



UWP indoor track and field season underway
Pioneers compete at UD Spartan Invitational

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SWC BOYS BASKETBALL • DODGEVILLE 61, PLATTEVILLE 54 (2 OT)

Dodgers win second battle of SWC giants

by Jason Nihles
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When Southwest Wisconsin Conference front runners Platteville and Dodgeville met for the first time this year on Dec. 30, the visiting Hillmen ran the Dodgers off their own floor, 63-40.

Thursday's rematch at Platteville High School was a much different game.

The Dodgers slowed the tempo, took care of the ball and allowed 7-foot-2 senior center Chandler Batchelor to play a much bigger role, both figuratively and literally.

Batchelor finished with a game-high 16 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks to lead the Dodgers to a 61-54 double overtime victory.

"They were able to play Batchelor more minutes and he dictated for the most part what was happening around the rim on defense so that was a factor," said Platteville head coach Mike Huser. "They played us 2-3 zone for the majority of the game, which we expected because of the matchup problems we gave them in the first game."

After Platteville senior Derek Digman misfired on a 3-pointer with 1:33 seconds left, Batchelor grabbed the defensive rebound, then tied the game on the other end with a layup over Platteville's own 6-foot-9 giant Zach McClain with 1:08 left.

Then, after Platteville ran the clock down and set up a final player, Batchelor then blocked sophomore Lucas Ludlum's potential game-winning layup with four seconds left, and the Hillmen survived a half-court heave from Noah Pittz that nearly went in.

"We knew they were going to come in and give us a great effort because of how the game played out up at Dodgeville," said Huser. "They had a little more urgency late in the game than we did, and they had some players make opportunistic plays when they needed them. I give them credit, because we generally break teams at some point during the game and their seniors kept their composure when they got down double digits in the second half



Dodgeville pulls out overtime win at Platteville to hand Hillmen first conference loss

Dodgeville's 7-foot-2 senior center Chandler Batchelor scores of Platteville's 6-9 junior Zach McClain during the Dodgers 61-54 overtime victory Thursday night. Batchelor finished with 16 points and eight blocks.

photos by Jason Nihles

and made some key baskets to hang around and eventually tie the game."

After a scoreless first overtime — which featured four turnovers, three time outs and two missed shots — four more minutes were required to decide a winner.

McClain again won the jump ball with the towering Batchelor — for the third time in the game — but Platteville turned it over.

Dodgeville senior guard Charlie Keith finally broke the 51-51 deadlock with a driving basket from the left wing a minute into the second OT.

Platteville junior Davyn Edge missed three free throws moments later, but McClain grabbed the offensive rebound and was fouled. He split a pair to make it a one-point game with 1:39 left.

On the ensuing possession, when everyone in the gym figured Dodgeville would attempt to run clock and force the Hillmen to foul, Reilly

Berg connected on a surprising 3-pointer from the left corner to make it 56-52.

Platteville junior Garrison Tashner answered with a pair of free throws with 1:11 left. He then snatched a steal to give Platteville a chance to tie or take the lead, but junior Davyn Edge's potential go-ahead 3-pointer missed the mark.

The Hillmen were forced to foul and senior Matthew Pittz (4-for-4) and Batchelor (1-of-2) went 5 of 6 at the line in the final 45 seconds to close out the win.

Keith (13 points), Pittz (12) and Berg (10) also scored in double figures for the victors.

Heer, who shot 4 of 13 on 3-pointers, finished with a team-high 12 points and six rebounds to lead the Hillmen. Edge added 11 points, eight rebounds and four assists off the bench and Digman scored 10 and passed out four assists.

Dodgeville scored the game's first seven points and raced out

to a 9-3 lead, but the Hillmen responded with a 16-5 run and took a 19-14 lead on a 3-pointer by Wyatt Heer with 6:55 left in the first half.

The Dodgers scored 11 of the next 13 points and had the ball in the final minute with an opportunity to take the last shot of the half up 25-21, but inexplicably fired up an errant jumper with 30 seconds left on the clock.

Heer made them pay with another 3-pointer trim the Dodgers' halftime lead to one going into halftime.

"Foul trouble gave us some problems in the first half, and we had a hard time finding a consistent rhythm on offense," said Huser. "In the first game we played in transition for much of the game and our defensive pressure really dictated the pace and tempo, this time it was not as much of impact as we had hoped for and that needs to be a focus for us to improve on moving forward. Platteville kept the

momentum ball rolling and began the second half on a 16-5 tear.

Tashner hit a 3-pointer, Digman scored seven-straight Hillmen points, and Heer drilled back-to-back triples to give the Hillmen a 40-30 lead with 11:22 left in the game.

But the Dodgers battled back and pulled with two at 49-47 on a three-point play by Pittz, before Ludum scored Platteville's last points of regulation on a pull-up jumper with 2:10 remaining.

