

BOYS BASKETBALL

Hillsboro's Greg Hora hops up over Cashton's Brett Hemmersbach and Zach Mlsna in the second half of Tuesday's conflict with Cashton in Hillsboro. HSE photo by Logan Everson.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

H'boro tallies wins over Necedah, La Farge

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

As the 2022-23 regular season nears its conclusion, the Hillsboro girls' basketball team is cobbling together a winning streak they hope they can ride into the postseason.

HILLSBORO 72 NECEDAH 20

Toward the end of last week, the Tigers (18-4 overall, 9-3 Scenic Bluffs) crushed the Necedah Cardinals (4-15, 1-11) 72-20 in their conference contest Friday, February 3 in Necedah. Hillsboro had previously won the first meeting at home 73-32 on January 24.

In this second matchup, the Tigers were led by senior center Violet Morren with 16 points and seven rebounds, senior forward Lily von Falkenstein with 13 points and six rebounds, senior guard Kyra Bisarek with 11 points and senior guard Camryn Hanson with 10 points.

HILLSBORO 48 LA FARGE 43

Following the weekend, Hillsboro picked up a third straight win by besting La Farge/Youth Initiative (11-9) 48-43 in a non-conference clash Monday, February 6 in La Farge.

HILLSBORO cont. on pg. 7

Royall takes tough losses to Bangor, Blair-Taylor

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

Not a lot has gone wrong for the Royall girls' basketball team during this 2022-23 season, but this past weekend proved to be a challenging one for the Panthers against a pair of high-quality opponents.

BANGOR 41 ROYALL 31

Right near the end of last week, the Bangor Cardinals (16-5 overall, 11-1 Scenic Bluffs) picked up a pivotal 41-31 victory over the Panthers (16-4, 10-2) in their all-important Scenic Bluffs battle Friday, February 3 in Bangor.

Both teams entered their matchup with a 10-1 mark in league play on the season. With just two games left for each on their respective Scenic Bluffs slates, the Cardinals now have the clear inside track to winning their ninth straight conference championship thanks to last Friday's win.

Bangor senior guard Nora Tucker posted a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds while sophomore guard Anna Fronk and freshman Kennedy Hamilton each chipped in seven points. For the Panthers, senior guard Makayla Martin scored nine points and junior guard Marah Gruen contributed seven points, 12 rebounds and four steals.

BLAIR-TAYLOR 66 ROYALL 58

The next day, Royall came up short but had plenty to be proud of in a hard-fought loss against top-ranked Blair-Taylor.

ROYALL cont. on pg. 7

TOUGHENING IT OUT

Tigers hope to draw playoff lessons from losses to Cashton, Bangor

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

HILLSBORO — The Hillsboro boys' basketball team is in the midst of a season that has been a rousing success by any measure. About the only thing that hasn't gone the Tigers' way this winter is their meetings with the top two teams in the Scenic Bluffs Conference: Bangor and Cashton.

In their last two games, the Tigers took losses to both Bangor and Cashton for the second time this season. That means all four of Hillsboro's losses on the year have come against those two opponents.

CASHTON 62 HILLSBORO 56

Most recently, the Eagles (16-3

TIGERS cont. on pg. 7



Hillsboro's student section and bench erupts after a three-pointer from Talan Hildreth to bring the Tigers within striking distance of Cashton in the final moments of the contested conference clash on Tuesday, February 7. HSE photo by Logan Everson.



Hillsboro's Isaiah Stokes drives into the lane around Cashton's Brady Hemmersbach in Tuesday night's conference conflict. HSE photo by Logan Everson.

TIGERS
continued from pg. 6

overall, 9-1 Scenic Bluffs) got the better of the Tigers (16-4, 7-4) for a 62-56 victory in their Scenic Bluffs showdown Tuesday, February 7 in Hillsboro.

The Tigers got off to a torrid start that included scoring the game's first eight points and leading by as much as nine behind hot 3-point shooting. As a team, they made 8 out of their 13 3-point attempts in the first half — including four made by junior guard Ben Koopman — en route to a 28-23 halftime lead.

Cashton got off to a stellar start in the second half with a 9-1 run that vaulted the Eagles into the lead for the first time on the night. Hillsboro briefly led again 35-32, but Cashton responded with a 13-3 run to go ahead 45-38.

Though the Tigers would stay within striking distance the rest of the way, the Eagles kept them at arm's length with timely shots and free throws to secure the win.

"We played a great first half overall, especially defensively — that's where we've really tried to hang our hat recently," said Hillsboro head coach Jordan Polk. "Came out in the second half, Cashton made some adjustments, we had some mental lapses at times that bothered us a little bit,

dug ourselves a hole and just couldn't quite get out of it. But it's all credit to Cashton. They're an extremely good team."

Cashton was led by a trio of double-digit scorers: junior guard Connor Butzler with 17 points, senior forward Zack Mlna with 15 points and junior guard Brady Hemmersbach with 13 points.

