

Spartan girls escape nail-biter with Wolverines

By **ROB MAHARRY**

The Grundy Register

GRUNDY CENTER- A win is a win, no matter how you get it, and Grundy Center girls' basketball coach Matt Lindeman was excited to head into break with a victory after his team defeated Dike-New Hartford 34-31 last Thursday night in cross-divisional NICL action.

"Everybody stepped up at different times and played a key role in this win. It was nice to finish that," Grundy Center coach Matt Lindeman said. "We didn't play real well, but we found a way to win."

The Spartans pulled ahead early on a Hailey Wallis three-pointer to make the score 8-5, and they led 10-7 at the first horn. The second quarter was an extremely sloppy one, however, as the two teams combined for just eight points. The Wolverines scored six of them, including a Sydney Petersen bank shot to put them ahead 12-10, and D-NH went into the locker room with a 13-12 halftime lead.

In the second half, the offenses warmed up as Grundy Center's Reagan Zinkula rattled off five straight points to give her team a 17-13 lead, and another Wallis trey made it 20-14 in favor of the Spartans. The Wolverines hung around, though, and an Ellie Foster free throw just before the horn made it 20-19 heading into the final frame.

Grundy Center led by as many as seven points in the fourth quar-

ter after a Zinkula three and a Sydney Mathews steal and lay-in made it 30-23, but Foster, a freshman, did her best to keep D-NH in the game. She hit two free throws and later drained a long ball, and suddenly the lead was down to one at 30-29, forcing the Spartans to take a timeout.

The Wolverines actually took back the lead on a Petersen basket, but Wallis responded with a drive to the bucket to put Grundy Center ahead 32-31. She would then hit two more free throws for the final points of the game, and a Petersen three-point attempt from the left corner as time expired just rimmed out.

"You love those moments. Obviously (the shot) didn't go in, but we put ourselves in position to win against a very good team on their home court," D-NH coach Bruce Dall said.

"At least somebody other than Foster took (the final shot)," Lindeman said.

Wallis and Foster led their teams with 12 and 10 points, respectively, and both squads struggled from the field: Grundy Center went 12-for-52, and D-NH went 10-for-40. The Wolverines outrebounded the Spartans 19-14, and both teams shot 50 percent from the free throw line. Zinkula (eight points) and Petersen (seven points) were the other top individual scorers.

"Both teams played really hard, and I think both teams are really

inexperienced. I think that both teams had their runs, and both teams had their moments," Dall said.

The Spartans are now 5-2 overall heading into the break, and D-NH fell to 4-3. Grundy Center resumes its season on Tuesday, January 3, at Aplington-Parkersburg, and the Wolverines will start a brutal stretch of opponents that includes Union and Cedar Rapids Kennedy when they face Sumner-Fredericksburg on the same night.

"Anytime that we're able to beat (D-NH), you take it when you can get it. They're always going to be well-coached, and their players are going to play hard," Lindeman said.

Box score
D-NH 7 6 6 12 31
GC 10 2 8 14 34
Grundy Center (34): Reagan Zinkula 3 0-0 8, Hailey Wallis 4 2-3 10, Maddie McMartin 0 0-0 0, Sydney Mathews 1 0-1 2, Jessica Ayers 0 0-0 0, Landry Lühring 0 0-0 0, Sarah Lindeman 0 0-0 0, Cora Saak 1 0-0 3, Kylie Willis 1 3-4 5, Brooke Flater 2-0-2-4, Totals 12-5-10-34.

Dike-New Hartford (31): Katie Camarata 0 0-0 0, Olivia Eiklenborg 1 0-0 2, Sydney Petersen 3 1-2 7, Baylee Petersen 1 2-8 4, Ellie Foster 2 5-6 10, Madison Hedges 0 0-0 0, Allie Aalderks 0 0-0 0, Kenzie Feckers 1 1-2 3, Carlee Dove 1 1-2 3, Jill Eilderts 0 0-0 0, Totals 10 10-20-31.

