

Neb. State Boys Basketball

Bloomfield, Cedar Fall In Lincoln

Heartland Stings Bees 65-46 In Class D1 Opener

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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LINCOLN, Neb. — An under-sized Bloomfield squad saw their boys' basketball season end at the hands of Heartland on Thursday, as the Huskies scored a 65-46 victory over the Bees in the opening round of the Nebraska Class D1 Tournament at Lincoln Southeast High School.

"All wins feel good," said Heartland head coach Clark Ribble after the game. "Especially at a state tournament."

Cole Nickels led four Heartland players in double figures with 18 points. Keshawn Camacho and Cody Kroeker each had 12 points. Tyler Brown added 10 points for the Huskies.

For Bloomfield, Cody Beckmann led the way with 18 points.

Heartland surged out to a 10-4 lead but inside baskets from Aaron Millikan and Nate Hingst helped the Bees climb to within two. The Huskies, though, scored eight straight points to end the first quarter, claiming an 18-8 advantage.

Heading into the second quarter, the Bees regained Beckmann's services — he picked up his second foul 85 seconds into the game and sat the rest of the quarter — and changed things up on defense. Recharged, the Bees went on the offensive.



Bloomfield's Cody Beckmann, left, pumps his fist after drawing a foul and making a layup during the first half of the Bees' Class D1 quarterfinal matchup with Heartland in the opening round of the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Thursday in Lincoln. Beckmann scored 18 points but Heartland topped the Bees 65-46, ending their season.

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St. Cecilia Uponds Trojans Girls: EPJ Moves To 'A' Semifinals

BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK
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LINCOLN, Neb. — The Hastings St. Cecilia Bluehawks were nearly unstoppable from the field in the first three quarters, soaring to a 57-33 lead before coasting to a 67-50 victory over Hartington Cedar Catholic in the Class C2 quarterfinals of the Nebraska State Boys' Basketball Tournament on Thursday at Lincoln Northeast High School.

"For us to beat them, we'd almost have to flip the shooting percentages," said Cedar Catholic head coach Matt Steffen. "In the first half, I don't think they missed any threes."

Derek Boyd scored 18 points to lead St. Cecilia. Zach Kitten netted 13 points, Brooks Asher had 12 points and Dayton Sealey scored nine points — all from three — for the Bluehawks, who hit seven three-pointers as a team.

James Kaiser, Cedar Catholic's all-time leading scorer, finished with 20



Cedar Catholic's Stephen Hillis shoots over the top of Hastings St. Cecilia's Zach Kitten during their Class C2 quarterfinal in the Nebraska Boys' Basketball Tournament on Thursday in Lincoln.

TROJANS | PAGE 7A

WATERTOWN — A quick start propelled the Elk Point-Jefferson Huskies past Red Cloud 69-56 in the first round Thursday at the South Dakota State Class A Girls' Basketball Tournament in Watertown.

No other information was available by press time.

Elk Point-Jefferson, now 20-3, advances to face Mount Vernon-Plankinton (21-2) in tonight's (Friday) 7:45 p.m. semifinals.



ROGER MERRIAM/WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION
Elk Point-Jefferson's Elsie Aslesen (43) tracks down a loose ball in front of teammate Payton Donnelly and Red Cloud's Myriam Rama during their first-round game Thursday night in the state Class A girls basketball tournament at Watertown.

Class A
ST. THOMAS MORE 64, CHEYENNE-EAGLE BUTTE 21: WATERTOWN (AP) — St. Thomas More began defense if its state title with a 64-21 win over Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Thursday at the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament.

Alexys Swedlund had 24 points, six rebounds and three 3-pointers for the Cavaliers (22-1), who are seeking their third title in four years. Swedlund was 8-for-17 from the field and 5-for-6 from the line.

Ciarra Duffy chipped in 18 points and a game-high 10 rebounds.

