



# ZEPHYRHILLS SPORTS

March 4, 2021

## Coyotes take a bite out of Bulldogs, 11-3



The Zephyrhills baseball team stands at attention for the national anthem before last week's game at Cypress Creek.

STEVE LEE

### Cypress Creek draws the upper hand against Sunshine Athletic Conference rival Zephyrhills

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

In a battle of 2-1 high school baseball teams last Friday, host Cypress Creek came out on top with a decisive 11-3 victory over Zephyrhills. While it is still early in the season, the Coyotes drew the upper hand over Zephyrhills in the Sunshine Athletic Conference race.

Zephyrhills (2-2) won two of its first three games with the offense coming up big in both victories. Following a narrow 2-1 loss to Lakeland Kathleen in the season opener, the Bulldogs posted a 7-0

shutout of Lakeland Tenoroc before a 12-2 win over Winter Haven All Saints Academy.

Cypress Creek (3-1) won its first two games, a close 2-1 defeat of Pasco in extra innings followed by a dominating 13-0 shutout of Bradenton IMG Academy Royal. A 3-2 loss to Sunlake preceded the Coyotes win over Zephyrhills.

With both teams having early-season victories in which they scored in double digits, the outcome came down to hitting — a lot for Cypress Creek, not so much for Zephyrhills. The Coyotes racked up 10 hits throughout the game and capitalized on four Zephyrhills errors, scoring in all but one inning.

"We're starting to come together," said Cypress Creek coach Joe Neale, adding that after the close loss to Sunlake "we just decided to show up at the ballpark and just play together. They had a little bit of fun."

The Bulldogs did not fare nearly as well on offense with a meager four hits, both of which came in the only inning they scored. Their other two hits came in the top of the seventh inning, but it did

► **BASEBALL:** See Page 5B



Stewart's Noah Porter dribbles in a crowd during the junior varsity basketball game against rival Pasco.

STEVE LEE

## Bulldogs make history by winning two titles

*Stewart's varsity and junior varsity boys basketball teams are champions in the same season*

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

For the first time in school history Stewart won boys basketball conference titles at the varsity and junior varsity levels with matching 8-0 records in the same season. The host Bulldogs pulled off that milestone feat against arch-rival Pasco, winning the JV game 52-21 before a 43-15 victory in the varsity matchup.

Stewart's JV team had the most recent championship, winning it in the 2016-17 season. The varsity squad won three titles in four years — 1991-92, 1993-94 and 1994-95 — before adding to that list with its current one.

"It just means so much to the school. It's surreal," added Stewart first-year JV coach Brandon Bristow. "The boys put in a tremendous effort. They took care of business on and off the court."

"It's history in the books," Zephyrhills varsity coach Marcus McKinley added. "Me and coach Bristow, we had a plan at the beginning of the season. We said if we followed that plan we'd prevail."

Both undefeated Stewart teams followed their respective plans to the letter, according to the coaches, and shared in their championship celebrations on their home court afterward.

Prior to this season, McKinley coached Stewart

► **MS BASKETBALL:** See Page 8B

## Cypress Creek Middle wraps season with 8-0 win over Centennial

*Both squads played their final games of the winter season on Tuesday night at Cypress Creek High School*

By ANDY WARRNER  
Sports Reporter

They were teams in different phases of development. The visiting Cyclones are just coming out of a rebuild and the host Coyotes are a year away from what might be their best team in the program's short history. It showed on the pitch Tuesday night. The Coyotes were up 2-0 before the first water break.

It was not long before Rosa Calgagni made it 3-0. A great shot, angled low to the corner by Annalisse Vizza made it 4-0 heading into the half.

The Coyotes just closed off half of the field. Their stout back line of Vizza, Ashley Rees, Alexa Wainright and Natasha Sax, helped the host team keep almost all of the action on the Centennial side of the field. Virtually every ball that made it near midfield was batted back into the danger zone.

