


Jackson Glueck plays baseball for Staley High School in Kansas City. He tried out & made the Kansas City Royals Scout Team where he is their starting First Baseman & aslo pitches left hand. He has been ranked the top first baseman in the State of Missouri for his age the past couple of years.



UPDATE JACKSON'S PROFILE INFO
PROFILE PICTURE UPLOAD

JACKSON GLUECK

2024 GRAD | 1B/LHP, OF | KANSAS CITY, MO

UNCOMMITTED

COLLEGE INTERESTS

BEST PG GRADE

PG 9

ABOUT PG GRADES

NATIONAL BANKING

PREMIUM OVERALL

PREMIUM 1B

MO STATE BANKING

PREMIUM OVERALL

PREMIUM 1B

STALEY HIGH SCHOOL

S/L BAYS/THROWS

ROYALS SCOUT TEAM 2024

TEAM LAST PLAYED

17 AND 0 MOS AGE

6-1 205

HEIGHT/WEIGHT

PG EVENT RESULTS

82 MPH
FB VELO

7.78 SEC
60 YARD DASH

1.70 SEC
10 YARD SPLIT

82 MPH
1B VELO

85 MPH
EXIT VELO





SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Ressel's late jumper sends Oran boys to Class 2 final four

By Rachel Crader ~ Semoball.com

Sunday, March 3, 2013



Oran's Alex Schlitt, center, and his teammates celebrate after their 63-61 victory over Winona in the Class 2 quarterfinal game Saturday in Farmington, Mo. The Eagles are headed to the state tournament for the first time in 44 years. (Fred Lynch)

FARMINGTON, Mo. -- Seth Ressel's first thought when he released the ball was that his shot looked too good to actually be good.

"I just couldn't believe it," the Oran junior said. "It felt good. It just looked too perfect. It was just amazing."

It turned out the shot was just perfect enough to send the Oran boys basketball team to the final four for the first time since 1969.

Ressel received an inbounds pass with 19 seconds left in Saturday's Class 2 quarterfinal at the Farmington Civic Center.

"We originally had a play for a screen for me, and that didn't work out at all, so I kicked it out to Kody [Moore]," Ressel said. "I slid back in Kody's spot and Kody dribbled up, and he kicked it out to me. I took one dribble, stepped in and then it went in."

The basket gave Oran a 63-61 lead over Winona with 2.3 seconds remaining.

"I don't remember," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said of his thoughts while watching the shot hang in the air. "I just remember when he shot it, and when it went in. Then you start thinking about how much time is left on the clock and what kind of defense to play."

Winona's desperation heave from beyond half court failed to catch the backboard or rim, and the Eagles were able to start celebrating a trip to the final four in a different sport than usual.

"There's no better feeling," Moore said. "It might even be a little bit sweeter than baseball because, I mean, I've already been twice for baseball, but I think coach just said it's been 44 years since Oran's done it in basketball, so it's really special."

The school has been to 11 final fours in baseball, including the last two seasons.



Oran's Seth Ressel drives to the basket against Winona's Jeff Smith during the first quarter of their Class 2 quarterfinal game Saturday in Farmington, Mo. (Fred Lynch)

"Those were great experiences, but it's different with basketball because you've got the whole crowd, and it's not just you out there," said senior Alex Heuring, who catches for the baseball team. "The whole crowd gets into the game. It's like it's more than just you. It seems so much bigger. It's awesome."

Oran (27-3) will face Salisbury (28-1) in a state semifinal at 6:40 p.m. Thursday at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Mo.

Ressel, who scored 14 points in the game, helped the Eagles establish an early lead with his defense. He scored six of Oran's eight points during an early run that gave the Eagles an 11-5 lead, four of which came as a result of his own steals.

"I think it kind of made them realize that, 'Hey, we're here to play,'" Heuring said. "It really got us out to a good start and it got the momentum on our side. It was really a confidence builder."

Winona grabbed 3-0 lead, but did not hold another lead until 1:23 remained in the third quarter, and Oran led by as many as 10 points early in the second half.

But the Wildcats closed the gap with the help of a 7-0 run in the third quarter and by frequently changing defenses.

"It caused us some trouble," Moore said. "We had to figure out what offense we were running and everything else because obviously your zone offense is not going to work against man and vice versa. That was their plan, switching up defenses like that, and it worked. It confused us. I guess we stayed composed enough to know what to do."

Oran managed to take 47-44 lead into the fourth quarter after making just four of its 16 shots in the third.

Winona took it's biggest lead of the game at 53-49 with 6:04 left in the fourth quarter when Jeff Smith made a basket after the Wildcats forced a turnover with a trap.



Oran's Alex Heuring throws his hands in the air as time runs out in Saturday night's quarterfinal matchup.
(Fred Lynch)

"They like to do their 1-3-1 [zone] in the 3-point line and then they extend it out and do that trap," Moore said. "And it's so effective because they have 6-4 or 6-5, however big he is, up top. It's really hard to throw it through that, and they trap extremely well."

Smith, a 6-foot-8 senior, finished with 22 points.

"He was probably the strongest guy that I've ever guarded, and it doesn't hurt that he's 6-8 and he's got a pretty good finish around the rim," said Heuring, who had a team-high 19 points for Oran.

"Don't get me wrong. I've played some great players, but he was tall and strong and he could do it all."

Oran's Hunter Schlosser sank a free throw to make it 53-50 on Oran's next possession, and Moore drained a 3-pointer to tie the game with 4:52 remaining.

"I knew it was big at the time," Moore said. "I knew it tied the score up. Obviously it felt good. I missed quite a few. I feel like I didn't shoot the ball well, and I missed quite a few before that. I just told myself I'm not going to miss every one, so I stepped up and hit it."

The 3-pointer was part on an 11-3 run for Oran that included a conventional 3-point play for Ressel that brought a big Oran crowd to its feet.

"I was missing a lot of layups," Ressel said. "I was off my game tonight. I don't know what was up, but that layup really carried me, and it gave me a lot of confidence. And obviously it helped."

Smith scored five points in a row after the run to give Winona a 61-60 lead with 3:05 left.



The Oran basketball team celebrates after their 63-61 victory over Winona in the Class 2 quarterfinal game Saturday in Farmington, Mo. (Fred Lynch)

Heuring's free throw with 2:36 left tied the game, and the teams exchanged misses for five possessions before Ressel's heroics.

"He used his quickness very well tonight," Shoemaker said of Ressel. "He got to the rim several times, and they're hard to finish on with their length and height, but he just kept attacking and stayed positive. He's grown as the season went on as an offensive player, and he had enough guts to step up and take the last shot this time."

Oran	21	15	11	16	--	63
Winona	15	14	15	17	--	61

ORAN (63) -- Kody Moore 13, Seth Ressel 14, Chance Tenkhoff 3, Hunter Schlosser 14, Alex Heuring 19. FG 24, FT 9-16, F 11. (3-pointers: Moore 3, Ressel 1, Tenkhoff 1, Schlosser 1. Fouled out: none)

WINONA (61) -- Austin Mays 6, James Thompson 13, Jacob Smith 10, Zack Smith 6, Jeff Smith 22, Jack Lacey 4. FG 24, FT 6-13, F 14. (3-pointers: Mays 1, Thompson 3, Ja. Smith 1, Z. Smith 2. Fouled out: none)

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Oran makes another dramatic run to final four

By Jeff Breer ~ Southeast Missourian
Thursday, March 7, 2013



The Oran High School boys basketball team will be making its first final-four appearance since 1969 when it plays Salisbury today, but this group knows the route to Columbia, Mo., having played in the Class 1 baseball semifinals the past two seasons. (Laura Simon)

Oran High School has no fall sports for boys, which leaves plenty of time for athletes to fill.

Some prepare for the upcoming winter basketball season, while others continue to work on their baseball skills with the spring season in mind.

"I guess we just hang out and just wait for it. That's all you can do," Oran senior center Alex Heuring said. "We try to stay active with sports and open gyms and I guess spend time together as a team."

Surprisingly to some, the Eagles are not spending their fall months concocting suspenseful plots to games or trick shots and plays for the upcoming year.

At least that would explain the dramatic occurrences that have landed the Eagles in their third final four in the past two years.

The Eagles' drama was capped Saturday when junior Seth Ressel buried an outside shot with 2.3 seconds left in a Class 2 quarterfinal basketball game against Winona that broke a 61-61 deadlock and set up a semifinal game with Salisbury today in Columbia, Mo.

Even Oran baseball coach Mitch Wood, who has seen his share of dramatic moments in the past two final four seasons on the diamond from pretty much the same group of players, was relegated to being just another nail-biting fan in the Civic Center in Farmington, Mo.

"I was probably more nervous the other night ... I don't remember being that nervous in baseball the last few years," said Wood, who will attempt to lead the group to a third straight final four in baseball once this wild ride ends. "Basketball is just a lot different sport. You have a lot of people right there on top of you. It's a lot more emotional and lot more electrifying than baseball when you come to that part."

The Winona game marked Oran's third harrowing escape since the start of district play, and has become a common theme in the school's multiple trips to Columbia over the past three school years.

"Our fans, I think they stress themselves a little too much," Heuring said. "I mean, they are great fans, and they'll tell you the same thing, but we don't mean to put them under stress. It just happens like that."

The nifty escapes on the court in this playoff run have followed a couple of memorable Houdini acts on the baseball diamond the past two years.

"Nothing has come easy for this group," Oran basketball coach Joe Shoemaker said. "It would have been easy to pack it in and say it's done, we've had a good run or whatever, but they've had that refuse-to-lose attitude where they've kept battling to the final buzzer."

It first happened in the district semifinals, where the Eagles had to rally from a six-point halftime deficit to bump off Chaffee.

Oran later found itself in an even bigger 11-point hole in the sectional round against Elsberry, but junior guard Seth Ressel lessened the fourth-quarter chore when he banked in a three-quarter court shot at the third-quarter buzzer. It was typical of antics in recent journeys to the final four in baseball.