The Braves (14-9) were led by Dawnee Keckler, who had 11 points and three 3-pointers. They shot just 17 percent in the first half and finished at 22 percent with 22 turnovers.

MT. VERNON-PLANKINTON 55, DELL RAPIDS 38: WATERTOWN (AP) — Payleen O'Day's 19-point game led

Mt. Vernon-Plankinton to a 55-36 win over Dell Rapids in the first round of the South Dakota Class A girls basketball tournament on Thursday.

O'Day was 7-for-12 from the field and had three 3-pointers for the Titans (21-22). Megan Bultsma had a double-double with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Makaala Karst added 16 points and four assists.

Arial Hoffman scored 11 points and Mikaela Stofferahn added 10 for the Lady Quarters (13-10).

Class AA
S.F. O'GORMAN 76, HURON 32:

BROOKINGS (AP) — Dalee Stene led a balanced Sioux Falls O'Gorman offense Thursday, as the Knights beat Huron 76-32 in the first round of the South Dakota Class AA girls basketball tournament.

Stene had 19 points, four 3-pointers and eight assists as O'Gorman moved into the semifinals. She was joined in double figures by Katie Messler with 14 points, Kate Cartwright with 12 and Jessica Mieras 10 points and eight rebounds.

O'Gorman shot 56 percent from the field while holding Huron to 23 percent on

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Class B: Strong First Half Sends Ethan Past Viborg-Hurley 53-34

BY SEAN M.X. KELLEY
Huron Plainsman

HURON — The Ethan Rustlers used a 12-0 run in the second quarter to take a 39-17 halftime lead, as they went on to defeat the Viborg-Hurley Cougars 53-34 in Thursday's first round game at the S.D. State Class B Girls' Basketball Tournament in Huron.

Viborg-Hurley had just gotten a basket from Abby Hora to cut the lead to 25-17 with 6:45 seconds to play in the second quarter.

However, it was the last basket they would score in the quarter as the Rustlers kept them off the scoreboard and widened their lead to over 20 points.

Karly Gustafson then took over scoring eight of the next nine points over a three

minute play, including a layup after a cut to the basket and a nice pass from Ellie Hohn. That pushed the lead to 32-17.

Then in the final two minutes of the half Hohn had a nice backdoor cut for a basket and a layup on a breakaway and with 1:13 to play the lead was 19-points, 36-17.

Then after a miss by the Cougars with 57 seconds on the clock, the Rustlers bled the clock down under a handful of seconds before Kacey Bartscher hit a three-pointer as the last seconds came of the clock.

The lead was now 22 and the Rustlers never looked back.

Bartscher led the balanced Rustler attack with 12 points including going 4-of-6 from behind the three-point line.

She was followed by Darbi

Gustafson who finished with 11 points, nine rebounds and three assists. Karly Gustafson also had 11, while Rachel Hawkins had nine points and four assists.

Hora tried to carry the Cougars as she was 9-of-16 from the field, 3-of-8 from three-point range and 4-of-4 from the line. She finished with 25 points, and four rebounds. Hannah Jorgensen added seven points and six rebounds.

Viborg-Hurley just struggled putting the ball in the basket shooting 34 percent as a team, and 17 percent (3-of-17) from three-point range.

Meanwhile Ethan shot really well at 55 percent, and made 4-of-7 three-pointers.

The Rustlers will play the winner of the final quarterfinal between McLaughlin (17-5)

and Summit (20-3). That semifinal is scheduled for 7:45 p.m.

Likewise the Cougars will play the loser of that game in the consolation semifinal at 1:45 p.m.