"We have a good, cohesive team and we empower each other," Coyote head coach Terra Corrao said. "We play good defense, have a great midfield, it's just a great team."

Defender Lindsay Fulop helped out on the back line, her traditional position, but in the second half, Corrao cut her loose to the forward position. Fulop showed just why she's the team's leading scorer. Fulop scored just minutes into the second half to make it 5-0. Again, just a few minutes later, Fulop was free on a fast break and buried a nice shot, low to the far post.

► **MS SOCCER:** See Page 4B



The 2021 Centennial Cyclones girls soccer team fell victim to Cypress Creek in the season finale.

ANDY WARRNER



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# Wealth of Health



Eggs are a topic of conversation each spring, largely because of their relationship to the Christian celebration of Easter. Brightly colored Easter eggs are on display, chocolate eggs line store shelves and egg-lined birds nests in trees and bushes dot spring landscapes.

Eggs take center stage in early spring, but they're more than just novelties to include in Easter celebrations.

- Eggs are nutritious. Eggs are loaded with vitamins A, D and B12 and the nutrient choline. They're also an excellent protein source in a small package. At 72 calories and packing six grams of protein, eggs can make for a great, filling meal at any time of day.
- Eggs boost brain health. The choline in eggs is a crucial nutrient for memory, mood and muscle control, according to the University of Missouri Health Care system. Choline also is essential in fetal brain development and can help prevent birth defects.

• Eggs don't always have to be refrigerated. In countries outside of the United States and Canada, eggs may not be refrigerated and do not have to be chilled. Also, outside of North America eggs are not washed prior to commercial production. However, according to the food resource TheKichn, power-washing eggs removes a protective coating and makes the eggs porous and vulnerable to contamination. A synthetic coating is put on washed eggs.

- Shell color does not matter. The color of the eggshell doesn't indicate taste, nutritional value or even egg quality. The color of the eggshell reflects the breed of hen that laid the egg. Red-feathered hens tend to lay brown eggs, while hens with white features lay white eggs. Similarly, the shade of yolk is representative of what the chicken is eating. A dark, yellow yolk means the hen was probably fed green vegetables. Lighter yolks coordinate to corn and grain diets.
- All eggs are "hormone-free." The term



"hormone-free" on egg cartons does not signify anything special. It's like advertising that snow is cold. The United States Food & Drug Administration banned the use of hormones in all poultry production in the 1950s. All eggs are hormone-free.

• Size and eggshell thickness indicates the age of the hen. Eggs come in different sizes, such as medium, large and jumbo. The age of the chicken determines the size, with older hens producing larger eggs. Age also affects shell thickness, with younger hens laying thicker-shelled eggs, says Eat This, Not That!

- Eggs won't hatch. Eggs sold for consumption are not fertilized. Hens that have laid them haven't mated.

• Many birds lay eggs. Kiwis lay the largest egg in relation to their body size of any species of bird in the world. However, the ostrich, emu and cassowary lay the biggest eggs.

• The sink or swim test can say a lot about an egg. Eggs become more porous as they age. You can tell if an egg is old by putting it in a glass of water. If it sinks, it is fresh. If it floats, it is an older egg.

Eggs get a lot of fanfare around Easter, and there's more than meets the eye to that carton of eggs in the refrigerator.

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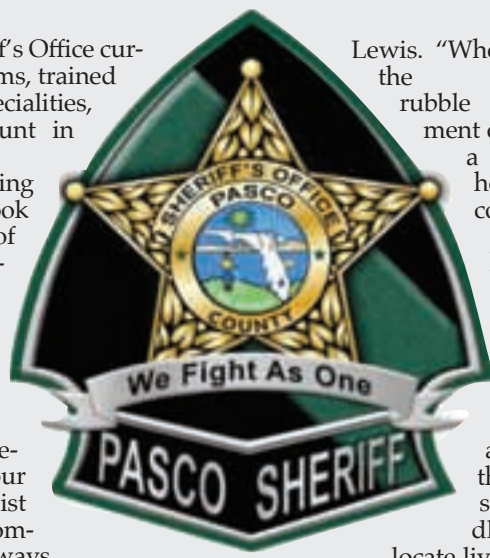


Above: Elk members Dave Syreini and Don Falaas help move in some furnishings for veteran, Marvin Lyles.