"That set the tone for the fourth quarter, and we rallied back," Heuring said.

Heuring failed to mention the two overtime periods that were needed to seal the deal.

A game later, Ressel's game-winning shot against Winona sent the Eagles to their first final four in basketball since 1969.

Salisbury has crushed opponents all the way to the final four, but the intensity of Oran's wins have been met with equal exuberance.

"All the way up there I guess you're all calm, but after you win, on the way back, everyone is just hyped up," Heuring said. "There's never a dull moment. Everybody is just excited, talking and dancing, and whatever you can do on the bus without the bus driver yelling at you."

"It's not something that just happened this year," Wood said about the Eagles eventful road in basketball. "It's been a battle the last few years."

And with basically the same cast at the core.

"You definitely need to get a few breaks," senior guard Kody Moore said. "I like to say our hard work and talent have gotten us here, but we definitely had some breaks, and you've got to get them. You've got to have that ball bounce your way. You've got to get that call."

Moore is among eight players on the Eagles roster who also played on last year's baseball team that reached its second consecutive final four, and he knows a friendly bounce when he sees one.

Such a bounce occurred in last year's 4-1 quarterfinal win against Naylor. Moore was pitching with the bases loaded in the sixth inning with his team clinging to a 2-1 lead when a squeeze bunt was placed down the third baseline. Moore fielded the ball and hurriedly threw to Heuring, who was the Eagles'

catcher. The toss hit the Naylor runner in the helmet, but the carom landed in the glove of Heuring for the force. Oran escaped the jam unscathed and advanced to the final four.

It was much like the season before, when Heuring delivered the baseball version of Ressel's winning shot, which also came in the quarterfinals.

Heuring's version was a seventh-inning grand slam against Naylor. Heuring, a sophomore at the time, turned a 13-10 deficit into a 14-13 victory with his first high school home run.

"We've definitely had our great moments," Heuring said. "We've had our ups and our downs."

The downs have come in the state semifinals, where the Eagles are 0-2 the past two years. Oran committed five errors in both games -- each a one-run loss.

"It seems like we run out of luck," Heuring said. "We lost both times we've been up there, but you can't give up. You've just got to shake that off."

"Like this year [in basketball], we're not looking to lose. We're not favored to win necessarily, but we're not going to take that like we're gonna lose. You just have to go up there and play your game, because anything can happen on this stage."

The Eagles responded to both semifinal baseball losses by winning the next day's third-place game.

"Whenever [you have] a tough loss, like up at state, you help pick your friends up and help them and talk to them, and altogether it makes you closer and closer, every big win and every big loss," Moore said.

It's all part of the resilient nature that has characterized this group, which has learned to negotiate the mountains and valleys.

"It just brings us all closer together," Ressel said about the seemingly endless run of big games over the baseball and basketball seasons. "We're all real close friends, and I think that's another big reason we're winning and going as far as we can, because we all really care about each other and we look out for each other."

The group despises losing, which doesn't happen much.

Since the 2010-11 school year, Oran's baseball teams have gone 44-12, while the basketball teams have a combined mark of 65-23.

Individually, many of the Eagles have had heroic moments on the court and diamond, but they also have had forgettable ones.

"Honestly we're as close as brothers, 'cause we've got each other's backs 100 percent of the way," Heuring said. "I mean, we've been through it all together as a team. We win as a team, we lose as a team. We're just all here for each other."

While Moore, Heuring or Ressel normally lead the Eagles in scoring, junior Chance Tenkhoff and sophomores Hunter Schlosser and Jacob Priggel each have scored a team high in points this season.

"You just never know, I mean Seth, Kody, Chance, me, we all could just go up there and have a career day. You just never know who it's going to be," Heuring said.

Oran has gone to 11 final fours in baseball, and the recent back-to-back final four exploits aren't lost on Shoemaker.

"I think it definitely helps," Shoemaker said. "They have confidence in their ability and what to do. We have a great baseball coach, and he makes them act right, behave right and play the right way, and that definitely carries over from one sport to the next."

Shoemaker, in his fifth season as coach of the Eagles, has brought increased success to a basketball team that had last been a district champion in 1999 when it won its first of three straight titles in 2011.

"A lot of people look at Oran and say, 'Man, they're a really good baseball school,' but when you look at our basketball record for the past couple of years -- our third district title in a row and second in a row appearance in the quarterfinals, and now we made it to state, we're doing everything baseball's done," Moore said.

And they have a chance to do something that has eluded the baseball team -- win a state title, which would be the biggest twist in the script.

"State is one of the best things," Heuring said. "I've been there -- it's a blast. You want to get there every year. For us to go in basketball and not go in baseball, that'd be kind of weird to be honest with you, because that's what we do. We go in baseball all the time. It definitely makes you want to work harder for baseball, too."

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Oran boys basketball team falls to Salisbury in Class 2 semis

By Rachel Crader ~ Semoball.com

Friday, March 8, 2013



ABOVE: Salisbury defenders Austin Francis, left, and Austin Wyatt crowd Oran's Hunter Schlosser in the fourth quarter of their Class 2 state semifinal game Thursday in Columbia, Mo. TOP: Oran senior Alex Heuring watches as the final minute ticks away during the Eagles' 81-65 loss to the Panthers. (Laura Simon)

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Salisbury boys basketball coach Kenny Wyatt deflected strategy talk after his team's Class 2 semifinal win Thursday night.

"It's nothing to do with coaching. All you've got to do is look out there and tell. Our smallest guy's 6-2, and they're athletic. We've got a lot of arms and legs out there in the way.

"I thought Oran did a really good job because we didn't turn Oran over as much as really what we do most teams. I thought they handled our size. Teams, the first time they see us all year, really have had trouble with that. We just got the key steal at the right time every once and a while."

His team actually had 12 steals in the game and forced 21 Oran turnovers during a 81-65 victory at Mizzou Arena in Columbia.

While Wyatt seemed genuine in his insistence that the Eagles handled his team's defense better than most, Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said turnovers and Salisbury's second-chance points were nonetheless the difference.

Oran actually out-rebounded the much-bigger Salisbury team -- which started players 6-5, 6-5, 6-4, 6-3 and 6-2 -- in the game 31-28, but it was what the Panthers did with their rebounds that helped make the difference.

"They got a lot of second-chance points off theirs," Shoemaker said. "Their rebounds came for quick baskets underneath."

Oran had 14 offensive rebounds while Salisbury had 12, but Oran scored just 11 second-chance points to Salisbury's 17. The Panthers also scored 26 points off Oran's turnovers while the Eagle's had just 11 on 10 Salisbury miscues.

"It was definitely tough," said Oran's 6-4 senior Alex Heuring, who finished with 15 points and nine rebounds. "I mean, they had multiple guys 6-5 with length and any time you catch it low they just low they just surround you, which makes it tough to make a move, so you've just got to kick it out. It was definitely tough."

Salisbury, which finished second in Class 2 a season ago, opened up a nine-point lead after the first quarter with the help of eight points off turnovers.

"I think part of it, honestly, was a little bit of nerves," Shoemaker said. "That's something you can't prepare for. Also, like I said, their length is hard to simulate. They're a very long basketball team with their height and long arms. They did a good job of disrupting us and what we wanted to do."

Oran opened the second quarter on a 14-7 run, and pulled within two points with 2 minutes, 48 seconds left in the second quarter.

I thought defensively we were a step slow than what we normally are, but I thought part of that was Oran," Wyatt said. "We knew they were really good dribble penetrators, and they got us out of position, especially when we were in our half-court trap.

"In fact, we had to go out of it most of the second half and just went to our regular 3-2 [zone], so you've got to give them a lot of credit. I thought they got a lot of loose balls in the first half and a lot of offensive rebounds, which led to free throws."

Salisbury responded to Oran's basket by scoring 11 of the final 13 points of the half.

"I think one of the things that we did well was we limited them to one shot, and we didn't turn the basketball over. We were fairly aggressive attacking the gaps in the zone at that point in time. And like I said, when Kody [Moore] got hot, it gave us a little confidence. They started over-playing on him a little bit, which opened stuff up for his teammates."

Moore, a senior, scored 14 points in the first half and finished with 21 points and nine rebounds.

Salisbury (29-1) extended its lead to 14 points by the end of the third quarter did not let Oran close within single digits in the fourth.

"Obviously we came in with the same goal of everybody else to win a state championship when we come up here," Shoemaker said. "We can no longer do that. I'm proud of my team. They played hard until the end, I felt like. And looking at the stat sheet, every quarter minus the first one was a bucket off. I felt the ball rolled their way some, and part of that is because they're well-coached and a very good basketball team. It was their night tonight and not ours."

Oran (27-4) will face Iberia (27-4) at 3:20 p.m. today for third place.

"It's going to be very tough tomorrow coming out and forgetting this, but that's what we've got to do," said Moore, who has been on Oran baseball teams that have finished third at state the past two seasons. "I have confidence in my team that that's what we're going to do. We're going to shake it off, and we're going to come out ready to play tomorrow and get a win."

Salisbury	24	16	19	22	--	81
Oran	15	14	16	20	--	65

SALISBURY (81) -- Zach Wyatt 20, Austin Francis 23, Austin Wyatt 21, Brady Francis 7, Keegan Wyatt 10. FG 30, FT 15-23, F 12. (3-pointers: Z. Wyatt 3, A. Wyatt 3. Fouled out: none)

ORAN (65) -- Kody Moore 21, Seth Ressel 8, Chance Tenkhoff 8, Hunter Schlosser 8, Alex Heuring 15, Jacob Priggel 2, Alex Schlitt 3. FG 23, FT 13-18, F 21. (3-pointers: Moore 4, Tenkhoff 1, Schlitt 1. Fouled out: Ressel, Heuring, Priggel)

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Oran boys basketball team finishes fourth in Class 2

By Rachel Crader ~ Semoball.com

Saturday, March 9, 2013



Oran senior Alex Heuring bows his head after he and his teammates receive their fourth-place medals Friday afternoon, March 8, 2013. Oran lost 65-63 to Iberia in the Class 2 third-place game in Columbia, Mo. (Laura Simon)

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The Oran boys basketball team knew it would be outsized by the other teams at the Class 2 final four.