Dodgeville (9-6, 5-1 SWC) defeated Richland Center 64-49 Monday night in a makeup game to move into a first-place tie with the Hillmen (5-1 SWC), who fell to 12-5 overall.

"I think right now a lot can happen in the league as teams improve that may be struggled a little bit early on, so being tied with Dodgeville is not quite where we were hoping to be but we have to focus on each

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ryan out as head coach at UWGB

GREEN BAY — Former Platteville High School basketball standout Will Ryan (a 1997 graduate of PHS) is out as head coach of the UW-Green Bay men's basketball team.

Ryan was fired last Tuesday, just three days after the struggling Phoenix suffered their 11th straight loss.

Freddie Owens, an assistant on Ryan's staff, was named the interim head coach for the rest of the years by UWGB athletic director Josh Moon.

"I want to sincerely thank Will Ryan and his family for their contributions to the men's basketball program these past three seasons," Moon said in a statement. "We wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

Ryan, who is the oldest son of former Wisconsin men's basketball coach Bo Ryan, posted a 15-61 record in his two-and-a-half seasons with the Phoenix, going 13-37 in Horizon League play. His best season came in his first season in Green Bay when the team went 8-17 (.320) and 8-12 (.400) in conference play in 2020-21.

The Phoenix are 2-19 this season, and 1-9 in Horizon League play.

Before joining in the Phoenix in 2020, Will Ryan spent one season leading Wheeling University (WV) a after serving as an assistant coach at Ohio University and at North Dakota State University.

Titans, Pioneers support Suicide Awareness

The UW-Oshkosh women's basketball team is wearing suicide awareness warm ups he rest of the season — including last Wednesday's WIAC game at UW-Platteville — to support Olivia Argall, who lost her dad to suicide Jan. 10.

Chad Argall was a native of Belmont. Olivia is a graduate of Dodgeville High School.

Argall's former college Josslyn Wolff has established a GoFundMe page to help establish educational funds for Argall's three children Ellenore, Olivia and Isaiah, all of who are still in college. The fund has already raised more than \$7,000 towards its goal of \$20,000.

PREP WRESTLING • SWC DUALS TOURNAMENT

Braves finish 2-3 at SWC duals



Belmont/Platteville senior Porter Mandurano went 5-0 with a team-high three pins to lead the Braves to a pair of victories at Saturday's Southwest Wisconsin Conference Duals Tournament at Dodgeville.

photo by Macy Reuter / Facebook

by Jason Nihles
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DODGEVILLE — Despite Saturday's snow storm, all six wrestling teams of the Southwest Wisconsin Conference gathered in Dodgeville for the inaugural SWC Duals Tournament.

Belmont/Platteville (8-7) finished 2-3 with wins over Richland Center in round one, 42-23, and Lancaster, 42-15, in round four of the conference round robin.

Prairie du Chien (25-4, 5-0), the top-ranked team in Division 2, swept all five of its duals to win another SWC duals title.

River Valley (14-5) went 4-1 to finish second, while Dodgeville (6-8) was third at 3-2. Richland Center (5-5, 1-4) and Lancaster (4-14, 0-5) finished fifth and sixth.

The Braves fell to the #1-ranked Blackhawks 61-15 in the second round.

Freshman Dylan Weigel scored a 10-6 decision over Mason Hird at 120, senior Porter Mandurano pinned Dylan Wright at 285, and freshman Alborz Dehnavi collected a forfeit at 113 for B/P's 15 team points.

Mandurano (28-2) went 5-0 with a tournament team-best three pins in a combined 2:57 and a pair of forfeits.

Weigel (31-7) also went a perfect 5-0 with two pins, a tech fall,

a forfeit and a decision. Dehnavi (23-13) finished 4-1 on the day.

Freshman Tyler Kismore (20-9) also had three pins for the short-handed Braves and finished the day 3-2 at 145 pounds.

The co-op was without varsity regulars junior Carter Spensley (13-5 at 152) and sophomores Kady Davis (20-13, 195) sophomore Mason Mandurano (12-0, 220).

"The SWC is and always has been tough, so getting two dual wins with just eight guys in the lineup was good," said BP head coach Emeric Williams. "Obviously, we went down from last year's second place finish, but we were still pleased with how the team wrestled. At the end of the day, that is all that matters, how the team competes, and I thought everyone up and down the lineup competed hard."

"I liked having all the duals on one day," added Williams. "I know the timing for some teams, ours included wasn't the best with injuries and things like that. Overall though, having them all in one place on one day allowed for some really good matches to be showcased to everyone in the conference, and it was a really fun day."

The Braves will return to action Saturday at the 13-team SWC/SWAL Clash combined conference

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