Above: Elk Member helpers Don Falaas and Steve Czemesky help move in a chair for Voyn.

Left: Elk members, Dave Syreini and Don Falaas, help move in a dresser for veteran, Carla Turner.

# Introducing K9 Maddie



The Pasco Sheriff's Office currently has 31 K9 teams, trained in a variety of specialties, which are paramount in keeping Pasco safe.

When selecting new K9s, trainers look for a variety of traits, such as intelligence, obedience and a personality that compliments the handler. As the unit continues to grow, PSO has introduced new K9 specialties to expand our capabilities and assist the citizens of our community in different ways.

The latest iteration of this is live-find detection, and PSO added its first K9 of this specialty in May 2020. As a live-find detection dog, K9 Maddie is able to locate people that are still alive and buried in debris or rubble. This two-year-old Labrador Retriever's courage, keen sense of smell and hearing made her an excellent candidate for the team. Her capabilities are instrumental when assisting in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters.

Similar to other canines, K9 Maddie is trained to track through woods, swamps, neighborhoods and buildings, during varied weather conditions. K9 Maddie also gets the unique opportunity to train on PSO's two in-house rubble pile training facilities, making quality training that much easier.

Her handler, Dep. Robert Lewis started at the Pasco Sheriff's Office in 2015 and joined the Canine Unit in 2020. Dep. Lewis has been around dogs all his life and knew he and K9 Maddie would make a great team. They have developed a strong bond through training together.

"At work, she is easy-going and just wants to get out and run," stated Dep.

Lewis. "Whether it's training on the rubble pile, agility equipment or running around on a break, working with her is the best thing I could ask for."

K9 Maddie passed her Fundamental Skills Assessment (FSA) test in under three months. This test is a state certification for FEMA and assess a K9's ability to maneuver through difficult obstacles, follow the handler's directions and locate live humans. Dep. Lewis and K9 Maddie are currently waiting to be accepted to a Federal Task Force to complete K9 Maddie's Certification Evaluation (CE). This will allow Dep. Lewis and K9 Maddie to be deployed out of state and possibly even out of the country.

Along with live find detection, PSO's canines are specialized in tracking, evidence recovery, building/area searches, criminal apprehension, narcotics detection, explosives detection and human remains detection. The Pasco Sheriff's Office also added two therapy dogs last year, who assist our Behavioral Health Intervention Team (BHIT).

Like all of PSO's K9s, the funds for K9 Maddie were donated by citizens of Pasco County. Ed and Angie Moore wished to honor their daughter Madison "Maddie" Moore, who passed away in 2017. Madison wished to pursue a career in forensics and the Moores are thrilled that K9 Maddie will continue Madison's memory for years to come. Dep. Lewis and K9 Maddie will work hard to honor Madison's memory and keep Pasco safe.

## HOMETOWN NEWS

### Owen Libby receives scholarship to Culver-Stockton College

Congratulations to Owen Libby from Wesley Chapel, on being accepted into Culver-Stockton College's incoming class for the fall 2021 semester.

Libby, a senior at Wesley Chapel High School, also was awarded the Wildcat Scholarship, an \$8,500 per year scholarship for four years. This scholarship is awarded based upon academic credentials and is renewable provided the student remains in good academic standing.

Culver-Stockton College, located in Canton, Mo., is a four-year residential institution in affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

### Godey Coleus graduates from Missouri State University

Missouri State University awarded 1,534 degrees to students in fall 2020. The commencement ceremonies took place Dec. 11, 2020, at JQH Arena.