As a result the Eagles hoped to make their opponents take outside shots while continuing to shoot well from the outside themselves, something that has been a signature of their season.

I told them "We're coming in with the big guys. We're kind of undersized. We've got to make them hit some shots outside first," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "I thought we closed out fairly well, but their kids made shots."

Iberia's hot shooting start coupled with a frigid Oran shooting performance and some costly late turnovers resulted in a 65-63 loss for the Eagles in the Class 2 third-place game Friday afternoon at Mizzou Arena.

The Rangers, who shot 30 percent from 3-point range as a team this season, were 7 of 9 (77.8 percent) from beyond the arc in the first half Friday.

Iberia sophomore Dustin Bloodgood, a 35 percent shooter, made five of his seven 3-point attempts in the first half and finished with a game-high 20 points

"That was the first game I've ever shot like that, so it felt pretty good," Bloodgood said.

The barrage came a day after Salisbury went 5 of 7 from 3 in the first half of Oran's semifinal loss.

"I don't know," Shoemaker said. "It just seems like we really got struck out there from 3-point land these two games, and it was teams that didn't necessarily shoot it well. [Bloodgood] -- we knew he was a good shooter coming in, and he got some good looks and we didn't close out quite well enough with a hand high. But you give them credit."

Oran held just one lead in the first half of play, when Chance Tenkhoff's free throw gave it a one-point lead with 3 minutes, 33 seconds left in the second quarter. But Iberia never led by more than five points, either.

"Our shots just weren't falling today," Oran senior Alex Heuring said. "We were getting open looks. Their kid was driving through knocking down some layups. We were getting open shots, they just weren't falling for us today, and I think that definitely helped them get out to an early lead because usually our shots fall. It's just the way it is."

That would be a trend for Oran in the game. The Eagles shot just 30.8 percent from the field and were 2 of 21 (9.5 percent) from 3-point range after entering the final four shooting 35 percent as a team.



Oran players receive their fourth-place medals Friday afternoon, March 8, 2013 after falling 65-63 to Iberia in the Class 2 third-place game in Columbia, Mo. (Laura Simon)

"We saw their stats, and we know they shoot well," Iberia coach Steve Scholfield said. "We've tried to run people off the 3-point line all year. We tried to run them into Dexter [Frisbie] in the back, and this is one of the best jobs we've ever done at it, probably the best job this year.

"If you would have told me Kody Moore was going to be 0 for 9 ... I think he's a great shooter. I thought he was shooting over 40 percent, I think the stats said. I think that probably is a big reason why we won tonight."

The Eagles compensated for the cold shooting night by making 21 of 24 free throws.

"I was very happy with our shot selection tonight," Shoemaker said. "They just weren't falling. If I had the secret to that I'd be a little bit richer man and wouldn't be sitting here right now." ::

Iberia led 36-33 at halftime and continued to lead until Moore's putback at the buzzer gave Oran a one-point lead entering the fourth quarter.

"We've done that a couple times this year, even in the district semifinals," Moore said about playing from behind. "We were down six at half. I feel we've done a good job this year of not panicking when we're behind and still executing and getting the job done, staying with the game plan. I feel like we didn't do a bad job today either."

Oran took its biggest lead of the night with 3 minutes, 50 seconds left in game when a pair of free throws by Seth Ressel gave the Eagles a five-point cushion.

Bloodgood hit another 3 on his team's next possession to stop what had been a 6-0 Oran run.

With the score tied 63-63, Ressel missed a contested layup with 24 seconds left that resulted in a fight for the ball under the basket. It ended up in the hands of an Iberia player who found teammate Darrien Dickey breaking away from the crowd for an easy layin with 19 seconds to go that gave Iberia a 65-63 lead.

The Eagles turned the ball over on their next possession, but Iberia's Juliano Fabien missed the front end of a 1 and 1.

Oran rebounded the miss and took a timeout with 6.5 seconds remaining, but Seth Ressel's pass to a cutting Kody Moore sailed out of bounds.

"We run a drive offense there," Moore said. "If it's open on the outside, you kick out. It was just kind of a little bit of miscommunication. It wasn't really anybody's fault. It's just one of them things where I cut one way and the pass comes to me."

The Eagles got one last chance when Bloodgood missed the front end of a 1 and 1 situation with 2.3 seconds remaining.

The ball bounced out to Oran sophomore Jacob Priggel, who had 15 points and eight rebounds in the game, near midcourt. He took a dribble before firing a shot from just inside half court.

The shot hit the rim and rattled back and fourth before bouncing out.

"He really stepped up off the bench. ... He played very aggressive offensively and played good defense," Shoemaker said. That's something that we expect him to do. He's done it several times throughout the year.

"That's been one of the things that this group's been so good at. Whoever's playing well got to play more that night, and none of them pouted. They didn't put their heads down, didn't pout. They kept their heads up because it was whatever was best for the team. That says a lot about the character of the young men that we have."

Iberia 17 19 12 17 -- 65

Oran 12 21 16 14 -- 63

IBERIA (65) -- Issac Minnick 5, Fabien Juliano 5, Darrien Dickey 19, Ryan Voss 3, Dexter Frisbie 11, Tyler Slawson 2, Dustin Bloodgood 20. FG 26, FT 4-10, F 20. (3-pointers: Minnick 1, Juliano 1, Voss 1, Bloodgood 6. Fouled out: none)

Oran (63) -- Kody Moore 6, Seth Ressel 15, Chance Tenkhoff 6, Hunter Schlosser 4, Alex Heuring 14, Jacob Priggel 15, Cash Kinney 3. FG 20, FT 21-24, F 18. (3-pointers: Tenkhoff 1, Priggel 1. Fouled out: none)

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Oran baseball team reaches Class 1 championship game

By RACHEL CRADER ~ Semoball.com

Wednesday, May 29, 2013



Oran pitcher Seth Ressel slides safe into home as Sturgeon catcher William Roberts loses the ball in the first inning of the Eagles' 5-1 win over the Bulldogs in the Class 1 Semi-final game Tuesday, May 28, at T.R. Hughes Field in O'Fallon, Mo. (Adam Vogler)

O'FALLON, Mo. -- Oran baseball coach Mitch Wood wasn't outwardly jubilant, and even particularly happy, following his team's Class 1 semifinal Tuesday.

"We come up here to do a job," Wood said.

That job -- to win the school's first state championship -- isn't complete, but the Eagles are one step closer after a 5-1 victory over Sturgeon at T.R. Hughes Ballpark.

Oran (21-5) will face Santa Fe (13-3) in today's 1 p.m. championship game.

Even Wood, who will retire from coaching at the end of the season, had to smile and laugh when asked about the opportunity to win his first state title in his 10th and final appearance as a coach.

"You can't ask for anything better, so that's what I hoped for, for sure," Wood said. "That's the reason I kind of waited until the end of the year to [announce my retirement] and just make sure kids are focused on what they want to do, and I think they're focused."

"Regardless of what happens, it's just nice to be here. We're going to have a shot at a state title. That's what you try to do every year is try to put your kids in a position to win a state title. We did it this year in basketball. We've done it now, so that's all you can do is get them there and hope they get it done."

Oran wasted little time getting it done on Tuesday. It took just 1 hour, 16 minutes for the Eagles to record the victory and secure their fourth appearance in a Class 1 championship game. Oran has not won a title in 11 previous final four appearances.

Starter Seth Ressel retired Sturgeon in order in the top half, then reached on an infield error to start the bottom of the inning.

"Take advantage of it," said senior Kody Moore about his thoughts when he saw Ressel reach from the on-deck circle. "Definitely. I think everybody on the team [was thinking that] whenever we seen that. We seen Seth get on, and then my ball got down. I think that kind of lit a fire, I guess you could say. We kind of just rolled after that, one person getting on leading the next. Really we just swung the bats and put the ball in play. That's what you've got to do to put runs on the board and win the ballgame."

The Eagles batted around in the inning and scored four runs, including one on Jacob Priggel's triple down the right-field line.

"Actually I thought it was going to go foul," Priggel said. "I really did. Then I thought he was going to get there and catch it, so I knew I'd at least get a run in. ... Then I saw it was down. I was just shooting for three after that."

Ressel made sure those runs were more than enough.

He gave up just five hits in a complete-game performance to follow up his two-hit win over Cooter in the sectional round. He struck out seven and walked one.

"He's throwing strikes," Moore said. "He's been going right at them, getting ahead early. His pitches have been working. He's been able to locate them. He's just been doing everything you've got to do to be an effective pitcher. He's getting ahead and throwing strikes -- and he's got good stuff."

The first two Sturgeon runners reached on singles to start the fourth before Ressel induced two flyouts to Priggel in center field. After a two-out single loaded the bases, a grounder to Moore at shortstop ended the threat.

"Just throw strikes," said Ressel about working out of the jam. "They had to put the ball in play for us to get outs, so that's what I had to do."

Sturgeon put runners on second and third with one out in the fifth, when the Bulldogs scored their only run on an infield groundout.

"I wanted to go shutout, but I know everybody else on the team was glad that was the only damage that was done," Ressel said.

Ressel is a player who is hard to impress, especially when it comes to his own performance. When he raised his hands into the air and smiled following the win, it was the most emotion he's shown during the Eagles' run to a third consecutive final four.

Oran extended the lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth when Priggel's single drove in catcher Alex Heuring, who had tripled.

Moore, a senior, will be on the mound for today's championship game against defending state champion Santa Fe, which beat Oran 3-2 in eight innings in last year's state semifinal.

It will be the Eagles' first championship appearance since 2004.

"That was probably my toughest decision of the day was deciding who to pitch," Wood said. "We've got two good kids who do a good job. ... I feel like they're both equal pitchers. Day 1 or 2, you don't know how they're going to come out, but if they both come out and throw their game, they're both pretty darn good."

