

St. Thomas More Stops EPJ

Parkston Classic: Cavs Score First 16 Points In 65-41 Victory

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PARKSTON — Taking their first big test of the 2013-14 season, the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies learned they still have work to do. Top-ranked St. Thomas More scored the first 16 points of the game and built out to a 28-6 lead on the way to a 65-41 victory over the Huskies in the final game of the Parkston girls' basketball Classic on Saturday at the Parkston Armory.

Ciara Duffy scored seven of the next eight points as the Cavaliers led 16-0 just five minutes into the game. "We played scared. We came out scared," said Elk Point-Jefferson head coach Gary Nebelsick. "We are way better than we showed in the first five minutes. You can't take a team like them and spot them 16-0." McKenzie Mennenga put the Huskies on the board a minute later with two free throws, and would hit two more free throws as EPJ trailed 20-4 after one quarter. Payton Donnelly's drive and basket on the opening possession of the second quarter made it 20-6 — the closest the Huskies would get the rest of the way. While the Huskies did not get closer than 17 points in the second half, they did keep St. Thomas More from expanding the lead further. EPJ was also able to get leading scorer Keely Bertram, a Black Hills State commit, going for 11 second-half points.

"We did some adjustments to help her get going," Nebelsick said. "We also played much harder, played with much more intensity in the second half." As the Huskies move forward — a Jan. 4 game with Dakota XII Conference foe Dell Rapids begins three straight games at home — Nebelsick wants the Huskies to realize there is a lot of season left. "The biggest thing we need to do is keep this in perspective. This was just the fifth game of the season," he said. "Now we know the little things we need to do to get better, what we need to work at each day in practice." St. Thomas More is off until a northern swing Jan. 10-11, facing Redfield-Doland on Jan. 10 and defending Class B champion Warner on Jan. 11.

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St. Thomas More's Moira Duffy, 44, blocks a shot attempt Elk Point-Jefferson's Skylore Curry during the first half of their matchup in the Parkston Classic on Saturday at the Parkston Armory.

Basketball | Crofton Holiday Tournament

Frosh Making Early Impact

Monica Arens, Kelsey Sanger Paying Dividends For CHS Girls

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CROFTON, Neb. — Not that an already dominant program with consecutive state titles needs extra weapons, but the Crofton Lady Warriors have exactly that this season. And the fact that those weapons come in the form of freshmen Monica Arens and Kelsey Sanger only makes their immediate impact all the more impressive. "We've played together since elementary school, so it's almost like we can read each other's mind," said Arens, a 5-foot-10 reserve post. "It's the same with all of us. We have such a good connection." The connection combined for 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists as Crofton rolled past defending Class D1 runner-up O'Neill St. Mary's 74-38 in Saturday's championship game of the Crofton Holiday Tournament.

That has been the rallying cry for the Lady Warriors since that loss two weeks ago. "Coach always tells us, 'Offense wins games but defense wins championships,'" Monica Arens said. Everybody at the next practice was like, "OK, this is what we need to work on," she added. "We saw on film how we lost, but now we're seeing how we can be even better." Might that have been a situation where a loss actually helps a team? "Yeah, that really helped, I think," Sanger said. "We saw what we had to fix." All those tweaks and improvements were on full display Saturday. Crofton jumped out to a 21-6 lead after the first quarter and led 34-16 at halftime. St. Mary's, in losing for the first time this season, got 13 points and eight rebounds from Sydney Hupp, and 10 points from Brook Bauer. The story, though, was Crofton's depth — even more of an asset than last season when the team went 27-0 and won its second straight C2 title. "We're just a deeper team, and that helps with the energy level on defense," Losing said. "We put a kid out there that may be a freshman, but they're pretty darn good." Crofton proved that Saturday. Junior point guard Allison Arens recorded 18 points, nine assists and three rebounds, but when she got quick rests on the bench, the Lady Warriors really didn't miss a beat. "When we take Allison off the court for a break, Kelsey can step into that role and be one of the best point guard around," Losing said.



Crofton freshman Kelsey Sanger, left, defends Bridget Schneider of O'Neill St. Mary's during their championship game Saturday of the Crofton Holiday Tournament. The Lady Warriors won 74-38.

For the two-time defending C2 state champion Lady Warriors (7-1), it was a similar recipe Saturday: Defensive pressure — forcing 26 turnovers — and offensive balance, with nine players scoring. Crofton's four returning starters (Allison Arens, Alex Allen, Quinn Wragge and Maria Wortmann) combined for 31 points, 16 rebounds and 11 assists. But again, the duo of Monica Arens and Sanger added not only depth, but energy to the team. For the 2-day tournament, Arens finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Sanger posted 21 points and seven assists. "They're learning something new every day," Losing said. "Every practice and every game, you can tell they're showing their talents better; how they can help the team." Like her fellow freshman pointed out, Sanger referenced chemistry as a key reason why the newcomers are fitting into an established system. "Even with me and Monica, we've been playing together since fourth grade," Sanger said. "Everything just clicks out there." Winning its fourth straight game since a Dec. 14 loss at Guardian Angels Central Catholic, Crofton started quickly and never let St. Mary's get comfortable Saturday. "The energy level was there for the full 32 minutes, and that's where we want to get," Losing said. "I think we took a step forward with that intensity."

