

Cougars claim tourney championship

Remain undefeated

By Greg Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

Carroll won the 49th annual Clinton Central Holiday Tourney, defeating the (2-6) host team in the championship game to remain undefeated at 7-0. This was Carroll's ninth Clinton Central Tourney title.

The two games were almost carbon copies of each other. The Cougars defeated the Bulldogs Saturday night 58-43 and Tri-Central Friday night by the same score. The Cougars struggled both nights in the first half, then put their opponents away in the second half to claim the wins.

In the championship game, the Bulldogs took the early lead and with the score tied at 4 all, Central went on a 7-0 run to go up 11-4. The Cougars fought back to within 3 at 15-12 after one.

The hosts then pushed their lead back out to 5 points, 20-15, and held a 4 point advantage, 24-20, at half-time.

Carroll could not buy a basket in the first half, hitting none of 8 attempts on 3-pointers and only 8 of 27 overall (30%). Clinton Central was 10 of 21 (48%).

The Cougars took over in the third quarter with an 8-0 run to start the half. They took the lead for good at 28-24 with 3 minutes left in the quarter and were up 39-32 at the end of three. Adam Spesard took over on the inside for Carroll with 8 points on 4 of 6 shooting. Riley Eller added 5 points and Carson Spesard 4 points as the Cougars outscored the Bulldogs 19-8 in the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Carroll used 5 of 7 shooting from the field and 9 of 12 shooting from the line to hold off the Bulldogs.

For the second half, Carroll was 13 of 22 (55%) from the field and 11 of 14 (79%) from the line, while holding Clinton Central to 7 of 23 (30%) from the field. For the game, Carroll was 21 of 49 (43%) from the field and 15 of 21 (71%) from the line. Clinton Central was 17 of 48 (35%) and 5 of 10 (50%).

Adam Spesard had a double-double with a game and career high 24 points and 12 rebounds. Eller had 12 points and Drew Yoder, 9 points. Carson Spesard pulled down 8 rebounds. Noah Allen had a good floor game with 3 assists and 5 steals. Yoder handed out 3 assists and Eller had 4 steals.

Friday night, the Cougars could not shake the winless Trojans in the first half. They never trailed in the

game and late in the first period had built an 8-point lead, 16-8. From there Tri-Central ran off 6 unanswered points to close the gap at 2 points, 16-14, early in the second stanza. The Cougars built their lead back to 6 points, but a trey by Tri-Central at the horn gave Carroll only a 3-point lead, 26-23, at half-time. Eller led Carroll in scoring with 14 points and was 3 of 5 from behind the arch. Tri-Central stayed with the Cougars by going inside. The Trojans were 8 of 13 (62%) from the field, while the Cougars were 8 of 23 (35%).

It was all Carroll in the second half. They went on a 24-2 run to take a 50-25 lead and coasted the rest of the way.

For the second time this year, Carroll held a team scoreless in a quarter, outscoring the Trojans 18-0 in the third quarter with Adam Spesard leading the way with 10 points.

Carroll was 12 of 18 (67%) from the field in the half while Tri-Central was 8 of 23 (35%) and 0 of 7 in the third quarter. For the game, Carroll was 20 of 39 (51%) and Tri-Central was 16 of 36 (44%).

Eller led the Cougars in scoring with 20 points. He was 5 of 8 on three point attempts. Adam Spesard added 14 points and 7 rebounds, while Allen added a career high 10 points. Carroll had 9 steals total with Yoder claiming 4 and Allen 3. Brad Benton handed out 4 assists off the bench.

By press time Carroll will have already played Class 3A Western Tuesday night. Saturday, the Cougars travel to (4-3) Eastern.



Working hard for 2

In Saturday's championship game of the Clinton Central Holiday Tourney, Carroll's Adam Spesard scores two of 24 points over (40) Evan Pohl with (22) Dylan Padgett watching the action under the basket. Photo provided by Indianaphoto.net

Lady Oracles fall to Cass

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

Cold-shooting and a lot of turnovers were on display in apenty Saturday afternoon in Walton in the Lady Oracles' first game back following the holiday break as Delphi fell to Lewis Cass 43-34.

The Lady Kings were able to survive the battle of poor shooting and suspect ball-handling in part by dominating the boards, out rebounding the Oracles 44-27, and hitting free throws, especially in the second half. Cass hit 11-of-14 (.786 percent) from the charity stripe and 14-of-18 (.778 percent) overall to seal the win, de-

spite committing 30 turnovers.

But Delphi was never quite able to get over the hump in this one, committing 27 turnovers of its own and shooting just .272 percent overall (12-of-44) and .176 percent (3-of-17) from behind the three-point arc.

To make matters worse, the Lady Oracles were only able to connect on .500 percent (7-of-14) of their free throw shots during the contest.

Despite these shortcomings, Cass was never really able to put the game away either as Delphi played just well enough to stay close, but not well enough to overcome the Kings lead with a spurt that Coach Dan Dawson and the Oracle faithful were waiting on.

After falling behind 20-12 at the half, the Lady Oracles started the second half with a burst of momentum, pulling to within three points at 22-19 with a 7-2 rally before a final run by Cass put the lead back at six points at 31-25 to close the third period.