Moore pitched 4 2/3 innings and gave up just one hit in relief against Santa Fe a year ago.

"It feels very good," Moore said about playing for a state title. "I'm definitely very excited, but we still haven't succeeded in my eyes. It still feels like there's a hole in your heart. It's not going to get filled with second place. Everybody knows what we're shooting for tomorrow."

Sturgeon	000	010	0	--	1	5	4
Oran	400	010	X	--	5	8	0

WP -- Seth Ressel. LP -- Spencer Kelly. 3B -- Jacob Priggel (O), Alex Heuring (O). 2B -- Kalinowski (S). Multiple hits -- Oran: Jacob Priggel 2-3; Sturgeon: Ryan Seidel 2-3. Records -- Sturgeon 15-2, Oran 21-5.

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Oran baseball team claims first state title in school history

By Rachel Crader ~ Semoball.com

Thursday, May 30, 2013



The Oran Eagles celebrate their 8-4 win over the Santa Fe Chiefs in the Class 1 championship game Wednesday, May 29, at T.R. Hughes Ballpark in O'Fallon, Mo. (Adam Vogler)

O'FALLON, Mo. -- Forget the curse, the bad luck, the near misses, the errors and that gaping hole in the resume of a coach and his program.

The Oran baseball team is the Class 1 state baseball champion. At last.

It took 12 trips to the final four for the school, 10 for Mitch Wood as coach and four -- in two sports -- for many of the players on the field, but an 8-4 victory over defending champion Santa Fe on Wednesday at T.R. Hughes Ballpark earned the school its first state championship in any sport.

"I think it just solidifies our program," said Oran coach Mitch Wood, who is retiring from coaching after 21 years at the school. "It says that Oran baseball are state champions. We're a championship program. I felt like we were all along, but I'm not going to argue with anybody anymore. Just go home and look at the trophy case is all I can tell you. We've got a championship program. It's that simple."

The first title for Wood came in his last game as the team's coach, and it came in comeback fashion as the Eagles scored the final eight runs of the game.

Junior Seth Ressel struck out the final batter with a curveball, and his teammates rushed toward him to celebrate.

"I knew it was going to feel good," senior Kody Moore said. "Well, I didn't know we were going to win it, but I knew if we ever won it, it would feel great. But I never imagined that it would feel this good. There's no way I'm coming down from this high for a week probably. I don't even know what to say, it feels so good. It's everything I thought it would be, and a lot more."

Moore started for Oran on the mound and collected all but one out in the game. The first three Santa Fe batters he faced reached base to load the bases in the top of the first inning, but just one run scored in the inning after Moore induced two groundouts before striking out the final batter of the inning.

"We could have been down early there even more," catcher Alex Heuring said. "That was huge to get out of there."

The next inning had a similar theme. A bloop single, an error and a walk loaded the bases with one out. A single scored a run and Andrew Curry followed with a double that scored two runs. A third run looked like it would score on the play after the throw from the outfield glanced off Heuring's glove, but Moore grabbed it out of the air and rushed to tag a shocked Santa Fe runner out at home.

"You practice and preach all year long for four years to that group to be in the right spot, to back people up, do what you're supposed to do," Wood said. "The one out of 10 times that it happens, it works. Fortunately for us it was the one time in a state tournament. That was pretty fortunate for us."

Moore retired the next batter, and the score remained 4-0 until the fifth inning.

Oran entered the bottom half of the inning without a hit and ended it with eight runs.

"I never even thought of it," said Moore, who started the inning with a double into the right-center gap. "The first couple innings we hit the ball a little bit, not a whole lot, but we did hit the ball. We hit it at them, and they made plays. They did a great job of that. But, no, I was not aware at all of him having a no-hitter."

Heuring was intentionally walked following Moore's hit, putting two Eagles aboard with nobody out. The next batter was retired, but Bear Hicks was hit by a pitch to load the bases for sophomore Hunter Schlosser, who singled home two runs.

"[The count] was 2-2. I didn't want to strike out. I wanted to go down battling," said Schlosser, who paused to fight back his emotions. "I didn't want our team to go out like that. I definitely didn't want our seniors to go out like that. I wanted to go out in style and get a win for coach Wood and the team."

After a strikeout for the second out of the inning, Hicks scored on a throwing error on a steal of third base. Chance Tenkhoff, the No. 7 batter, then singled home Schlosser to tie the game at 4-4.

"I just get up there, had two strikes on me," Tenkhoff said. "I was just waiting for that fastball and just hit it."

Santa Fe starter Keaton Graf routinely hit 89-90 mph with his fastball, but he threw few offspeed pitches.

"He was definitely one of the harder throwers we've seen all year," Heuring said. "He struggled with the curveball, so we knew to sit fastball. His fastball had good life to it, but, hey, anybody can hit a straight fastball."

Graf, who walked seven batters and hit two, was relieved by Chad Tieman following Tenkhoff's hit.

Tieman walked Thomas Trankler and Ressel, and Tenkhoff scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch that moved the runners up a base. Moore then lifted a popfly just beyond the shortstop area that fell untouched between three players, scoring Trankler and Ressel. Heuring doubled, scoring Moore, to cap off the inning.

"It seemed like it happened in a blink, too, to me," Wood said. "I don't know about everybody else. It just really happened in a blink. But you know, I thought the kids did the same thing they've been

doing. They stayed focused. Baseball's like that, it feeds off of it. That's baseball. That's what I love about it."

The eight-run inning veered the Eagles to an ending that eluded so many successful seasons that fell short of a championship.

"Unfortunately sports is based a lot on first-place trophies," Wood said. "For myself and for my program, we needed this. We needed this for myself and my program because we've had some good [teams], we've had some success, but for some reason life's a lot about first-place trophies.

"Honestly, I don't know if I would have thought a lot less about us because I think I've had a great run, I think I've had a great career, great players. I've seen a lot of them here today. They're good young men. They're in good professions. They've got good jobs. They're doing a lot of good things. That's what it's all about. But for me to say it doesn't matter, I'd be lying because it does matter -- in the world of sports especially."

As the players and coaches posed for picture after picture and received hug after hug from the many Oran fans who had traveled to watch the game, Heuring said he knew the title meant as much to many of the people watching as it did to the people in the dugout.

"It's not just about us and coach," he said. "It's about the whole town. This town, they travel with us, they've been through it. They wanted it just as much as we did, if not more. So really it's not really a state championship for us. It's just a state championship for the town. It means just as much to them as it does to us."

Santa Fe	130	000	0	--	4	10	3
Oran	000	080	0	--	8	6	2

WP -- Kody Moore. LP -- Keaton Graf. 2B -- Andrew Curry (S), Moore (O), Alex Heuring (O). Multiple hits -- Santa Fe: Wyatt Wilkinson 2-3, Chad Tieman 3-4, Graf 2-4; Oran; Moore 2-4, Tenkhoff 2-3. Records -- Santa Fe 13-4, Oran 22-5.

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Notre Dame boys basketball team defeats Westminster, advances to Class 4 final four

By Erin Unerstall ~ Southeast Missourian
Saturday, March 14, 2015



Notre Dame coach Paul Unterreiner hugs Tanner Shively as the clock ticks down in Saturday's quarterfinal win over Westminster Christian Academy in Farmington, Missouri. (Fred Lynch)

FARMINGTON, Mo -- Notre Dame boys basketball coach Paul Unterreiner paused from receiving hugs and congratulations from a crowd of Bulldogs fans following his team's Class 4 state quarterfinal at the Farmington Civic Center on Saturday and still couldn't quite believe what he'd just witnessed.

The Bulldogs defeated Westminster Christian Academy 62-44 to finalize their trip to the final four in Unterreiner's first year at the helm.

It also marked the first time since 2008, when Notre Dame claimed the Class 4 state championship, that the Bulldogs (26-4) have advanced to the state semifinals.

"It almost feels like a dream, honest to God, but when I hugged my wife after the game I was just filled with emotion," Unterreiner said. "Essentially what did I do to deserve this group of guys that I have this year? And that starts from one all the way down to 17 -- managers, coaches, everybody. Just truly a special group."



Notre Dame's Quinn Poythress celebrates his team's 62-44 victory over Westminster Christian Academy in a Class 4 quarterfinal Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Farmington, Missouri. (Fred Lynch)

"Am I the best basketball coach in the world? Do I have the most basketball knowledge? Absolutely not. These guys from Day 1 bought in to being a family, and I know a little something about being a family. I've got an unbelievable family, and it's worked."

The Bulldogs have prided themselves on having different pieces of their "family" step up each game, and Saturday night's victory was no different.

All but one of the 11 players who stepped on the court scored for Notre Dame, and Unterreiner even pointed out the importance of the attitudes of the players that are destined to remain on the bench for the Bulldogs.

"I've got two guys with torn ACLs on my bench that should've started tonight. They should've started every game this year," Unterreiner said. "I haven't seen Derek Hulshof mope about anything. Grant Ressel tears his ACL in the district championship game, and he's worked his tail off to get to where he is at this point, and I haven't seen him mope about it yet. It's just truly, 'Whoever's going to take my place, let's go.' They're just truly special people, and I don't know what I did to deserve to get them. But I love each and every single one of them."

The Bulldogs only trailed once in the contest -- at 1-0 47 seconds into the game. They led the remainder of the way after taking a 3-1 lead on a basket by senior Quinn Poythress with 5:46 left in the first quarter.



Notre Dame's Tanner Shively shoots over Westminster Christian Academy's Brendan Bognar during the second quarter of a Class 4 quarterfinal Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Farmington, Missouri. (Fred Lynch)

Notre Dame led 13-7 at the end of the first and led by as many as nine in the half after junior guard Ross Essner drained a 3 to start the second quarter. Meanwhile, Poythress was on the bench with his second foul from the 7:08 mark.

The Wildcats cut it to 25-23 with 56 seconds remaining in the half, when sophomore guard Steven Webb scored in transition off a Notre Dame turnover.