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Crofton Boys Rally Past St. Mary's

CROFTON, Neb. — The Crofton Warriors outscored O'Neill St. Mary's 27-7 in the fourth quarter to rally to a 66-55 victory over the Cardinals in the consolation game of the Crofton Holiday Tournament on Saturday. Eric Kleinschmidt scored 19 points and Brock Mueller had 18 points and seven rebounds to lead Crofton, which trailed 48-39 after three quarters. Evan Woockman had four steals in the win. For St. Mary's, Adam Moon posted 22 points and seven rebounds to lead the way. Kyle Pardun netted 11 points and had four steals. Matt Kelly added 10 points. Crofton, 4-3, travels to O'Neill on Friday. St. Mary's, also 4-3, travels to Niobrara-Verdigris on Jan. 7.

Buseman Classic Wolsley-Wessington 69, Centerville 40. CENTERVILLE — Lorenzo Williams scored 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Wolsley-Wessington past Centerville 69-40 at the Buseman Classic on Saturday in Centerville. Alex Babcock netted 15 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for Wolsley-Wessington. Bennett White scored 13 points, and Williams added five steals, four assists and three blocked shots in the win. For the Tornados, Tyrell Martz scored 10 points, while Seamus O'Malley recorded seven points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Christian Gruschin had seven points and four rebounds, and Rory O'Malley added five points. Wolsley-Wessington hosts Faulkton Area on Friday. Centerville hosts Scotland on Friday.

Randolph Tourn. Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family 41, Randolph 33. RANDOLPH, Neb. — Humphrey-Lindsay Holy Family jumped out to a 17-6 lead after one quarter on the way to a 41-33 victory over Randolph in the championship of the Randolph Holiday Tournament on Saturday. Tyler Campbell scored a game-high 18 points to lead H-LHF. Fro Randolph, Luke Andrew scored 12 points and Nolan Nordhues netted 10 points to lead the way. Seth Lackas finished with eight rebounds for the Cardinals.

straight, hosts Stanton on Jan. 4. Randolph, 6-1, travels to Homer on Jan. 7. HURLEY-HOLY FAMILY (4-5).....17 28 35 41 RANDOLPH (6-1).....6 17 25 33 Great NE Neb. Shootout Wayne 53, Hartington Cedar Catholic 38. WAYNE, Neb. — Jalen Barry scored 22 points and two others added 12 each as Wayne rolled past Hartington Cedar Catholic 53-38 in the semifinals Saturday of the Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout. Jared Anderson and Ben Hoskins each scored 12 points for the Blue Devils (7-3), who led 19-16 at halftime. For the Trojans (5-2), James Kaiser scored 20 points. Grant Howell had 11 points and Stephen Hillis posted six points. HARTINGTON CEDAR CATHOLIC (5-2) 8 16 28 38 WAYNE (7-3).....18 29 41 53 Boone Central-NG 68, West Point-Beemer 54. WAYNE, Neb. — Boone Central-Newman Grove advanced to the finals of the Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout with a 68-54 victory over

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Wrestling: Parkston Runs Away With Floyd Farrand Title

SIOUX FALLS — The Parkston Trojans won five titles and had 11 wrestlers earn top-five finishes in winning the Floyd Farrand Invitational, which concluded Saturday at Lincoln High School. The Trojans finished at 220 points, well ahead of Sturgis (179), Roosevelt (165) and Watertown (156). Blake Bietz (132) and Brady Reiff (220) won titles for Parkston in the tournament. Bietz remains unbeaten on the season. Wagner finished eighth at 106

points, led by champions David Kocer (170) and Trevor Lensing (182). Lensing handed Parkston's Mitch Heisinger his first loss of the season in the 182-pound final. Vermillion finished ninth with 91 points, led by champions Regan (145) and Brett (152) Bye. Both are unbeaten on the season. Other champions who remain unbeaten on the season were Canton's Tanner Broughton (195) and Alex Davies (160). Howard's Luke Loudenberg, the 138-pound champ, was named the outstanding