Godey Coleus of Wesley Chapel graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Communication. Students who graduated with honors completed at least 30 credit hours with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Missouri State University is a public, comprehensive university system with a mission in public affairs. The universities purpose is to develop fully educated persons with a focus on ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement.

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<b>FRIDAYS</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Live Music - Gary Schutt 8-11pm 12 <sup>th</sup> Live Music - Kris Pierce 8-11pm 19 <sup>th</sup> Live Music - Day Dream Band 8-11pm 26 <sup>th</sup> Live Music - Po Boys 8-11pm	<b>TUESDAYS</b> Every Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Learn to Line Dance 2-4pm Joint Officer's Meeting 7pm Aerie Meeting 7pm
<b>SATURDAYS</b> Every Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> Aerie Dual Bingo 12:30pm Darts 7pm	<b>WEDNESDAYS</b> Every Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Auxiliary Bar Bingo 12:30pm Eagle Riders 7pm
<b>SUNDAYS</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Christine & Willie Karaoke 3-7pm 14 <sup>th</sup> Live Music - Bill D. Williams 3-6pm 21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> Christine & Willie Karaoke 3-7pm	<b>"Get Your Green On"</b> <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b> March 17 <sup>th</sup> • 5pm-7pm Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with Potatoes, Carrots & Dessert \$7.00 per plate

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Calendar of Events on Facebook@ ZephyrhillsEagles#3752



Above: The 2021 Cypress Creek Coyotes girls soccer team.



Right: Rachael Ellison races out against Centennial's Arianna Cotto.

ANDY WARRENER



Left: Cypress Creek's Blitch Debitu fights off a trio of Cyclone defenders.



Right: Centennial head coach Amber Larsen makes some halftime adjustments.

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**MS SOCCER:** From Page 1B

Centennial finally pushed the ball through to the Cypress Creek end and they had a look at the goal but it evaporated. Very quickly, the pressure was back on. Fulop, in the last 20 minutes, would punch a great shot to the right, off the right side of her foot to the far corner of the net to make it 7-0.

A couple more near misses for the Coyotes and Piper Adams would close it out blocking a Centennial goal kick, slipping around a defender and scoring to make it an 8-0 mercy ruling.

Mercy rulings have not been uncommon for the Coyotes. They made it their second against Centennial. Stewart and Pasco both got the same treatment. The Coyotes struggled but played well against some of the top teams in the county, tying John Long and dropping close matches to Weightman, Pineview and Rushe. Corrao, in her second year, feels like this is the setup year for the Coyotes to take the next step.

"The majority of the team this year are seventh-graders," Corrao said. "We have a really strong seventh-grade class and feel confident we can come back with a strong team next year."

The Coyotes are excited about the high school team recently making the regional finals,

a first in the short program history.

"Oh, sure there's a little excitement with what's going on at the high school," Corrao said. "They know they get to go up and be a part of that great team."

Centennial did manage to beat Stewart 3-2 this season but they are looking ahead to next year as well. Head coach Amber Larsen, a former Zephyrhills High School soccer player, is in her second year at the head of both the boys and girls teams.

"We've made tons of headway this year," Larsen said. "Some of our players are just coming off of quarantine. This game and season are still very much a fresh start for us."

The Cyclones' one win over Stewart was a comeback from down 2-0 but the rest of the matches were 8-0 mercy rulings. Games like that put a ton of pressure on a goal keeper. It's good for them that they have two capable ones. Jessie Starnes and Sydney Goad have taken on that role this season.

"It's unusual that you get two players that can play there because it's a difficult position," Larsen said.

Starnes is also trying to develop as a defensive player and forward. Arianna Cotto is another developing player at Centennial, as are Julie Estrada-Garcia, Andrianna Carpenter and Mariah Ross.



Above: The Cyclones break free on a fast break.

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Left: The Petry brothers, Peyton followed by Ethan, race home to score for Cypress Creek on Dylan Brown's two-run single in the first inning. They combined for five runs scored.