Bulldogs senior Tanner Shively missed a pair of free throws with 36 seconds to go in the half, but sophomore Blake Bauwens secured the rebound, worked the clock and kicked it to senior Thomas Himmelberg in the corner for a 3-pointer that gave Notre Dame a 28-23 edge at the break.

"I thought that shot by Thomas at the end of the second quarter was huge," Unterreiner said. "That's a play we usually run with Quinn, and Quinn wasn't in the game and our guys picked it up and ran it to perfection."

Unterreiner emphasized setting the tone in the early goings of the second half, something that the Bulldogs have been successful with this season.

"All season the third quarter has pretty much been our quarter," Shively said. "We've dominated the third quarter almost every game."

That continued on Saturday when the Bulldogs scored the first six points of the half as part of a 15-2 run to widen the gap to 15 at 42-27 with 1:34 to go in the third.

Shively accounted for seven of the first nine Notre Dame points of the quarter. He finished with a game-high 17 points.



Notre Dame's Dean Crippen drives and shoots over Westminster Christian Academy's Steven Webb during the fourth quarter of a Class 4 quarterfinal Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Farmington, Missouri. (Fred Lynch)

"I looked at Tanner Shively at halftime and said, 'You are a much better player than you're letting yourself be,'" Unterreiner said. "I said, 'You have to be the aggressor.' He started getting passive, and I

said, 'Allow yourself to be good and take shots, and if you miss someone else will score.' For some reason he decided to let it happen the second half, and he was outstanding for us."

Westminster scored the final six points over the last 1:13 of the third, including a free throw with 1.4 seconds left, to cut it to 42-33 heading to the final eight minutes.

Notre Dame turned the ball over on its first two possessions of the fourth quarter, and Westminster sophomore Clifford Degroot cut the deficit to six with a 3-pointer with 6:25 left.

The Bulldogs extended it back to 10 before a three-point play by Webb made it 48-41 with 3 minutes to go, but it was as close as the game got.

Notre Dame made just one field goal the remainder of the game but connected on 10 of 12 free throws down the stretch.

"We had one group in right there towards the end and coach said, 'They could foul any of you from 1 to 5 and you guys would knock down your free throws,'" Shively said of the team's confidence. "From the point guard to the 5, anybody could make a shot if we needed one. That's really critical and helps everybody out. That's how we play -- team ball."

Notre Dame will face Hillcrest (18-12) in a state semifinal at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, Missouri.

"We've been working for this for a very long time and it feels good to get back to state, but we still have a lot of stuff that we have to work on, and we don't have the satisfaction I think that we can have," Poythress said. "We're just ready."

Notre Dame	13	15	14	20	--	62
Westminster	7	16	10	11	--	44

NOTRE DAME (62) -- Tanner Shively 17, Quinn Poythress 8, Thomas Himmelberg 7, Blake Bauwens 6, Dean Crippen 6, Trenton Schumer 4, Nick Bradshaw 4, Brendan Boswell 3, Ross Essner 3, Carson Ketcher 2. FG 16, FT 24-31, F 17. (3-pointers: Himmelberg 2, Boswell 1, Essner 1. Fouled out: none.)

WESTMINSTER (44) -- Steven Webb 13, Aaron Cook Jr. 9, Clifford Degroot 6, Brendan Bognar 5, Matthew Weber 4, Jordan Hawkins 3, Dyllan Conway 2, Jordan Harvey 2. FG 14, FT 10-19, F 16. (3-pointers: Degroot 2, Cook 1. Fouled out: none.)

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Notre Dame boys basketball team ready for semifinal showdown

By Trent Singer ~ Southeast Missourian
Thursday, March 19, 2015



Notre Dame's Quinn Poythress celebrates after the Bulldogs defeated Westminster Christian Academy in a Class 4 quarterfinal last week in Farmington, Missouri. Notre Dame will take on Hillcrest in a semifinal at 3:30 p.m. today. (Fred Lynch)

Members of the Notre Dame boys basketball team were getting ready to leave their hotel and head to practice Wednesday night when they ran into several famous faces in the lobby.

One of them was Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin, who was joined by several other coaches, including former Steelers star and current outside linebackers coach Joey Porter. All are in Columbia, Missouri for Thursday's Mizzou football Pro Day.

The Bulldogs will continue their quest for a state title at 3:30 p.m. today in a Class 4 semifinal against Hillcrest at Mizzou Arena, and Tomlin, a two-time Super Bowl champion, offered some words of advice.

"We kind of talked to him about what we were up there for, and then he told us, 'Bang those 3s out this weekend, baby,'" Notre Dame coach Paul Unterreiner said. "We took a picture. It was pretty cool."

Notre Dame (26-4) heads into today's final four game after defeating Westminster Christian Academy 62-44 in last week's quarterfinal in Farmington, Missouri.

The Bulldogs had 10 players score in the victory, including 6-foot-3 senior Tanner Shively, whose 17 points made him the only Notre Dame player to reach double figures.

Unterreiner likes the way each member of his squad has been finding a way to get involved.

"I think that speaks volumes on how all our role players have stepped up and are playing the best they've played all year right now, so we don't have to rely on Quinn [Poythress] as much," Unterreiner said. "He can do a lot of the other good things, and he knows that other people can score the ball around him."

Poythress, a 6-7 senior, is averaging 17.3 points per game this postseason, including a 32-point performance in the Bulldogs' 72-49 sectional win over Potosi.

Unterreiner said he hasn't felt the need to tell Poythress anything in particular and believes he's eagerly awaiting the opportunity to bring home Notre Dame's first state crown since 2008.

"He's ready, and the reason why I say that is because I watched his defense Saturday," Unterreiner said. "His defense was unbelievable. He was just all over the place, best closeouts I've seen him have all year long. He's focused. He's relaxed. He's having fun. All the guys are, and we're all ready to go at this point."

Hillcrest (18-12) picked up its biggest win of the season last week, defeating Rolla, the No. 2 team in the MBCA Class 4 poll, in a slim 62-61 decision.

The Hornets lost to Rolla by 36 points earlier in the season but have shown a lot of improvement down the stretch. They've won nine of 12 games since the beginning of February.

"They're really scrappy, as far as attacking the basket and getting rebounds," Unterreiner said about Hillcrest. "They really get after the glass, and that's the one thing we've focused on. We have to limit them to one shot. When they get second-chance opportunities, they're really dangerous."

Leading the way for Hillcrest is senior Brady Petry. The 6-foot-3 guard is averaging a team-high 21.6 points and 7.6 rebounds per game. He's shooting 50 percent (215 of 432) from the field, including 31 percent (48 of 157) from beyond the arc.

Petry finished last week's game against Rolla with 32 points, including 23 in the second half and the game-winning bucket in the final seconds.

"The Petry kid can shoot it from as soon as he crosses halfcourt, so we'll have to always have an eye on him," Unterreiner said. "... He's really just playing at an unbelievably high level right now."

"In '05, when our Notre Dame boys team got [Bryce] Willen back, they made that state playoff push with Willen playing unbelievable. I kind of told the boys, 'That's kind of what they've got going on here.' They've got this kid who's really playing out of this world right now with a lot of confidence, so we're going to have to try to wear him down."

Lavell Hale, a 6-4 junior forward, is the Hornets' second-leading scorer, averaging 10.9 points per game. Hillcrest also has a pair of freshmen, 5-10 guard Cole Pryor and 6-foot guard Timothy Washington, and a sophomore, 6-2 guard Shahn Clark, to round out its starting lineup.

"They've got some other good players around him. They're pretty young, but the Hale kid's a junior. He hasn't played since junior high, and he's a heck of a player, too," Unterreiner said. "... Hopefully with them having a shorter rotation, we can wear them down in the second half."

With a roster that features eight of 10 seniors who are 6-2 or taller, Notre Dame appears to have an obvious advantage in both size and experience.

"I have a lot of confidence in our post players, and as this year has gone on, they've gotten more and more confident," Unterreiner said. "We've been looking to go to them a lot more, so we will look to throw it inside and start there."

The winner will take on either St. Charles or Bolivar in the state championship, which is slated for 3 p.m. Saturday. The third-place game will be played at 11 a.m. Friday.

"There's no doubt in my mind that we're playing the best we've played all year," Unterreiner said. "I told the guys one thing the other day. I said, 'I'm confident going into this weekend because I'm 100 percent sure that every single one of us is playing the best basketball we have all played all year long -- individually, which makes us playing our best team basketball as well.'"

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Hillcrest holds off Notre Dame boys basketball team at Class 4 final four

By Erin Unerstall ~ Southeast Missourian
Friday, March 20, 2015



Notre Dame's Quinn Poythress maneuvers around Hillcrest's Brady Petry in the third quarter of the Bulldogs Class 4 semifinal against the Hornets, Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame lost 60-57. (Laura Simon)

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- The Notre Dame boys basketball team thought its interior game would be one of its biggest assets in its Class 4 semifinal against Hillcrest on Thursday afternoon at Mizzou Arena.

It finally turned out that way in the fourth quarter when the Bulldogs outscored the Hornets 22-8 in the paint as they tried to erase a double-digit deficit.

That deficit was in large part due to the Hornets being the aggressors inside early and getting to the free-throw line 38 times while Notre Dame missed several shots in the lane, and it was something that Notre Dame couldn't overcome in its 60-57 loss.

Notre Dame will play Bolivar for third place at 11 a.m. Friday, while Hillcrest will face St. Charles in the state championship at 3 p.m. Saturday.

"The thing about basketball and sports is the ball's going to bounce a few different ways," Notre Dame coach Paul Unterreiner said. "That's what I told these guys in the locker room. That's what makes sports so special. What makes winning so special is how it feels when you have a game that doesn't go your way."

The Bulldogs trailed 53-43 with 2:43 left in the game before a steal led to senior guard Quinn Poythress' second 3-pointer of the game to cut it to seven. The Hornets never pushed the lead back to double figures.