3-point goals: GC 5 (Wallis 2, Zinkula 2), D-NH 1 (Foster). **Rebounds:** GC 14 (Mathews 7, Willis 7), D-NH 19 (Eiklenborg 4, Dove 4). **Assists:** GC 7 (Willis 3, Four tied with 1), D-NH 3 (Foster 2). **Steals:** GC 16 (Wallis 3, Mathews 3), D-NH 14 (S. Petersen 6, B. Petersen 3). **Blocks:** GC 2 (Wallis 1, Saak 1), D-NH 5. **Total fouls:** GC 18, D-NH 11.

Fouled out: None.



Grundy Center's Hailey Wallis (right) puts up a contested shot over Carlee Dove of Dike-New Hartford last Thursday night. The Spartans defeated the Rebels 34-31. (Rob Maharry/The Grundy Register photo)

Wolverine girls pull away from Cyclones

By **JAKE RYDER**

The Grundy Register

DIKE - The Dike-New Hartford girls' basketball team was able to outlast a Denver squad shooting hot from outside the 3-point arc in a 45-35 victory at Dike-New Hartford High School last Tuesday.

Sydney Petersen scored 14 points and Ellie Foster added 11 points and team-highs with five rebounds and three assists for the Wolverines. Baylee Petersen contributed nine points, four rebounds and two steals.

With the score 30-29 in favor of Dike after three quarters, the Wolverines were able to put together a 15-6 fourth quarter to distance themselves from a Denver team that hit seven total 3-pointers, led by four treys from leading scorer Erica Jaeschke, who scored 14 for the Cyclones.

The Wolverines were outrebounded 24-21 but were better from the floor, connecting on 18-of-38 (47

percent) field goal attempts compared to 13-of-37 (35 percent) for the Cyclones.

D-NH improved to 3-2 against North Iowa Cedar League East competition in its final conference game of 2016.

Denver 8 9 12 6 — 35
D-NH 10 10 10 15 — 45

Denver (1-5, 1-4) - Erica Jaeschke 5 0-0 14, Kambrie Clinton 4 2-4 12, Katie Terrill 2 0-0 5, Lila Meyer 2 0-0 4, Haley Barkau 0 0-2 0, Emma Larson 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 2-6 35.

Dike-New Hartford (4-2, 3-2) - Sydney Petersen 5 2-5 14, Ellie Foster 4 1-2 11, Baylee Petersen 4 1-1 9, Addie Johnston 4 1-2 9, Olivia Eiklenborg 1 0-0 2, Katie Camarata 0 0-0 0, Biz Cuvelier 0 0-0 0, Madison Hedges 0 0-0 0, Allie Aalderks 0 0-0 0, Kenzie Feckers 0 0-0 0, Jill Eilderts 0 0-0 0. Totals 18 5-10 45.

3-pointers: Denver 7 (Jaeschke 4, Clinton 2, Terrill); D-NH 4 (S. Petersen 2, Foster 2). **Rebounds:** Denver 24 (Jaeschke 7); D-NH 21 (Foster 5, Cuvelier 4, B. Petersen 4, Johnston 3, Eilderts 2, Feckers 2, S. Petersen). **Assists:** Denver 10, D-NH 4 (Foster 3, B. Petersen). **Steals:** Denver 10, D-NH 8 (Eiklenborg 2, B. Petersen 2, Cuvelier, S. Petersen, Foster, Johnston). **Blocks:** Denver 2, D-NH 3 (Johnston 2, B. Petersen).

Wolverines pounce early, throttle Spartans

By **ROB MAHARRY**

The Grundy Register

GRUNDY CENTER- Dike-New Hartford scored 19 of the first 21 points and never looked back in last Thursday night's non-conference tilt with Grundy Center, coasting to a 69-45 win over the Spartans.

"Our whole goal was to get a fast start and try and set it with defense and tempo, and I thought we did a pretty good job," D-NH coach Greg Moore said. "We had some defensive lapses, but overall, I thought we played pretty well."

