

Oracles hold on to conference title

Delphi wrestling team won its third consecutive Hoosier Conference title Saturday by placing all 14 wrestlers in the top four.

Conference champions were: 112 lbs. - Randy McIlrath, 119 - Stephen Back, 130 - Nathan McTigue, 140 - Tanner Lynde, 145 - Aaron Back, 160 - Brandon Delaney, 171 - Braden Atwood, 215 - Travis Yoakum, and 285 - Wes Everett. Atwood remained unde-

feated for the season.

At 135, Cory Smith finish in second place. Third place finishers were 125 Bob Floyd and 152 Dayton Rummell. Fourth place finishes went to 103 Raul Flores and 189 Daniel Clawson.

Team scores were: Delphi 299.5, Benton Central 211.5, Tipton 183, Twin Lakes 162, West Lafayette 144, Rensselaer 127 and Sheridan 72.



Conference champions

Oracle wrestlers in gold and black are pictured: Top right - Braden Atwood, who remains undefeated in the 171-lb. weight class. Bottom, left to right - Randy McIlrath,

112-lb. class, Tanner Lynde, 140-lb. class, and Travis Yoakum, 215-lb. class. Photos by Portraits by Lori

Oracles beat Tri-County in tourney consolation

Zink, Hawn earn All-Tournament honors

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

Delphi nearly played to perfection Saturday night at Chalmers during a 60-46 victory over Tri-County in the consolation game of the White County Tournament. They fell 56-44 in the first-round to host Frontier.

Frontier went on to defeat North White 57-40 in the championship to finally win the White County Tournament after losing in the finale to Tri-County each of the past three years.

After struggling with turnovers and with shooting percentage at times during the season, the Oracles were able to perform well in the same game in both areas Saturday night, setting season-highs in points scored (60), field goal percentage (.667, 22-of-33), three-point field goal percentage (.600, 6-of-10) while committing a season-low of seven turnovers.

And for the first time this season, the Oracles played a game in which they led the entire way and never trailed, leading 15-7 at the first break, then increasing the lead each of the next two quarters - up to 16 at 35-19 at the half, then to 19 at 46-29 at the end of three quarters, before settling for the 14-point margin of victory.

Delphi jumped to an early 6-0 lead on back-to-back three-pointers from Austin Hawn to force the first Cavalier timeout less than three minutes into the contest and did not miss a single shot during the entire quarter, shooting a perfect 5-for-5 from the field, 3-of-3 from the three-point arc and 2-of-2 from the foul line, while holding Tri-County (0-10) to just two baskets for the entire quarter.

Paul Zink then parlayed the Oracle's pressure defense into five quick points, pushing the lead to 20-10 to open the sec-

ond period as Delphi continued to blister the nets at .765 percent (13-of-17) from the field for the half.

Delphi built the lead to a high of 20 points at 44-24 after a Hawn three-pointer with 3:20 left in the third period.

Tri-County did have a 15-6 mini-spurt to get back to within 50-39 before another Hawn three-pointer provided the final dagger to push the Oracle lead back up to 14 with 2:52 to play en route to the final margin of victory.

Hawn finished with 14 points, including 4-of-7 from behind the arc, to share game-high scoring honors with Justin Snider, whose 14 points were a season-high in just his fourth game back from injury.

Zink added nine points, Dustin Salyer had eight points and a game-high seven assists, while Kris Bender had eight points, Tanner Cripe five and Matt Brown two.

First-round: vs. Frontier

Delphi was hoping to improve upon the result of its 63-49 loss to Frontier on Dec. 6 in White County Tournament first-round action Saturday morning. The game had been postponed from Friday night due to weather. The Oracles were successful in almost every statistical category ex-

cept the one that really counts - the win column.

Despite posting better marks than in the previous contest in three-point shooting (.429 percent to .350 percent), overall shooting (.529 to .375), steals (8 to 7), assists (16 to 14), and committing fewer turnovers (18 to 25), the Oracles were only able to shave two points

off of the final deficit this time around, in part to being out-rebounded 19-11 and allowing many more points off of turnovers than they were able to generate.

From the onset, Delphi's game-plan was to control the ball offensively against the Falcon zone, with lengthy possessions that featured a lot of passing around the perimeter, while rarely looking for a shot in an effort to shorten the game by taking time off of the clock, and limiting opponent's possessions. Using this strategy to reduce opposing scoring opportunities would hopefully result in a lower score that would keep the game closer for a longer period of time, with the ultimate goal of having a chance to win at the end by keeping it close throughout.