Notre Dame fans watch the final moments the fourth quarter of the Bulldogs Class 4 semifinal against the Hillcrest Hornets, Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame lost 60-57. (Laura Simon)

A couple of jumpers from Poythress and senior guard Tanner Shively sandwiched a free throw by Hillcrest's Brady Petry to pull the Bulldogs within four with 1:17 to go, but a pivotal three-point play by Hornets junior forward Lavell Hale and a pair of free throws by Petry after a Notre Dame miss pushed it back to 59-50 with 56 seconds to go.

Notre Dame came within four again with 15 seconds left before Petry, who finished with 21 points and hit 10 of 16 free throws, split a pair of free throws with 9 seconds remaining to put the game out of reach.

Shively scored on a putback in the closing seconds for the final score.

"Coach was saying it. Everybody was saying it, just, 'Believe, believe, believe,'" Notre Dame senior Thomas Himmelberg said of the comeback attempt. "We were down 13 at one point and coach kind of called us out a little bit and said that, 'The difference in the game right now is that they're believing, and we're not.' That was whenever they were making the run with a lot of shots. They were believing in their stroke, and they were knocking them down.

"It did give us some confidence, and we did storm back, started believing in our defense and getting turnovers and getting easy looks at the basket. I thought that helped us get back in the game and gave us a fighting chance."

The Bulldogs held a 12-5 lead at the end of the first quarter after they held Hillcrest scoreless from the field, but both Unterreiner and Hillcrest coach Tomas Brock agreed that the Hornets were getting the looks they wanted.

"I just said, 'We're going to make shots,'" Brock said. "I said to just take a breath and relax. We were getting good shots even in that first quarter, they just weren't falling for us. We started to do that in the second quarter, and it carried over into the second half. We got good looks, got to the basket, got to the free-throw line and were able to finish."



Notre Dame's Dean Crippen sails past Hillcrest defender Brady Petry for a shot in the third quarter of the Bulldogs Class 4 semifinal against the Hornets, Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame lost 60-57. (Laura Simon)

After Notre Dame took a 14-5 lead on a basket by Poythress 10 seconds into the second quarter, the Bulldogs didn't score for 4 minutes, 55 seconds as Hillcrest used a 12-0 run to take a 17-14 lead with 3:43 remaining in the half.

The Bulldogs scored the next four points of the contest to take an 18-17 lead with 1:30 left, but a pair of free throws by Hillcrest freshman Cole Pryor with 34 seconds left in the half gave the Hornets a 19-18 advantage at the break and the lead for good.

Notre Dame was 8 of 21 from the field in the first half and 1 of 6 from behind the arc. The Bulldogs shot just two free throws compared to 12 for the Hornets, who made eight of them.

"I thought we had an advantage inside and we got a lot of good looks," Unterreiner said. "Dean [Crippen] and Tanner [Shively] and [Nick] Bradshaw got good looks inside. Quinn here, he got beat up all night off the ball. I'm not saying he was getting fouled, it was just a physical game, and it was hard for him to get touches inside.

"They played unbelievable defense on him so we kind of pulled him out a little bit and let him play the perimeter and threw Dean and Tanner in there and they got good looks. Those are looks they made all year, and I'll go down with them having those shots all night."

Hillcrest opened the second half with a 3-pointer 1:21 into the third quarter. The Hornets knocked down three of their next four shots from 3-point range, and after their last triple of the quarter with 1:55 to go, junior guard Jevazz Podurgiel created the largest gap at 13 with a fast-break basket.

The Hornets, which shot 5 of 19 from the field in the first half, shot 50 percent (5 of 10) in the third quarter and took a 37-27 lead into the final eight minutes.



Notre Dame head coach Paul Unterreiner watches the action in the third quarter of the Bulldogs Class 4 semifinal against the Hillcrest Hornets, Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame lost 60-57. (Laura Simon)

"I thought Petry started hitting some shots that are similar to the ones in the first quarter, he just didn't hit them in the first quarter," Unterreiner said. "The second quarter, and the second half, he kind of got going and handled the ball. When we're throwing two or three guys at him and he's splitting them -- that's a good player. That's hard to stop. I don't care who you are.

"I thought we got off to a good start. I couldn't have asked for a better start. They responded well, and their coach made some unbelievable adjustments. And they hit big shots. At this level, you've got to hit big shots, and they hit them."

Notre Dame cut it to six twice -- with 5:02 and 4:34 left -- but couldn't come up with the defensive stop it needed. Hillcrest hit a pair of free throws in the first instance and Petry converted a three-point play with 4:26 left to push it to nine.

"They did a good job of attacking the basket, and we got a little handsy up front, I guess," Unterreiner said of his team, which was whistled for 30 fouls compared to Hillcrest's 17.

The Hornets only made two more field goals the remainder of the game but hit 8 of 13 free throws in the final 3:20. They finished 25 of 38 from the charity stripe.

"It was a very physical game, I thought, and a very fast game," Brock said. "I think both teams were playing with such great effort. Credit their guys. There in the fourth quarter, they didn't quit at all, and they played extremely hard. Our guys were playing extremely hard, and I thought it was very physical from the tip. I thought we did a very good job of attacking the rim, and usually if you attack the rim that results in shooting more free throws."

Hillcrest	5	14	18	23	--	60
Notre Dame	12	6	9	30	--	57

HILLCREST (60) -- Brady Petry 21, Shahn Clark 12, Cole Pryor 11, Lavell Hale 9, Jevazz Podurgiel 5, Tim Washington 2. FG 15, FT 25-38, F 17. (3-pointers: Pryor 3, Clark 1, Petry 1. Fouled out: none.)

NOTRE DAME (57) -- Quinn Poythress 13, Tanner Shively 12, Dean Crippen 12, Thomas Himmelberg 10, Ross Essner 4, Blake Bauwens 2, Trenton Schumer 2, Nick Bradshaw 2. FG 23, FT 9-14, F 30. (3-pointers: Poythress 2. Fouled out: Schumer, Crippen.)

Comments

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SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

Notre Dame boys basketball team caps season with win, third-place state finish

By Trent Singer ~ Southeast Missourian
Saturday, March 21, 2015



Notre Dame players hold up their Class 4 third place trophy after defeating Bolivar 65-44, Friday, March 20, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. (Laura Simon)

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Ending the season with a victory was the only way for the Notre Dame boys basketball team to move on from Thursday's state semifinal loss.

The Bulldogs led for all but 2 minutes, 7 seconds and came away with a 65-44 win in the Class 4 third-place game Friday at Mizzou Arena.

The victory brought an end to the high school careers of 10 Notre Dame seniors, including Tanner Shively, who said his team's journey to the final four was an unbelievable experience.

"Starting out at the beginning of the season, I didn't think we'd be here, let alone win a district championship," Shively said. "... There are two [Class 4] teams in the state of Missouri that get to finish their season with a win, and for us to be one of them, that's pretty unbelievable."

The Bulldogs (27-5) took the lead for good with 5:53 remaining in the first quarter on a jumper by Dean Crippen inside the paint. Crippen finished with 16 points, including eight in the first quarter.



Notre Dame's Dean Crippen, left, and Nick Bradshaw, right, hug Derek Hulshof after the Bulldogs 65-44 Class 4 third place win over Bolivar, Friday, March 20, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. (Laura Simon)

"The last couple of games, he's been unbelievable," Notre Dame coach Paul Unterreiner said about Crippen, who shot 6 of 11 (55 percent) from the floor and was a perfect 4 of 4 from the free-throw line. "Freshman year, he was a B-team player. He was a completely uncoordinated big, ole man and just worked his tail off. ... Yesterday he kind of missed a few, but today you saw it again. That's the player he's become, and I'm just so proud to know Dean Crippen."

After Conley Garrison's 3-pointer cut Notre Dame's lead to seven points, Blake Bauwens knocked down a trey from the left corner to cap an 8-2 run for the Bulldogs in the final 2:32 of the quarter. Notre Dame led 23-10 at the end of the opening period.

In comparison to Thursday's semifinal loss to Hillcrest, Unterreiner was pleased with the way his players protected their lead.

"This time we actually held on a little bit after that. Yesterday we didn't," said Unterreiner, whose team fell behind in the fourth quarter Thursday and was never able to recover. "I don't know what the difference was. I think our guys just played with a lot more confidence tonight.

"They played more loose, and yesterday we just had a bad game. That's just all there is to it. Some of my coaches tried to break it down more than it is, but we just didn't play well. It's that simple, and today we played a lot better."

Notre Dame continued to pound the paint in the second quarter. Crippen scored a layup to extend the Bulldogs' lead to 29-14 with 4:45 remaining in the half, but the Liberators (26-6) closed on a 9-2 run and trailed by eight points at halftime.

In the first half, Notre Dame outscored Bolivar 18-8 in the paint. The Bulldogs finished with a 30-18 advantage.



Notre Dame fans cheer on the Bulldogs during a Class 4 third-place game against Bolivar, Friday, March 20, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame won 65-44. (Laura Simon)

"Any year I coach basketball, I'd take these two guys [Crippen and Shively] on my team," Unterreiner said. "The way they battle, it just makes me proud. It's always every game we play, I don't care how big the other team is, we're going to throw it inside. That's just how we are supposed to play. That's just the way we play, and that's how we get our 3s."

A jumper by Quinn Poythress pushed Notre Dame's lead to 12 points with 5:58 to go in the third quarter. The Liberators answered with a pair of free throws from Brandon Emmert before switching to a 1-3-1 pressure defense that forced a turnover and led to a 3-pointer from Conley, cutting the Bulldogs' lead to 37-30 with 5:03 left in the period.

"We got away from things we do," said Unterreiner, who called a timeout following the five-point flurry. "We didn't run our press break. Quinn took it out, and he's not the one who takes it out. It was just little things, and then it throws everybody off. So we addressed that and just kind of tried to fix those small things."

Notre Dame carried a nine-point lead into the final quarter, and Bolivar scored the first four points of the period to trim its deficit to 47-42 with 6:30 left in the game.