Wolverine big man Ben Latusek got hot right away as the 6'5" senior scored 10 first quarter points and helped D-NH to a 12-0 advantage out of the gate. D-NH led 19-2 at the first horn, but the Spartans made their only real attempt at a comeback early in the second when they went on a 7-0 run capped by a Drew Rathe three-pointer to make it 19-9. Bryce Flater scored a pair of baskets to make it 21-13, but the Spartans never got any closer.

"I don't know what happened. I really am mind boggled. The guys were ready to go, and we had a great game plan," Grundy Center coach Joe Nelson said. "We relaxed too much and just kind of allowed ourselves to not do a lot."

Senior Royce Weber got hot for D-NH, scoring nine quick points and

guiding his team to a 38-19 halftime lead. In the second half, the Wolverines continued to push the tempo and scored a host of easy buckets, pulling away before putting in their reserves for the waning minutes.

Latusek poured in 18 points to lead all scorers, and three other Wolverines finished in double figures (Weber with 16, Connor Blough with 13 and Broden Coulter with 13). Flater had 16 to lead the Spartans, and Chase Boren and Rathe added 10 apiece.

D-NH enters the winter break with a record of 5-2, and the Wolverines will travel to take on Sumner-Fredericksburg on January 3 when they resume action.

"The momentum going in to break is good, especially just having that confidence when you come back," Moore said.

Grundy Center (0-5) is still winless on the season, and it will face Aplington-Parkersburg on the road on January 3 for its next contest.

"We're really hurting ourselves. We're just not getting into it. We're going to take a couple days off here and be with our families over the Christmas holiday, and we'll start back next week," Nelson said. "Hopefully we can turn things around."

D-NH 19 19 13 18 69
GC 2 17 18 8 45
Dike-New Hartford (69) - Tim Koop 0 0-0 0, Broden Coulter 6 0-0 13, Ryan Moore



Dike-New Hartford guard Royce Weber puts up a jump shot over a group of Grundy Center defenders during last Thursday night's nonconference tilt. The Wolverines won 69-45. (Rob Maharry/The Grundy Register photo)

0 0-0 0, Royce Weber 6 1-1 16, Jaxson Foster 0 0-0 0, Isaac Jorgensen 0 0-0 0, Cade Fuller 1 0-0 3, Connor Blough 5 3-3 13, Ben Latusek 7 4-5 18, Ethan Weichers 2 0-0 4, Jake Land-

phair 0 0-0 0, Colton Harberts 1 0-0 2, Owen Goos 0 0-0 0, Totals 28 8-9 69.

Grundy Center (45) - Full statistics not available.

Wolverine wrestling makes first team dual rankings

The Dike-New Hartford wrestling team is ranked No. 9 in Class 1A in the Iowa Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association's dual team rankings poll released for the week of Dec. 20.

The Wolverines are 5-0 in duals heading into the Christmas break, and return to action on Tuesday, Jan. 3 at Waverly-Shell Rock.

Lisbon, with a 14-3 dual record, is ranked No. 1 in Class 1A. The rankings determine pairings for the regional dual tournament later this season.

Other North Iowa Cedar

League teams in the rankings include Wapsie Valley at No. 8 in 1A and Denver-Tripoli at No. 9 in Class 2A.

IWCOA Class 1A Dual Team Rankings

Week of Dec. 20, 2016

(Team ranking with win-loss record in parentheses)

1. Lisbon (14-3); 2. Don Bosco (11-3); 3. Sibley-Ocheyedan (9-0); 4. Missouri Valley (10-1); 5. Logan-Magnolia (12-1); 6. Lake Mills (11-2); 7. Westwood (13-0); 8. Wapsie Valley (9-1); 9. **Dike-New Hartford (5-0)**; 10. Sigourney (9-0); 11. MFL MarMac (9-2); 12. Maquoketa Valley (15-2); 13. Central Springs (7-1); 14. Southeast Warren (4-2); 15. Alburnett (4-6); 16. North Linn (8-3).

