

Sports



Photo Courtesy Whitesboro Bearcat Basketball

Bearcats nudge out Bulldogs to advance to third playoff round

JESSICA EDWARDS
Managing Editor

The Whitesboro Bearcats faced the Howe Bulldogs at Sherman High School in a tough, Class 3A Region II area round game last Friday. The home team managed to overcome some obstacles to earn a 46-42 win.

Whitesboro's Mac

Harper had several fouls that earned him some bench time during the game. Luckily, the team worked together and was able to hold off Howe, who struggled to find their rhythm until about the fourth quarter.

Whitesboro ended the first quarter 13-7 thanks to three-pointers by Max Hinsley and Kason Williams following a free-

throw by Jacob Knight.

The second quarter didn't see much scoring action from either team, and Whitesboro took a 25-16 lead.

In the third quarter, Howe managed to tighten the point spread to 31-25. The only points scored by Whitesboro in the final four-and-a-half minutes came from Hinsley, who scored with

just 1:23 left in the quarter.

Excitement built in the final minutes of the game. Howe attempted an aggressive comeback that brought them within two points of their opponent.

With :27 left in the game, Knight scored a free throw and Harper (who was reinstated in the game with less than

2 minutes remaining) caught the second rebound.

A foul for Williams earned two successful free-throws and gained the team a five-point lead.

Despite Howe's three-pointer with just four seconds left, Hinsley sank two free-throws and solidified the team's victory.

Hinsley earned 18

points, four rebounds, four steals and three assists. Williams scored 12 points; and Knight scored nine points.

This victory for Whitesboro (who had been eliminated at this point the past two seasons) secured the Bearcats spot in the region quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Bearcat baseball team preps for weekend tournament

PEYTON FANNING
Student Writer

The Whitesboro Bearcat varsity baseball team kicked off their 2023 season with a non-district game in Bells against the Panthers on Monday, Feb. 20.

The Panthers were up 3-0 in the bottom of the second inning. During the third inning, Bells added three runs to the board and the Bearcats added one run.

At the top of the fourth inning, the Bearcats added another run, bringing the total to 6-2 with the Panthers still leading.

However, in the bottom of the fourth, the Panthers added a run to the board, bringing the score to 2-7. The fifth inning was uneventful with no additional runs for either team.

The top of the sixth was the last time the Bearcats scored any runs for the remainder of the match-up, bringing the final score to 14-4, the Bells Panthers.

The Whitesboro Bearcat Baseball Twitter account posted the final score with the caption, "Bearcats lose a tough one to Bells. Back in action Thursday [Feb. 23] in the Anna Tournament."

The Bearcats came back Thursday in the Anna Tournament. The first game that Whitesboro played in the tourney was against the hosting team, the Anna Coyotes.

The first inning resulted in two runs by the Bearcats and one run by the Coyotes. The game was uneventful until the sixth inning, when the

Coyotes added six unanswered runs to the board.

The game ended during the seventh inning after the Bearcats scored two final runs. The Coyotes won 7-4.

The second game of the Anna tourney was against the Gunter Tigers on Thursday. The Tigers and the Bearcats kicked off the game with five unanswered runs by the Tigers.

During the second inning, the Tigers scored another seven runs and the Bearcats added two runs to the board. This brought the score to 12-2, the Tigers in the lead. The third inning was uneventful with no additional runs.

The final runs were scored during the fourth inning. The Bearcats added two to the board, bringing the final score to 12-4 with the Tigers winning.

On the final day of the Anna tourney, the Bearcats ended play with a matchup against the Howe Bulldogs. The Bearcats won 14-11 and ended the tournament weekend 1-2 and the Bearcats season record to 1-3.

The "young guys are starting to pick up on things, on how we want to play and how to limit mistakes," said Head Coach Curt Cole. "[We] still have [a] long way [to go] but we've already noticed some improvement in our [players'] mental aspect, which is always a positive for the coaches going forward."