VIBORGHURLEY14 17 23 34
ETHAN23 39 47 53

Viborg/Hurley (19-5)
Emily Bjerkaas 0-1 0-0 0, Annie Wirth 0-0 0-0 0, Kirsten Paetlow 1-1 0-2 2, Angie Lee 3-9 1-2 7, Hannah Jorgensen 0-6 0-0 0, Tori Hansen 0-1 0-0 0, Abby Hora 9-16 4-4 25, Jacylyn Knutson 0-0 0-0 0, Sam Boomgard 0-0 0-0 0, Sydney Novak 0-0 0-0 0, Allyson Osterloo 0-0 0-0 0, Allison Stollenberg 0-0 0-0 0, Stefanie Murphy 0-0 0-0 0, Duane Lee 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 13-38 5-8 34

Ethan (24-0)
Jessica Endres 0-0 0-0 0, Rachel Hawkins 4-8 1-4 9, Janae Gustafson 2-3 0-0 4, Morgan Tuttle 0-0 0-0 0, Darbi Gustafson 4-5 3-4 11, Karly Gustafson 3-6 5-8 11, Ellie Hohn 3-8 0-0 6, Kacey Bartscher 4-6 0-0 12, Amanda Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Rhena Hohn 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 20-36 9-15 53

3-pt FG: Viborg/Hurley 3-17 (Lee 0-5, Hora 3-8, Lee 0-4), Ethan 4-7 (Hawkins 0-1, Bartscher 4-6). Rebounds: Viborg/Hurley 23 (Jorgensen 6), Ethan 22 (Gustafson 9). Fouls: Viborg/Hurley 14, Ethan 11. Fouled out: Jorgensen. Technical: none. Assists: Viborg/Hurley 3 (Paetlow 1, Hora 1, Lee 1), Ethan 9 (Hawkins 4). Steals: Viborg/Hurley 6 (Paetlow 1, Lee 1, Jorgensen 1, Hora 1, Knutson 1, Lee 1), Ethan 7 (Hawkins 4). Blocked shots: Viborg/Hurley 1 (Jorgensen 1), Ethan 0. Turnovers: Viborg/Hurley 12, Ethan 8.



Ethan's Janae Gustafson goes in for a shot as Viborg-Hurley's Hannah Jorgensen goes up for the block during their S.D. State Class B Tournament game Thursday in Huron.

MIKE CARROLL/HURON PLAINSMAN

'Firewater' Remark Draws Ire Of American Indian Team's Fans

BY ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An owner of a sports website apologized Thursday after one of its commentators used the term "firewater" in describing how supporters of an American Indian boys' high school basketball team would celebrate its first-round victory at the state tournament.

WahooSportsOnline.com co-owner Bryce Cook said the comment was made by a volunteer who

was assisting Cook and Kevin Stuhr as the site streamed an audio broadcast of the game online. Cook said the volunteer, whom he declined to identify, would not work for the site again and that the site would not stream any more games at the tournament.

The comment was made near the end of Winnebago High School's 66-50 win over Wahoo in the Class C1 tournament. The high school is located on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska.

Lance Morgan, president and

CEO of Ho-Chunk Inc., the economic development corporation owned by the Winnebago Tribe, said upset tribal members sent him text messages and posts on his Facebook page after the game.

The term "firewater" is offensive, Morgan said, because "there is the stereotype about Native Americans drinking and drinking to excess, and we've spent a long time fighting those issues. And then to put that on a young boys' basketball team."

Morgan said he didn't want the comment to overshadow the ac-

complishment of the team, which has won 25 of 26 games and is in the state tournament for the second time since 1941.

"I don't want to be too indignant because I'm too happy because we won the game," Morgan said. "I think there should be a little bit of notice on this to let people know it's 2015 and those comments aren't appropriate on the public airwaves."

Anne Thundercloud, a 1990 Winnebago High graduate, said she traveled from her home in Wisconsin to Lincoln to support her alma

mater. She said her brother, who was listening to the broadcast from Wisconsin, notified her about the comment.

She said WahooSportsOnline.com owes all American Indians an apology.

"It's time for these tired stereotypes and racist comments to end," Thundercloud said. "I also want to make sure the person is educated somehow in cultural sensitivity."

The remark was made the same

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