Rebels clamp down on Wildcats in 2016 finale

By **JAKE RYDER**

The Grundy Register

REINBECK - Even as the Gladbrook-Reinbeck boys' basketball team ends 2016 undefeated and as the top-ranked team in Class 1A, the Rebels understand there is plenty of work to be done.

But in Tuesday's game against Janesville, the Rebels perhaps predictably exploded out of the gates offensively but also flexed their defensive muscles to shut Janesville out in the second quarter of what would be a 67-36 win at Gladbrook-Reinbeck High School.

G-R's Joe Smoldt led the Rebels with 25 points, with 17 of those coming before halftime, along with 11 assists and six steals, as the Rebels improved to 5-0 overall. Caden Kickbush added 16 points and Thomas Mussig generated 10 points, primarily underneath the basket for the Rebels.

The Rebels were already up 26-11

on the Wildcats after the first quarter before a lopsided 21-0 second quarter margin put the game well out of reach, with Janesville at times getting good shots up but not getting many second chances as G-R efficiently turned defensive rebounds into fast-break buckets.

"That was really remarkable," Kickbush, a junior, said. "I didn't think we had that in us this early in the season but we came out strong and I was really impressed."

Mason Skovgard led the production on the glass for the Rebels with 10 boards and Mussig hauled in seven rebounds.

Smoldt, a two-time first-team all-state contributor, has continued to provide a good foundation for the Rebels to build on as many G-R players are either returning from injury or getting into the basketball mindset with limited practices after the Rebels' state championship football run.

The big lead stretched to 67-23 before the Rebels pulled Smoldt out of the game with about five minutes left in the fourth quarter and Janesville scored the final 13 points of the game.

Between Tyler Pierce waiting to get medical clearance for an ACL tear, Mason Skovgard getting back into basketball habits after mending a broken finger and Matt Roeding having to sit out most of the game with a stiff knee, the Rebels are playing well but certainly not quite at full strength.

"Smoldt has had great leadership and aggressiveness on the offensive end," G-R head coach Scott Kiburis said. "Right now the guys just have to learn how to play around him. ... Defense, I think, is a strength but we just need to work on it. ... We have the athletes to be able to press and move kids in and out but we just need time, we haven't had very many practices so hopefully we get a good week of practice (over Christmas break) and we can

start figuring out where some guys are at and good combinations."

Janesville 11 0 12 13 — 36
G-R 26 21 12 8 — 67

Janesville (2-5) - Cody Hicks 5 0-2 10, Josh Hahn 4 0-0 8, Peyton Meyer 3 2-4 8, Bryce Destival 1 0-0 3, Caden Conrad 1 1-1 3, Christian Mauer 1 0-0 2, Jameson Conover 1 0-0 2. Totals 16 3-7 36.

Gladbrook-Reinbeck (5-0) - Joe Smoldt 9 4-5 25, Caden Kickbush 7 0-0 16, Thomas Mussig 4 2-3 10, Walker Thede 4 0-0 8, Matt Roeding 3 0-0 6, Mason Skovgard 1 0-0 2, Deagan Haack 0 0-0 0, Tyler Tschertner 0 0-0 0, Matt Johannsen 0 0-0 0, Jackson Kiburis 0 0-0 0, Jed Peterson 0 0-0 0. Totals 28 6-8 67.

3-pointers: Janesville (Destival), G-R 5 (Smoldt 3, Kickbush 2). **Rebounds:** Janesville 35 (Hicks 8); G-R 36 (Skovgard 10, Mussig 7, Roeding 6, Kickbush 4, Thede 3, Johannsen 2, Smoldt 2, Kiburis, Haack). **Assists:** Janesville 7, G-R 16 (Smoldt 11, Kickbush, Mussig, Kiburis, Skovgard, Peterson). **Steals:** Janesville 5, G-R 14 (Smoldt 6, Kickbush 3, Thede, Mussig, Kiburis, Roeding, Skovgard). **Blocks:** Janesville 2, G-R 0. **Total fouls:** Janesville 11, G-R 6. Fouled out: None.

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