It worked for awhile as the Oracles held onto the ball for most of the first period, scoring on three-pointers from both Hawn and Snider and limiting Frontier to a few possessions to take a 7-3 lead at the first break.

Jordan Wagner opened the second quarter with a jumper to put Delphi in front 9-3 before the Oracles experienced another second quarter meltdown, going scoreless over the next 5:12. That led to a 12-0 Falcon run before Hawn nailed a three-pointer with 1:58 left in the half to keep it close at 15-12.

But Frontier (8-2) would close the half with another 7-2 run to take a 22-14 lead into the halftime intermission.

See Oracles beat page 2B

Body Safety program coming to Carroll schools, community

Comet staff report

National trainer Terry Hall will give a public presentation at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School on keeping children safe.

He will speak Jan. 26 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. His topics will be: How to identify indicators of child molest, words to practice with children to help keep them safe, and dispelling myths about child molestation.

The presentation is for adults only; content is not appropriate for children.

The following are encouraged to attend: Parents, other child advocates, social service workers, childcare workers, youth ministers, Scout leaders, and law enforcement.

Hall will also give presentations to Carroll students, K-12, on Jan. 27. The school program he has developed, called Body Safety, is about "Protecting Through Empowerment." The programs will be given sepa-

rately to K-2, 3-6, middle school, and high school students.

Hall is a 38-year veteran in the field. In the last 10 years, his passion and dedication for protecting children has led to his training of over 10,000 prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers at the local, state, and federal levels, in regard to children's issues.

He also has been actively involved with training for universities, law enforcement academies, national judicial conferences, and department in-service training. He recently was requested to instruct the Department of Human Services employees.

Through his school program, he has talked to more than 600,000 children and adults.

Carroll elementary guidance counselor Amy Hickson has attended his training. Questions about his program can be directed to her at 574-967-4881.

Lady Oracles rally to victory

By John J. Dunn
Contributing sportswriter

The Lady Oracles were able to wear down a talented Faith Christian team with a furious fourth quarter rally in a dramatic come-from-behind 55-53 victory in the final seconds Saturday afternoon in Delphi.

Delphi (6-8) had a lot to overcome as the Eagles made their first seven field goal attempts, including three three-pointers, to jump in front to a 17-7 lead midway thru the first quarter on the way to a 26-15 at the first break, which was extended to 39-26 at the half-time intermission.

Faith Christian, which featured a very skilled starting lineup, used only one substitute for a very brief stint in the opening half, while shooting an impressive .552 percent (16-of-29) overall from the field and an extraordinary .714 percent (5-of-7) from behind the three-point arc.

But the second half, specifically the fourth quarter would tell another story and would expose the lack of depth off of the Eagle bench after three starters fouled out and a fourth one had four fouls.

Having to substitute more freely due to foul trouble in the

third quarter, Faith Christian (10-3) slowed from its torrid offensive pace, shooting only 2-of-8 (.250 percent) and scoring only nine points in the period. But the Lady Oracles were unable to capitalize, shooting 1-of-12 (.083) themselves in the quarter, to still trail 48-34.

Methodically as the fouls continued to mount against the Eagle starters, Delphi was able to creep back in the final period, using a full-court pressure defense to force several turnovers. They slowly trimmed the lead until finally pulling within two points at 53-51 on a Whitney Arion three-pointer with just under two minutes to play.

After yet another Faith Christian turnover, Hannah Strasser tied the game at 53-53 for the first time since it was 2-2 just after the opening tip.

Taking advantage of missed free throws, turnovers and limiting the Eagles' offensive opportunities, the Lady Oracles finally took their first lead since Chanler Norman's basket on Delphi's first possession of the game on two Jordayn Jargstorf free throws with 23.3 seconds to play.

Faith Christian had a chance to tie the score, but missed a

pair of free throws in the final seconds. Strasser snared her game-high 12th rebound off of the second miss to seal the victory.

Delphi outscored the Eagles 21-5 in the final period, limiting them to just five field goal attempts (made one, .200 percent) while forcing eight of the 20 total Faith Christian turnovers during the quarter.

Arion led the Oracles with a career-high 21 points, including 5-of-9 from three-point range, while Strasser added 15, Jargstorf nine, Kari Lake four, Norman three, Dani Burge two and Randee Schultz one.