STEVE LEE

Insert: Zephyrhills' Bryan Santiago, who drove in a run and scored once, watches a close pitch that was called for a strike.



Right: Cypress Creek pinch-runner Gabriel Nieves takes a lead while Zephyrhills first baseman Beck Rufe tries to hold him close to the bag.



Above: Bulldog leadoff hitter and left fielder Jaxon Rivera awaits a pitch at the beginning of last week's game against Cypress Creek.

Right: Left-hander Mark Santiago started on the mound for Zephyrhills and pitched three innings.

► **BASEBALL:** From Page 1B

not pay off as Zephyrhills left the bases loaded with two outs without getting a run in.

"That's probably the worst we've played yet, but that's probably the best team we've played," Zephyrhills coach Rusty Guynn said. "That's one of the better teams, if not the best team in Pasco (County) right now."

Guynn could have a point. Cypress Creek has a roster featuring four college signees — Peyton Petry, Anthony Menendez, Zach Beulk and Nolan Jamison — and won 17 games in 2019 before going 4-3 in last year's shortened season.

The Coyotes struck quick against the Bulldogs, taking a 7-0 lead through three innings. Dyllan Brown drove in a pair of runs in the first. Ethan Petry, a junior and Peyton's younger brother, hit a two-run single in the second and added two more singles later. He also scored three times.

Trailing 7-0, Zephyrhills' Micah Berrien singled, Bryan Santiago reached on an infield

error and Martin Calhoun walked. That loaded the bases for Mark Santiago, who drove in two runs with a double to the left field fence.

Zephyrhills loaded the bases in the top of the seventh with two outs, but could not get a run home. For the game, Berrien and Mark Santiago each had two hits.

As for the pitching, Cypress Creek starter Caden Kwiat earned the win. The junior right-hander allowed three runs on two hits with six strikeouts and three walks in four innings. Seamus Gallagher came on for three innings of scoreless relief, striking out four and allowing three hits.

"He threw strikes and let the defense play behind him," Neale said of Kwiat.

The Santiago brothers each threw three innings for Zephyrhills. Mark started and gave up seven runs, four of which were unearned after costly errors, on six hits. He fanned four and did not walk a batter. Bryan then came in and surrendered four more runs.

"The Santiago brothers threw the ball well," Guynn said.



Left: After last week's game against host Cypress Creek, Zephyrhills coach Rusty Guynn addressed his players along the third-base line.

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DAYTIME schedule for March 4, 2021. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9. Programs include ReadyJetGo, Local Prog., ComicsUnle, NewsChannel 8 Today, News Brightside, etc.

DAYTIME schedule for March 5, 2021. Columns for channels 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include NewsChannel 8 Today, ABC Action News, Dateline, Good Day, etc.

THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BBC News, Travelscope, MikeMolly, News, Extra, etc.

FRIDAY MARCH 5, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BBC News, Travel, Mike, News, Extra, etc.

SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include R.Steves, Mrs.Wilson, Blades of Glory, Vets Pets, etc.

SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BrainRevol, Artsy, FunnyWeat, NHL, etc.

MONDAY MARCH 8, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BBC News, Travel, Mike&Molly, News, Extra, etc.

TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BBC News, Travelscope, Mike&Molly, News, Extra, etc.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2021 schedule. Columns for channels 3, 34, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. Programs include BBCNews, Travel, Mike&Molly, News, Extra, etc.



Josh Duhamel

HOLLYWOOD -- Welcome to the first big scandal of 2021. Armie Hammer, of the hit film "Call Me by Your Name," is in hot water because messages have surfaced on social media, allegedly written by him, in which he, supposedly, gives graphic details about sexual fantasies, some referencing cannibalism. He's denied the accusations and calls them "bulls\*\*t."