wrestler of the event. TEAM SCORES: Parkston 220, Sturgis 179, Roosevelt 165, Watertown 156, Washington 144.5, Canton 137, Brookings 135.5, Wagner 106, Vermillion 91, Brandon Valley 83, Milbank 55, Harrisburg 54, Howard 52, Garretton 47, Lennox 36, Lennox 36, Lincoln 30, O'Gorman 21, Tea Area 8. CHAMPIONSHIP: 106 — Jacob Puppe, Brookings dec. Brandon Carroll, Roosevelt 16-9; 113 — Kahlen Morris, Roosevelt dec. Brody Jorensen, Sturgis 7-3; 120 — Ryan Wiley, Sturgis dec. Hunter O'Connor, Washington 1-0; 126 — Troy Kiggins, Roosevelt maj. dec. John Lerner, Canton 9-0; 132 — Blake Bietz, Parkston dec. Skyler Castilleja, Lincoln 11-5; 138 — Luke Loudenberg, Howard dec. Kyle Yasar, Roosevelt 6-1; 145 — Regan Bye, Vermillion dec. Nick Hanson, Brookings 5-2; 152 — Brett Bye, Vermillion dec. Wesley Dvork, Parkston 4-0; 160 — Alex Davies, Canton pin. Jake Brower, Watertown 2:36; 170 — David Kocer, Wagner dec. Francis Boehmer, Roosevelt 8-2; 182 — Trevor Lensing, Wagner pin. Mitch Heisinger, Parkston 5:59; 195 — Tanner Broughton, Canton dec. Alex Davies, Harrisburg 4-3; 220 — Brady Reiff, Parkston maj. dec. Trey Crisp-Peterson, Washington 12-2; 285 — Chris Wroman, Decatur pin. Austin Bertram, Parkston 5:55. THIRD: 106 — Cully Olson, Sturgis dec. Tim Lawrence, Wa-

tertown 2-0; 113 — Justin Nixon, Brookings maj. dec. Kyle Tulowetzke, Watertown 8-0; 120 — Carter Lohr, Roosevelt tech. fall Kayde Bartels, Brookings 15-0; 126 — Zane Joens, Sturgis pin. Conner Rowbotham, Brandon Valley 2:02; 132 — Brock Korfan, Roosevelt dec. Tanner Bregle, Sturgis 4-2; 138 — Adam Presler, Brandon Valley by default over James Suler, Watertown; 145 — Nick Dion, Wagner dec. Casey Cox, Watertown 8-4; 152 — Caleb Karrells, Howard dec. William Hins, Milbank 4-1; 160 — Tanner Henkel, Howard dec. Luke Rietel, Washington 2-0; 170 — Miles Semmler, Parkston dec. Sterling Gehrke, Watertown 5-1; 182 — Triston Wirgler, Watertown dec. Ethan Bennett, Sturgis 8-1; 195 — Andrew Semmler, Parkston pin. Dan Mariette, Washington 2-17; 220 — Ryley Ostbye, Canton pin. Kyle Hanson, Harrisburg 3:42; 285 — John Wilson, Sturgis pin. Chase Beltzel, Canton 4:52. FIFTH: 106 — Tail Johnson, Garretton by default over Jordan Sehr, Canton; 113 — Logan Mahoney, Parkston pin. James Lusk, Milbank 4-13; 120 — Kyle Holzbauer, Parkston pin. Dylan Pauli, Brookings 1:59; 126 — Dawson Semmler, Parkston pin. Jacob Schoon, Brookings 0:29; 132 — Matt Mazzurek, Lennox dec. Levi Butts, Watertown 5-0; 138 — Grant Rosheim, Washington dec. Peter Hansen, Brookings 3-1; 145 — Chase Stoenber, Parkston by default over Tanner Fridrich, Tea Area; 152 — Brady Soulek, Wag-

ner dec. Dylan Mitzel, Watertown 1-0; 160 — Wyatt Winter, Brandon Valley dec. Brandon Hertz, Vermillion 9-4; 170 — Dorian Simpson, Washington pin. Tate McVay, Sturgis 4:25; 182 — Wyatt Resman, Brookings maj. dec. Caleb York, Washington 14-2; 195 — Andrew Sorensen, Brandon Valley dec. Payson Dirk, Sturgis 22-0; Clayton Ehrhigt, Brandon Valley pin. Cole Jurgens, Watertown 2:37; 285 — Truman Ashes, Wagner dec. Brandon Sylvas, Lincoln 4-2. SEVENTH: 106 — Cole Halouska, Lennox dec. Trey Hage, Vermillion 8-6; 113 — Wesley Weischel, Lennox pin. Kyle Seibel, Vermillion 2:30; 120 — Jacob Fitzgerald, Garretton maj. dec. Taylor Daken, Harrisburg 9-0; 126 — Jake Anderson, Milbank pin. Brady Schaefer, Garretton 1:12; 132 — Tate Cook, Brookings dec. Ryan O'Connell, O'Gorman 2-1; 138 — Zach Gross, Harrisburg dec. Jesse Skidmore, Sturgis 4-3; 145 — Tyler Wilkens, Garretton maj. dec. Chayden Fitzsimmons, Washington 10-2; 152 — Zac Freese, Washington tech. fall Ethan Behm, Roosevelt 20-3; 160 — Dillon Stadman, Parkston dec. Nathan Wendell, Sturgis 8-2; 170 — Kaleb Haas, Howard dec. Alex Osborne, Vermillion 5-1; 182 — Josh Lasky, Canton pin. Seth Heine, Vermillion 4:56; 195 — Chase Morin, Roosevelt pin. Chris Stokke, Lennox 3:41; 220 — Eddie Miller, Brookings dec. Sam Weissenae, O'Gorman 2-1; OT: 285 — Dane Stahl, Watertown pin. Tristen Wagner, Garretton 2:56.