But Delphi would still keep it interesting, scoring the first basket of the final period to pull to within four at 31-27, and with the possession of the ball with a chance to get as close as it had been since the opening buzzer. The Oracles could not convert as the

Kings went on to put on a free throw clinic from the charity stripe to close the game.

Cass (2-9) also shot a miserable .292 percent (14-of-48) from the field, but converted enough freebies and came up with the defensive stops at the right moments to earn the win.

Hannah Strasser led the Oracles with nine points and five rebounds, followed by both Whitney Arion and Dani Burge with eight points apiece.

Brittani Rhodes added four points off the bench, while Randee Schultz had three and both Chanler Norman and Jordayn Jargstorf had a point apiece. Jargstorf also had five rebounds.

Alisha Allison led Cass with 13 points, followed by Adrienne Ayers with 10.

JV beats Cass

The Lady Oracle JV was able to hold onto to defeat Lewis Cass 42-29.

Brittney Abbott paced Delphi with 13 points, followed by Hannah Evans with 10, Cassie Oliver and Schultz with five apiece and Tiahna Catron with two.

The Delphi Varsity (5-7) will next host Hoosier Conference foe Tipton on Saturday at 1 p.m., while the JV will host McCutcheon at 11 a.m.

Carroll JV wins Clinton Prairie Tourney

By Greg Hoffman
Contributing sportswriter

Carroll Junior Varsity won their version of the annual Holiday Tourney at Clinton Prairie High School Dec. 30.

The Cougars defeated Clinton Central 54-43 in the morning session and then came back in the afternoon to defeat Tri-Central 60-49 for the championship.

Against Clinton Central, Carroll was down for most

of the first half. The Bulldogs led 14-13 after one and 29-27 at half-time. The Cougars took over in the second half, outscoring Clinton Central 27-14. Carroll went inside to 6'10" Riley Johnson, who had 12 of his game high 18 points in the second half. Tim Ruby and Mitch Whitham had 8 each.

In the title game, Carroll was down by 2, 10-8, to Tri-Central after one period. The Cougars rallied in the

second quarter to outscore Tri-Central 20-12 and were up 28-22 at intermission. Whitham led Carroll with 10 points in the quarter and Chad Griffin helped out with 6 points. The Cougars never relinquished their lead, outscoring the Trojans 32-27 in the second half.

Griffin led Carroll with 18 points. R. Johnson had 15 points and Whitham added 12. The Cougars now have a 6-1 season record.

Cougar wrestlers place 4th at Twin Lakes

Carroll wrestling team competed last week in the Twin Lakes Invitational, earning a fourth place finish out of ten teams. The Cougars defeated Wes Central 51-27, Frontier 68-12, Caston 51-21, and Lew Wallace 66-18.

Chase Meade, Josh Holda, and Montana Gangwer all finished with 5-0 records, Meade had one forfeit, and Holda and Gangwer had two each. Kameron Casto earned a 4-1 record with one forfeit. Cody Kelly had a 3-2 record with no forfeits.

Fastest takedown went to Tony Ashenfelter in five seconds, and fastest pin in seven seconds. Gangwer was awarded the One Bad Cat for the week. Freshman performer went to Casto. Powerful Performers were Meade, Holda, and Trey Overholser.

The next meet is at home Thursday at 6 p.m. against Caston.



Quick pin

Carroll senior Chase Meade is seen right before he pinned his Frontier opponent in 12 seconds at the Twin Lakes Invitational on New Year's Eve. Photo provided

Everett, Atwood remain undefeated

Delphi wrestling team competed in the North Montgomery Super Duals over the holiday break. With four teams ranked in the top 20, the Oracles went 2-5 and were close in a few others.

Delphi's dual meet record is 15-9. Scores were as follows: Delphi 26, Warren Central 33; Delphi 52, North Montgomery 17; Delphi 27, #10 Carmel 46; Delphi 29, #14 New Palestine 30; Delphi 30, Bloomington South 25; Delphi 24, #12 Portage 51; and

Delphi 10, #5 Perry Meridian 59.

Individually, the Oracles had two champions. Wes Everett at 285 went 7-0 and pinned all of his opponents in the first period. Braden Atwood went 7-0 with four pins, two tech falls and a major decision in the 171 class. Both Everett and Atwood are undefeated at 24-0 on the season.

Tanner Lynde finished second in his 140-pound weight class with a 5-2 finish. Both losses were to ranked oppo-

nents. Nathan McTigue finished fourth in his weight class at 130.

Other Oracle placings were: 103 - Austin Jones 5th (not 4th), 112- Cesar Cervantes 6th, 125- Stephen Back 6th, 160 - Brandon Delaney 6th, 189 - Daniel Clawson 6th, 215 - Travis Yoakum 5th.

The Oracles will be in action today, Wednesday, at Delphi Community High School, wrestling the West Lafayette Red Devils at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

Call-outs

Delphi elementary wrestling camp

Delphi wrestling team will host an elementary camp for all students in grades K-5. The camp will be held every Monday and Wednesday starting Jan. 12 and continuing until spring break in March. The camp will be from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the old Middle School Gym. The cost will be just \$10 per student.

Delphi high school wrestlers will be coaching, along with the high school coaches.

For more information, contact Mike Atwood at atwoodm@delphi.k12.in.us or 765-414-4544.

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