It was Delphi's only game of the week after its home game against Clinton Central scheduled for Thursday night was postponed due to weather.

There was no Junior Varsity contest since the Faith Christian does not have a JV team.

Delphi played at Rossville on Tuesday night (too late for print in this week's edition of the *Comet*), and will return home to host Hoosier Conference foe Sheridan on Saturday for a varsity game only scheduled for 11 a.m. and Tri-County on Tuesday with a 6 p.m. JV tip-off.

Carroll to host Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser

Comet staff report

Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School is sponsoring a Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser this Saturday afternoon and evening during the varsity and JV girls and boys basketball games.

According to Carroll athletic director Shaun Rose, ten percent of the gate proceeds will be given to the American Cancer Society. He said there will also be buckets at the gate and concession stand for additional free-will donations for the cancer society.

Lady Cougars streak past Caston Comets

By Patrick Hickner
Contributing sportswriter

The Carroll Lady Cougars headed to Caston for a date with the Comets last Saturday evening. They began the game just like the weather outside - very cold. Luckily, senior Amber Hughes brought her hot game and the Cougars returned to Flora with a 23 point victory, 46-23.

The first quarter was ugly for both teams. Carroll struggled getting the ball to go through the hoop. Carroll also found it difficult to stop the penetration of senior Loeffler from Caston as she scored all 9 of the Comet's points in the quarter. Caston led 9-6 at the first break.

The second and third quarters were all Carroll. The Cougars used these two periods to outscore Caston 28-5 and take command of the game. Carroll's defense against Loeffler improved and she picked up some fouls that

resulted in being on the bench for a long time. During the second period is when the Cougars found Amber Hughes with a very hot shooting touch. Hughes was left open on several occasions and she made Caston pay. Hughes scored five points in the quarter and led Carroll for the game with 13 points. She shot 72% from the field for the game, making 5 of 7 shots from the field including two 3-pointers.

Carroll used its same trapping press to create turnovers and made it difficult for Caston to get into its offense. Caston scored 1 point in the 3rd quarter. Carroll expanded its lead in the fourth to the final margin of 23. The Lady Cougars were able to out-rebound the Comets 29-20. Carroll also out-shot Caston for the game 50% to 27%. The Cougars use a lot of hustle to win these games.

Also into the box score were several other notable Cougars. Jess Yoder had 11 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals.

She was followed by Quinci Eller with 8 points, 3 assists and 4 steals. Not to be left out, Abby Reinke put up 5 points, grabbed a career high 13 rebounds and handed out 6 assists. Senior Alisha Hedrick contributed 7 points in the winning effort.

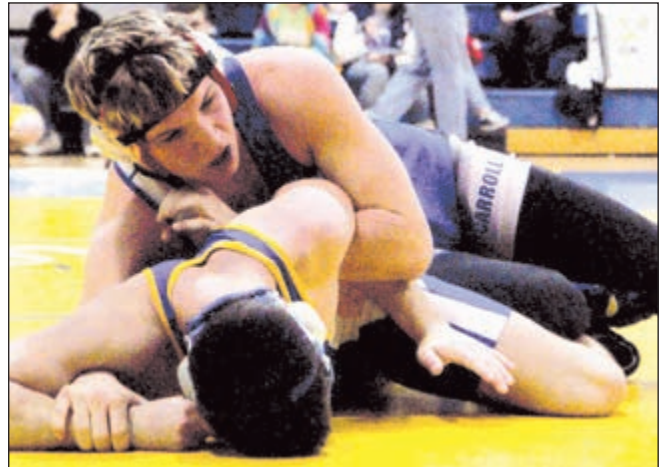
Carroll's next challenge is Thursday at Lafayette Central Catholic. The JV will tip at 6 p.m., followed by the varsity at 7:30.

Carroll takes 2nd in invitational

Carroll wrestlers competed in the Tri Central Invitational on Saturday and placed second out of four teams. Montana Gangwer and Josh Holda were undefeated in their weight classes.

Chase Meade, Jared Collins, Kameron Casto, and Dillon Hicks all finished 3-1. Hicks also had the fastest take down in 5 seconds, and fastest pin in 33 seconds.

This week the Cougars were at home against South Newton on Tuesday and will have another invitational on Saturday at 9 a.m. at Clinton Central.



Wins competition

Carroll sophomore Montana Gangwer defeated a competitor in the 152-pound weight class at Saturday's Tri Central Invitational. Photo provided

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