Lionsgate, producers of the upcoming Jennifer Lopez film "Shotgun Wedding," which was to have co-starred Hammer, moved swiftly to remedy the situation, replacing Hammer with Josh Duhamel. How Hammer's other films, already completed and awaiting release, will be affected is anyone's guess. "Crisis," with Gary Oldman, Evangeline Lilly, Greg Kinnear, Michelle Rodriguez and Luke Evans, was due Feb. 26, followed by "Death on the Nile," due Sept. 17. The sports comedy "Next Goal Wins," with Michael Fassbender and Elisabeth Moss, is in post-production, awaiting a release date.

Lopez, meanwhile, has completed "Marry Me," with Owen Wilson (due May 14), and is prepping to play drug lord Griselda Blanco in "The Godmother."

Two of Josh Duhamel's recent successes were "Transformers: The Last Knight" (2017) and "Love Simon" (2018). Due to COVID, his next projects, "The Lost Husband," with Leslie Bibb (Christine Everhart in "Iron Man" 1 and 2) and "Think Like a Dog," with Megan Fox, went to Video On Demand, while "Buddy Games," which he wrote/produced/directed and starred in, with Dax Shepard, Kevin Dillon and Olivia Munn, has been caught in the COVID distribution mess as well. He's also got the Netflix streaming series "Jupiter's Legacy," with Ben Daniels, Leslie Bibb and Matt Lanter, with the first episode due May 7.

Duhamel still has legions of loyal fans from "All My Children," and, oh yes, he was married to the "Black Eyed Peas" Fergie for 10 years, and they had a son. He's a far better match for Jennifer Lopez than Armie Hammer.

We suspect the Shirley MacLaine/Peter Dinklage film "American Dreamer," which begins shooting March 15 in Vancouver, will undergo a name change since the film "American Dreamer," starring stand-up comic Jim Gaffigan, was released in 2019. MacLaine, one of the last four living studio-created movie stars of The Golden Age of Hollywood (the others being Jane Fonda, Sophia Loren and Robert Redford), will give Dinklage a run for his money. He plays a Harvard economics professor and she, a lonely, childless near-death widow, offers him her sprawling estate for next to nothing. Dinklage will next play a man pretending to be a leprechaun in "O Lucky Day." It must be quite a part because he swore he'd never play a leprechaun ... proving never say never!

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SOAP UPDATE



Wes Ramsey stars as "Peter" on "General Hospital."

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL Katie went to bat for Flo with the Logan sisters. Zoe put her plan in motion to get her man back. Finn recognized a familiar face in an unfamiliar place. Dollar Bill seized an opportunity for a second chance with Katie. The Logan sisters came full circle in completing their family. Flo received an unexpected gift from Brooke, Katie and Donna. Zoe attempted to fix what was broken between her and Carter. Wait to see: Zende takes Paris away from the office for some fun and romance. Zoe goes big in arranging a scene to prove her love. Paris begins to fall deeper for Zende.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES Chloe questioned "Susan's" behavior. Meanwhile, Lani was becoming suspicious of "Kristen." Abigail pressed Gabi to join forces with her against Gwen. Kristen used Philip to her advantage. Chloe advised Sarah not to marry Xander. Abigail and Jack had a heated argument about Gwen. Lani introduced Abe and Eli to her Aunt Paulina. Abigail and Gabi kidnapped Gwen. Jack informed Chad about his fight with Abigail. Steve and Kayla had an awkward encounter with Bonnie and Justin. Sarah discovered Xander in a compromising position. Sami tried to persuade Belle to represent her. John feared he may have gone too far. Ben sought help from Marlana. Evan played mind games with Ciara. Abigail demanded Gwen admit to killing Laura. Wait to see: Kate and Jake get a win over Philip and Gabi. Evan informs Ciara of his deadly plans for Ben. Clyde has stunning news for Ben.