The Bulldogs closed the game on an 18-2 run, during which Poythress contributed seven of his game-high 25 points and Shively scored six of his eight.

With less than three minutes left in the game, Poythress took a hard foul and followed it up with a trey from the left corner to push Notre Dame's lead to 60-44.



Notre Dame's Quinn Poythress sails in for a shot around Bolivar's Johnny Scott in the third quarter of the Bulldogs Class 4 third-place game against the Liberators, Friday, March 20, 2015, in Columbia, Missouri. Notre Dame won 65-44. (Laura Simon)

"I love Quinn to death, but sometimes he gets a little too worked up. And I've got to calm him down. We get up here, and he kind of gets worked up and was kind of struggling a little bit. It's a very thin line you're walking as a coach because he's a competitor, and when he got that flagrant foul, he called the inbounds play himself because he wanted to hit the 3 in the corner," Unterreiner said about Poythress, who was 4 of 6 from 3-point range. "That's the kind of guy that he is, and he [made] it."

The Bulldogs shot 23 of 49 (47 percent) from the field. Unterreiner said he was happy with the way Poythress and Shively asserted themselves in the final eight minutes of the game.

"He stepped up big for us tonight, hit some big shots, and sometimes he tries to force things," Unterreiner said. "I had to call [Shively and Crippen] over and say, 'Quinn, we're going to throw it to you, and then you're going to throw it to the high post to Tanner, not shoot it.' Sometimes you've just got to tell him, and he's always on board with whatever. Tonight he played phenomenal."

The Liberators shot 14 of 38 (37 percent) from the field and were led by Emmert, who finished with 18 points. Garrison contributed 10 points.

"Bolivar played their tails off tonight," Unterreiner said. "They move the ball really well. They're well coached. They swung that ball around the perimeter, and we couldn't catch up. If they hit a few more shots, it's a different ballgame."

Comments

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semoball

Top-seeded Oran boys basketball takes down Valle Catholic in district semifinal

By Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Wednesday, February 22, 2017



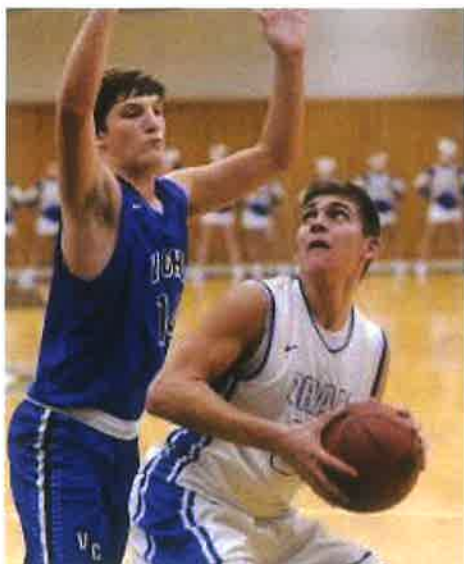
Oran's Max Priggel drives against Valle Catholic's Mason Skaggs during the second quarter of a Class 2 District 2 semifinal Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017 in Perryville, Missouri.

Fred Lynch

PERRYVILLE, Mo. -- It took about a quarter and a half for the Oran boys basketball team to get rolling Tuesday. When the Eagles hit full stride, Valle Catholic had no answer.

Top-seeded Oran outscored the No. 5 Warriors by 12 points in the second quarter to open a 13-point halftime lead before cruising to a 72-43 victory in a semifinal of the Class 2 District 2 tournament at the Perry Park Center.

With the win, the Eagles advance to the district championship game and will face No. 3 Scott City at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.



Oran's Todd Priggel looks to shoot as Valle Catholic's Coleman Keeley defends during the second quarter of a Class 2 District 2 semifinal Tuesday in Perryville, Missouri.

Fred Lynch

Oran trailed early in the first quarter and led by one point, 13-12, after the first eight minutes. However, a 24-point effort in the second quarter helped the Eagles pull away.

"They're well-coached and came ready to play," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "We just missed a couple shots. It wasn't necessarily tightness. We were just giving up a couple of easy looks and just had to settle down a little."

Jacob Shoemaker led the Eagles with 27 points and nine rebounds.

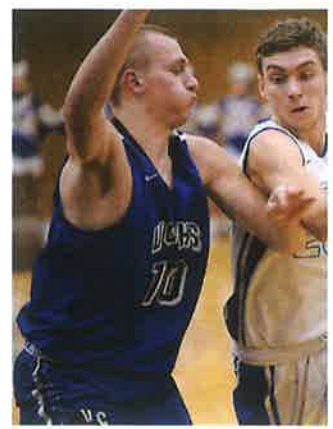
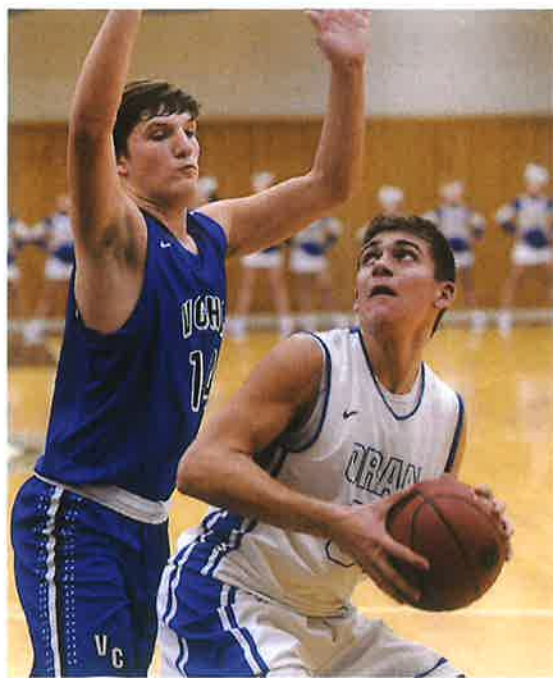
Oran (18-8) started slow, as Valle (13-12) scored the first four points of the game. While the Eagles responded with seven straight points, they couldn't shake the lower seed in the first quarter.

Oran began to pull away in the second quarter, during which Jacob Shoemaker poured in nine points. First, though, Valle pulled to within one, 22-21, off a steal and a fast-break layup by senior Tristan Rollhaus, who scored a team-high 19 points.

Following that basket, Coach Shoemaker called a timeout with 4 minutes, 58 seconds remaining in the half. Out of that stoppage, Oran ended the half on a 15-3 run and carried a 37-24 advantage into halftime.

Valle never drew closer than 11 points the rest of the way.

GALLERY PHOTOS



Part of Oran's early trouble was due to an inability to get back on defense. With Cole Priggel dealing with foul trouble, the Eagles didn't always have their customary last defender on the floor. That led to problems, as Valle often pushed the ball up the court after scoring in the first two periods, which led to easy buckets.

"Our back guy was in foul trouble, Cole Priggel," Joe Shoemaker said. "We did a bad job of communicating and getting somebody else back. It really showed tonight. He does so much for us that doesn't show up on the stat sheet, and that's one of those things."

In the second half, Oran did a better job limiting transition points.

Max Priggel added 16 points for the Eagles, and Layne Johnson had 12 points. Oran shot 51.6 percent from the floor (16 of 31), including 50 percent (8 of 16) from beyond the arc.

Valle finished 35.4 percent (17 of 48) from the field and was 3 of 24 (12.5 percent) from long-range.

Valle	12	12	10	9	--	43
Oran	13	24	19	16	--	72

VALLE CATHOLIC (43) -- Tristan Rollhaus 19, Mason Skaggs 4, Ryan Grein 2, Coleman Keeley 3, Cole Wood 9, Carter Roth 2, Brian Dunlap 3, Christian Loida 1. FG 17. FT 6-10. F 16. (3-pointers: Rollhaus 2, Loida. Fouled out: Wood.)

ORAN (72) -- Denver Elfrink 3, Max Priggel 16, Todd Priggel 7, Cole Priggel 2, Layne Johnson 12, Jacob Shoemaker 27, Drew Reischmann 5. FG 24. FT 16-23. F 13. (3-pointers: Shoemaker 5, Johnson 4, M. Priggel 3, T. Priggel 3, Elfrink. Fouled out: None.)

semoball

Oran boys basketball edges Hayti 53-47, advances to quarterfinals

By Josh Mlot ~ Southeast Missourian
Thursday, March 2, 2017



Oran's Drew Reischmann jumps for joy as his teammates celebrate their 53-47 win over Hayti in a Class 2 sectional Wednesday in Jackson.

Fred Lynch

Nothing was going to stop Cole Priggel. Not the Hayti defense, not a kick to the eye.

With his left eye swelling shut after a scrum for a loose ball left the Oran boys basketball guard with a nasty battle scar, Priggel scored 28 points and the Eagles defense locked things down in the waning moments to scrape out a gritty 53-47 win over Hayti in a Class 2 sectional Wednesday night at Jackson High School.

Despite trailing for 15 minutes, 51 seconds during the middle stretch of the game as Oran's offense struggled to get shots to fall, Priggel willed his team forward before the Eagles (20-8) held the Indians (18-12) without a field goal during the games final 4 minutes, 13 seconds.



FRED LYNCH ~ flynych@semissourian.com Oran's Cole Priggel shoots against Hayti's Dayon Moore during the third quarter of a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson.

Fred Lynch

"Our kids just never give up," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "I can't say enough about our guards. Cole being able to handle their constant pressure, as tough as they guarded. We found a way there at the end to control some rebounds, and I think those two things there at the end really helped out. The kids kept believing."

This is the Eagles' first trip to a state quarterfinal since 2013. They will face Hartville (25-5) at 1 p.m. Saturday at Three Rivers College in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

"They're all super excited," Shoemaker said. "I'm sure it means a lot to them. It'll mean a little more to them as they get older. Same thing with me. Everything's a blur right now and we've just got to keep battling."

For Priggel, the physical scars are well worth the chance to play for a state berth.

"Definitely worth it," Priggel said. "Definitely worth it."

