest pin and finished with a 4-1 record. Trey Overholser, Jake Walker, Jared Collins and Kameron Casto all finished with 3-2 records.

The next meet is at home against Lewis Cass today, Wednesday, and then at Rossville on Thursday.