GENERAL HOSPITAL Anna and Valentin hatched a scheme. Dante paid Peter a visit. Maxie received a surprising message. Jackie and Gregory came to a realization. Franco's tumor continued to complicate things. Dante thwarted Valentin's plan. Peter was undeterred, and Maxie was eager to begin her new life with him. Jordan began her investigation. Lucy was rudely interrupted. Finn got support from Chase. Nina vented to Ava about Carly. Peter confronted Anna. Michael extended an olive branch. Valentin told Peter he cared about him. Anna was very apologetic. Jackie was insightful. Jax lamented that he couldn't get through to Nina. Franco made a grand discovery. Mac intervened. Anna admitted her mistakes to Robert. Wait to see: Dante wonders what Sam will do next. Franco gains new insight. Carly finds Nina's behavior intrusive.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS Victor and Ashley discussed their concerns about Abby. Amanda's past came back to haunt her. Mariah and Tessa received a reality check. Phyllis turned the tables on Sally. Summer caught Kyle in the act. Chloe connected with Chelsea. Victor built his empire. Chelsea dreamed of exacting revenge. Nick protected Faith. Jack defended himself. Nina and Christine supported Abby. Devon covered up a secret. Wait to see: Victor delivers some bad news. Lily sets the record straight with Victoria. Chelsea celebrates a big win.

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Left: Pasco's Chance Lowe dribbles at the top of the key and is defended by Stewart's Jayden Sanchez Alvarez in the varsity game. Bulldog teammates Liam Perkins and Jamarus Cherington also play defense while Pasco's Mason Pippin is on the outside.

Right: Pasco's Sage Stinyard runs to get open while Liam Perkins plays defense on an inbounds play during the varsity game.



STEVE LEE

► MS BASKETBALL: From Page 1B

to third place and a runner-up finish in his two previous years. "We've got a lot of talent," he said. In the JV game, Stewart took a 20-11 halftime lead and had a balanced scoring as nine players got into the scoring column. Amontiy Hudson was the only Bulldog in double figures with 12 points. Azuri Jackson had 9, Roosevelt Miller scored seven and three players — Colin O'Malley, Daniel Carter, Jr. and Sanilyn Black — chipped in with 6 apiece. Tyler Gillett added 4 with Garren Ponder and Noah Porter each scoring 2. For Pasco's JV team, Brody Carter netted a game-high 13 points. Bryce Frix had 3 with Jayden Knowles and Justino Camarillo each adding a pair of points. In the varsity game that followed, Stewart jumped out to a substantial 18-9 lead at the half and cruised to an easy victory. The Bulldogs actually had two seventh-graders as starters, guard Kingston McCullough and Demontia Hudson, a versatile player who can line up at guard as well as forward. Leading the way for Stewart was Tristan Lenon,

who scored 10 points as the only player in that game to finish in double figures. McCullough and Hudson each had 6 points with Samaryna Black, Elijah Williams and Jayden Sanchez Alvarez adding 5 apiece. For the Pasco varsity, Toni Bryant scored a team-leading 7 points. Chance Lowe added 3 with Sage Stinyard and Anthony Norman each chipping in with 2 apiece. The doubleheader of JV and varsity games took on a special meaning for both teams. With Deori Pope, a Stewart JV player who played for Pasco last season, out of the lineup after playing the first six games of the season, members of both sides wore pins with his face depicted on them. Bristow said he was hospitalized with complications from COVID-19. "He's going to be ecstatic," Bristow said of when Pope, a shooting guard and one of the team's top players, would be told of the dual titles. "I wish he was here tonight." Early on there were indications of Stewart's championship possibilities. In the season openers last month, Stewart's varsity and JV teams swept Pasco in Dade City. The varsity won 39-21, which followed a 39-19 victory in the JV matchup. The season finales in both divisions proved to be more of the same, giving the Bulldogs two sweeps of the Pirates.



Above: The Stewart Middle cheerleaders cheered on the home teams that each won conference championships.

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Left: Players, coaches and some family members came out onto the court to celebrate Stewart Middle's championships at the varsity and junior varsity levels.

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