The Bearcats played the Bulldogs again on Monday, Feb. 27, in another non-district game. The final score

was 10-9, with the Bulldogs winning, bringing their season record to 1-4.

"We're trying to hit home with the kids and then the everyday grind that you [must] make at practice to get better in cages and on [the] field and not just going [through] the motions," said Cole. "Once we get past that battle we can go to [the] next level."

"Bearcats head west this weekend for the Bowie/Henrietta Tournament starting [tomorrow]," Whitesboro Bearcat Baseball Twitter said.

The Bearcats started another tourney yesterday. They will play the Muenster Hornets first before meeting the Vernon Lions later in the day.

On day two, today, the Bearcats will play the Holliday Eagles. On the final day, Saturday, the Bearcats will play the Lawton Wolverines.

"Besides setting our pitching rotation to the tournament, we don't really prepare for the tournament," said Cole. "We're always focused on our district, and winning [the] district championship is our first goal."

"We've already noticed some improvement in our [players'] mental aspect, which is always a positive for the coaches going forward."

Lady Cats, Lady Pirates end seasons, accolades continue

JESSICA EDWARDS
Managing Editor

Whitesboro and S&S girls' basketball seasons have come to an end, but both teams continue to earn recognition.

The Lady Cats basketball season finished with a loss to Pottsville in the second round of the Playoffs. However, the players continue to earn well-deserved accolades for their efforts in a hard-fought season.

Alli Muntz was named District 10-3A Offensive Player of the Year. Oli Hildebrand and Bradi Gallaway were named to the District 10-3A First Team All-District.

Melanie Baldwin and A'Niyah Shaw were both chosen for the District 10-3A Second Team All-District.

Avery Howerton and Lindsay Hermes were both selected District 10-3A Honorable Mention All-District.

The District 10-3A Academic

All-District players were Zalenka Brannan, Jacy Hahn, Resa Gonzales, Alli Muntz, Oli Hildebrand, Bradi Gallaway, Avery Howerton, Lindsay Hermes, and Melanie Baldwin.

The Collinsville Lady Cats basketball season ended with a loss to Wolfe City on Feb. 13, but there is still much to celebrate.

The team ended 17-15 overall, winning more than half of the season's games. This earned them a position of third in the district, as well as well-deserved 2A District 13 recognition.

Addisyn McDonnell was named Offensive MVP. Ashleigh Ortowski was named Newcomer of the Year. Reese Patterson earned First Team All-District and Devyn Elvington earned Honorable Mention All-District. Academic All-District players included Patterson, both Elvingtons, and McDonnell.

Area girls powerlifting teams produce State Qualifiers

JOSH VELTEN
Contributing Writer

Whitesboro and S&S girls powerlifting teams both earned top honors and produced State Qualifiers at the Region 6 meet Feb. 25.

The Whitesboro girls powerlifting program wrapped up their regular competition season last week by sending 12 girls to the Region 6 meet as Regional Qualifiers.

As a result, the Bearcats are advancing three girls to compete in the state

meet in Frisco on March 16.

The lifters did very well, and overall the team finished third out of 14 schools.

The three State Qualifiers are Brooklyn Lamb, Olivia Hildebrand, and Sophia Salas.

The Bearcats also had three other Top 5 finishers. Zoie Palmer finished third in her weight class, and Maddy Reasor and Chloe Reid finished in fourth and fifth, respectively.

The S&S girls power-

lifting team finished with 33 points, earning them a second place trophy.

Several Lady Rams earned individual medals, and as a result of finishing in first or second place, Rosa Jaresh, Whitney Scoggins, Jewel Chism, Isabelle Layton, and Holly Johnson qualified for the chance to compete at the state meet.

Congratulations to these student athletes on a terrific season and their ongoing success.

If your high school sports team or student athletes have experienced a victory, or you took some great photos at the last sporting event, please let us know! Your stories and photos could appear in our sports section (with byline credit, of course!).
Contact Jessica at editor@ntin.net or call 903.564.3565.