For the Tigers, junior guard Isaiah Stokes finished with 14 points and three steals, Koopman also scored 14 points, junior guard Talan Hildreth added 13 points and senior guard Noah Burmaster recorded 10 points and four assists.

"(Hillsboro) is a legit team. They're going to go far in D5. Jordan's doing a great job with them," said Cashton head coach Scot Wall. "Their atmosphere in this gym is extraordinarily tough to play in."

**BANGOR 68
HILLSBORO 43**

Late last week, the Bangor Cardinals (15-3, 9-0) defeated Hillsboro 68-43 in their conference matchup Thursday, February 2 in Bangor.

The Cardinals were led in the win by senior forward/guard Dustin McDonald with 16 points, senior guard Tanner Jones with

14 points and junior forward Chase Horstman with 10 points and eight rebounds.

Koopman, Stokes and Burmaster all tallied eight points apiece in the defeat for the Tigers.

While these were tough losses for Hillsboro that removed the team from the Scenic Bluffs title picture, the Tigers still can draw lessons from these games against high-quality competition as they prepare for what could be a deep run in the Division 5 playoffs.

"At this point going forward, we still want to see if we can stay top three in the conference, and we really want to try and get that one seed and have home court as far as we can into the playoffs," Polk said. "We've got four games left and we just need to finish the year strong."

UP NEXT

To cap off the week, Hillsboro will host their next few games, first up is Necedah (4-6, 7-11) on Friday, February 10, then Westfield (5-14) on Tuesday, February 14, and Brookwood (2-7, 5-13) on Thursday, February 16. All games are slated for 7 p.m.



Hillsboro's Talan Hildreth throws a pass around Cashton's Brett Hemmersbach across the baseline during the tumultuous second half in Hillsboro on Tuesday, February 7. HSE photo by Logan Everson.

BOYS BASKETBALL

LOOKING UP

Royall heads toward end of regular season in hopes of leaving their struggles behind them

By ZACH RASTALL
HSE Sports Reporter

The last month or so has not been the easiest for the Royall boys' basketball team.

After starting the season 10-1 and sitting within the top 10 of the state rankings among Division 5 teams, the Panthers endured a stretch where they lost four out of six. On top of that, sophomore small forward Carter Uppena was sidelined with an ankle injury toward the end of January and junior forward Jacob Dragan was briefly away from the team.

**NECEDAH 43
ROYALL 33**

With the team not at full strength, perhaps the peak of those struggles came in a 43-33 loss to the Necedah Cardinals (8-11 overall, 5-6 Scenic Bluffs) in their conference matchup Thursday, February 2 in Elroy. Royall's shooting woes from deep resulted in going only 1 for 23 on 3-pointers on the night.

Necedah senior forward Isaac Hunkins led the charge in the win with 19 points and six steals, junior guard Sam Rattunde recorded nine points and eight rebounds and junior guard Jack Herried tacked on eight points.

Royall senior guard Brady Uppena finished with eight points and 10 rebounds and sophomore guard Ben Crneckiy added seven points in the loss.

**ROYALL 61
BLAIR-TAYLOR 54**

Despite a sluggish shooting start two days later, the Panthers regained a better form to take down Blair-Taylor (10-9) 61-54 in their non-conference battle Saturday, February 4 at Just-A-Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

Royall fell behind 29-24 at the half against the Wildcats but outscored them 37-25 over the final 18 minutes to pull off the victory. Junior guard Ty Wildes

set the pace for the Panthers with 19 points, Brady Uppena posted a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds and junior forward Tucker Wildes also had a double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Blair-Taylor was led by senior forward Evan Nehring with 13 points and eight rebounds, sophomore guard Ethan Kniseley with 12 points and sophomore Tavian Shramek with 10 points.

**ROYALL 67
WONEWOC-CENTER 12**

Most recently, Royall (14-5, 7-4) earned a 67-12 win over Wonewoc-Center (0-20, 0-11) Tuesday, February 7 in Elroy. The Panthers had three-double digit scorers: Brady Uppena and senior guard Bryce Olson with 13 points each and Ty Wildes with 10 points.

Wonewoc-Center junior guard Danny Roehling scored four points.

**RIVERDALE 71
WONEWOC-CENTER 28**

One night earlier, Riverdale (5-14) beat the Wolves 71-28 in non-conference play Monday, February 6 in Wonewoc. Riverdale junior forward Caleb Tracy scored a game-high 18 points while Roehling finished with eight points for the Wolves.

**NEW LISBON 87
WONEWOC-CENTER 42**

Last week, New Lisbon (7-14, 3-8) defeated Wonewoc-

Center 87-42 in a conference clash Thursday, February 2 in Wonewoc. Senior guard Ashton Pfaff went off for 27 points for the Rockets and senior center Carter Stout led the Wolves with 21 points.

UP NEXT

Wonewoc-Center will host the Bangor Cardinals (15-3, 9-0) Friday, February 10 at 7 p.m. in Wonewoc. Meanwhile, Royall is on the road against Brookwood (5-14, 2-8) Friday night and then welcomes in La Farge (2-16) for a non-conference matchup Monday, February 13 at 7:15 p.m. in Elroy.

With Carter Uppena and Dragan expected to rejoin the fold for the stretch run, the Panthers hope these are opportunities ahead to continue to build toward something better as the regular season winds down and the playoffs loom.

"There are a lot of life lessons that can happen in the game of basketball. How to deal with adversities is part of what we have to do in our own lives," said Royall head coach Scott Uppena. "How you deal with adversity, just like anything else, it will make you stronger or it can hold you back. Those are life lessons that we try to teach kids through the game of basketball and hopefully they become better people for it."

"How you deal with adversity, just like anything else, it will make you stronger or it can hold you back."

- Scott Uppena, Royall head coach



Royall's Scott Uppena briefly chats with the boys in a timeout during the conference game against Wonewoc-Center on Tuesday, February 7. HSE photo by Logan Everson.

HILLSBORO
continued from pg. 6

Bisarek went off for 24 points and junior guard Lexie Thorson added 13 points (all in the first half) in the victory. For the Wildcats, senior guard Maddy Benson and junior small forward Kindale Williams finished with 20 and 15 points, respectively.

UP NEXT

The Tigers end their regular season with a couple Scenic Bluffs games over the next week, starting with them hosting Wonewoc-Center (10-8, 5-6) Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m. in Hillsboro. After that they play the New Lisbon Rockets (6-16, 1-11) Tuesday, February 14 at 7 p.m. in New Lisbon.

Wonewoc-Center was idle this past week after last Thursday's scheduled home game against Brookwood (7-14, 3-8) was postponed.

It will be made up Thursday, February 16 at 7 p.m. in Wonewoc.

In addition to this Thursday's contest in Hillsboro, the Wolves have two more road games over the coming week: at Riverdale (6-15) in non-conference play Monday, February 13 at 7:15 p.m. and at Cashton (13-9, 7-5) Tuesday, February 14 at 7 p.m.

ROYALL
continued from pg. 6

The unbeaten Wildcats (21-0) escaped with a 66-58 victory against the Panthers in their top-10 non-conference clash Saturday, January 4 at Just-A-Game Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells. Blair-Taylor was ranked No. 1 in Division 5 in the WisSports.net coaches' poll going into the game while Royall sat at No. 6.

The Wildcats were led in the win by senior guard Abby Thompson with 23 points, nine assists and eight steals, freshman forward/center Andrea Waldera with 18 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double and senior guard Lindsay Steien with 17 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

As for Royall, Marah Gruen flirted with a triple-double with 23 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, Martin scored 13 points and senior guard Cailey Simons added 11 points.

UP NEXT

The Panthers host a trio of games in Elroy over the next week: vs. Brookwood (7-14, 3-8) Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m., vs. Richland Center (3-17) Monday, February 13 at 7:15 p.m. and vs. Necedah (4-15, 1-11) Tuesday, February 14 at 7 p.m.

WRESTLING

Royall duo lead team to second

By NATE BEIER
HSE Sports Editor

The Royall wrestling team took second at last weekend's Scenic Ridge and Rivers Conference meet in New Lisbon on the strength of two champions and four runners-up.

Gunnar Wopat and Colin McKittrick each won individual titles and were two of just three champions from the Scenic Bluffs proper. The other 10 were claimed by the Ridge and Valley Conference.

Wopat (30-6) pinned his way through the 126 bracket, finishing with a win against New Lisbon's Reid Sawyer.

McKittrick (37-4) won by pin, an 18-1 tech fall and a pin in the 132 title bout against Hillsboro's Phillip Voltz.

second at 138, Garret Dragan (17-14) was the runner-up at 145 as was Samson Degner (18-15) at 160 and Trenton Frye (21-14) at 195.

Royall scored 156.5 points for second as a team behind Ithaca/Weston (221.5). De Soto was third with 113 points and Pecatonica/Argyle fourth (100).

HILLSBORO

Hillsboro's half dozen and one competitors at last weekend's SRR Conference wrestling tournament brought home a trio of top three finishes.

Phillip Voltz and Ryan McCoic (17-16) both finished second Saturday. Voltz (25-14) opened with a pin, then won in overtime in the semis before falling to Royall's Colin McKittrick by fall. McCoic (17-16) took a bye

into the semis where he notched a first period pin. McCoic was then pinned by Ithaca/Weston's Wyatt Hilby in the title bout.

Logan Gajeski (11-11) was third at 113, Hayden Bell (2-4) was fourth at 170 and Andrew Osorio (4-12) fourth at 285.

UP NEXT

All SBC schools will be at La Crosse Aquinas Saturday for the Division 3 regional.

At 132 pounds, Hillsboro's Phillip Voltz edges forward through Royall's Colin McKittrick, as Voltz eard a second place conference finish. HSE photo by Tasha Mueller.