"Oh, gosh. It was hard out there. I had to hold back some tears of joy -- just pure joy. It's the best moment of my life, honestly."

Oran shot just 11 of 35 (31.4 percent) through three quarters, but Priggel kept his team afloat, scoring 20 points in the second half to spark the Eagles comeback.

Oran learned from a loss to Charleston in the Southeast Missourian Christmas Tournament that it couldn't get passive against a pressure defense, and Priggel was a major beneficiary of that lesson on Wednesday.

"'When team's pressure you,' I said, 'we've got to attack it,'" Shoemaker said. "Cole did a good job of doing it. Some of those looks, we were just clearing out for him, running some decoy screens, because we knew their pressure would be constant. I feel like he's so strong with the ball and finishing it that it would be an advantage for us."



FRED LYNCH ~ flynych@semissourian.com Oran's Wyatt Kinney, right, and Hayti's Dayon Moore watch the ball go out of bounds during the first quarter of a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson.

Fred Lynch

Oran finished 18 of 46 (39.1 percent) from the floor, with Max Priggel adding 10 points and seven rebounds before fouling out with 1:48 left.

By that point, the Eagles were finding their defensive footing, as they snuffed out an Indians side that had stayed in the game by shooting 9 of 22 (40.9 percent) from 3-point range.

"We knew we'd have to switch defenses on them a little bit," Shoemaker said. "They're so stinking quick, and they crash hard against the zone. We had to switch a little something up. They were hitting shots early, which is a big thing, (and) we were just trying to get out early and keep them in front of us.

"I think the biggest thing is we started getting hands up on them instead of open hands, and we were able to control the boards afterward."

Hayti finished 16 of 49 (32.7 percent) from the floor, including 4 of 14 in the fourth quarter. Kedron Rollings and Darius Jones each had nine points for the Indians, but Rollings only had one point after the opening period.

Hayti got off on the right foot thanks to a hot start from Rollings, who scored eight points in the first quarter and helped the Indians out to a 10-3 lead, as Oran began the game mired in a 1-of-7 shooting streak.

But an Eagles timeout saw Oran start to use defense to generate its transition offense, and it sparked a 12-2 run to close the quarter, as Max Priggel took a steal coast to coast with 30 seconds left to put Oran up 15-12 after eight minutes.

But Hayti managed to take away the things Oran succeeded with, and the Indians knocked the Eagles offense out of rhythm while Hayti crawled back.

Down by as many as five in the second period, a pair of free throws tied it at 21 before a Maurice Farr 3 with 33 seconds on the clock gave Hayti a 24-21 lead entering halftime.



FRED LYNCH ~ flynych@semissourian.com Oran's Wyatt Kinney, right, celebrates with Jacob Shoemaker after their 53-47 win over Hayti in a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson.

Fred Lynch

A Kobe Cooper 3 pushed the Indians up by six, 30-24, less than 2 minutes into the third quarter. That gap remained as Oran managed just nine points in the quarter -- seven from Cole Priggel -- and Hayti had a 45-40 lead entering the fourth period.

After beginning the game 0 of 11 from 3 through the first three quarters, Oran began the fourth with back-to-back 3s.

The Indians answered, and Jones knocked down his second 3 of the period to keep his side up by five with 4:13 left to play.

It turned out to be Hayti's final field goal.

As Oran held the Indian's without a converted shot from the field during the final 4-plus minutes, it got a three-point play from Cole Priggel to cut the deficit to just one, 46-45, with 3:17 to play, before an offensive rebound and tip-in by Layne Johnson gave the Eagles the lead for the first time since 1:17 of the second quarter.

Oran never relinquished that advantage, as Cole Priggel converted all seven of his fourth-quarter free-throw attempts, including 6 of 6 in the final 2:03.

"Just believe," Priggel said. "Believe it's going in. Every time you've got to believe it's going in, and it did."

Oran	15	6	9	23	--	53
Hayti	12	12	11	12	--	47

ORAN (53) -- Jacob Shoemaker 7, Max Priggel 10, Layne Johnson 6, Cole Priggel 28, Drew Reischman 2. FG 18, FT 15-20, F 14. (3-pointers: Shoemaker, M. Priggel. Fouled out: M. Priggel.)

HAYTI (47) -- Kobe Cooper 5, Maurice Farr 7, Dayon Moore 4, Deva'nte Robinson 3, Kedron Rollings 9, Kemron Rollings 7, Maurius Newbill 3. FG 16, FT 6-13, F 21. (3-pointers: Jones 3, Ked. Rollings 2, Cooper, Farr, Robinson, Newbill. Fouled out: None.)





Oran's Cole Priggel shoots over Hayti's Maurice Farr during the first quarter of a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson. (Fred Lynch)



Oran's Max Priggel tries to shoot against Hayti's Maurius Newbill during the second quarter of a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson. (Fred Lynch)



Oran's Cole Priggel shoots against Hayti's Dayon Moore during the third quarter of a Class 2 sectional Wednesday, March 1, 2017 in Jackson. (Fred Lynch)

semoball

Oran celebrates banner day as boys and girls basketball win quarterfinals, advance to state



By Brian Rosener ~ Daily American Republic
Saturday, March 4, 2017



Oran boys basketball players celebrate following their 55-52 win over Hartville in a Class 2 quarterfinal Saturday afternoon at the Bess Activity Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Brian Rosener ~ Daily American Republic

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. -- It was a banner day for the Oran basketball teams Saturday.

Oran's boys overcame a 10-point, second-half deficit to beat Hartville 55-52 before the Lady Eagles followed with an equally thrilling 72-69 win over Neelyville in the Class 2 quarterfinal at the Bess Activity Center.

"Excited to go to Columbia, first time ever," Oran girls coach Ethan Evans said. "Boys and girls going together."

While the Lady Eagles won their first quarterfinal appearance, the Eagles returned to the Show-Me Showdown for the first time since finishing fourth in 2013 and for the third time in school history.

The Eagles (21-8) will face Sacred Heart (25-5) at 3:20 p.m. Thursday at the Hearn Center in Columbia, Missouri.



Oran girls basketball players and coach Ethan Evans celebrate during a Class 2 quarterfinal against Neelyville on Saturday afternoon at the Bess Activity Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

The Oran girls (27-3) will play in the following game at 6:40 p.m. Thursday against Adrian (29-1).

"It means a lot," Eagles coach Joe Shoemaker said. "It means more to these kids more than anything right now and I told them things are kind of a blur right now but they'll really learn to enjoy it after the fact."

Max Priggel scored 24 points to lead the Eagles while Jacob Shoemaker chipped in 11, hitting 6 of 8 free throws in the fourth quarter. Todd Priggel added seven points before fouling out along with Layne Johnson and Cole Priggel, who each scored four points.

Hartville's Deric Jones had 17 points and Dune Piper added 12 points, four steals and six rebounds.

Piper fouled out reaching in for a tie-up with 2:04 to play and the game tied at 47-all. Shoemaker knocked down both foul shots for a lead that the Eagles never relinquished.

"Big thorn," coach Shoemaker said of Piper. "When he fouled out it helped us a little bit. We were really struggling trying to guard him and keeping him out of the lane."

Hartville (25-6), which was 15 of 28 from the foul line, split two free throws with 1:49 left before Shoemaker found a wide-open Drew Reischman under the basket for a 51-48 lead.



Oran's Max Priggel takes a twisting shot during the second half of the MSHSAA Class 2 quarterfinal Saturday afternoon, March 4, 2017, at the Bess Activity Center in Poplar Bluff, Mo. (DAILY AMERICAN REPUBLIC/Brian Rosener)

Oran never led until the fourth quarter, when Max Priggel sank both shots of a one-and-one for a 39-38 lead with 6:44 left. The lead changed sides twice and the teams were tied three times after that.

Jace Keith's 3 broke a 42-all tie with 4 1/2 minutes left but Max Priggel put Oran in front at the 2:41 mark with a three-point play. Hartville tied one last time at 47 when Cody Kelly, a 6-foot-10 junior, split two foul shots.

"Definitely intense," Shoemaker said. "We just tried to do what (coach) tells us and trust our teammates."

Hartville took a 31-25 lead into halftime and extended it to 10 by the middle of the third.

Max Priggel hit a leaning shot as he was fouled and sank the free throw to start a 9-0 run to end the quarter. The Eagles didn't allow a point over the final 4:12 of the third and 1:47 into the fourth to rally.

Hartville scored the first six points of the game after Piper opened the game with consecutive steals. Oran pulled even at 11-all with a consecutive 3s by Max Priggel and later a pull-up jumper by Todd Priggel.

The teams were tied at 13 entering the second when Jace Keith splashed in a 3 and Jones got a putback. Oran responded with a 3 by Max Priggel and later a three-point play by Shoemaker to tie it at 19.

Braden Keith followed with a 3, the first of seven straight points for Hartville as the Eagles went four minutes between field goals. Shoemaker's putback ended the drought but Oran trailed by six at the break.

"When (Piper) beats you on the dribble and you throw it to the (Jones) kid, we struggled to stop that," coach Shoemaker said. "Told the kids to keep trying, that's all we can do."

Oran shot 37 percent from the field, including 4 of 14 from 3-point range, and turned the ball over 15 times to nine by the Eagles, but held a 29-26 rebounding advantage. Hartville shot 39 percent from

GALLERY PHOTOS



"I was going to pull it out and hold the ball for awhile and he was wide open," Shoemaker said.

It was the only basket for Reischman, but Oran's reserves scored 11 points.

"Next man up all season," Shoemaker said. "Try not to let playing time get in the way, just all in for the ultimate goal."

Shoemaker, a sophomore, split two free throws with 36 seconds left for a 53-49 lead and Hartville missed a 3 that Wyatt Kinney rebounded. He was quickly fouled and hit the second of two free throws before Hartville's Braden Keith knocked down a 3 to cut Oran's lead to 54-52.

Shoemaker stepped to the line with 11 seconds left and sank the second free throw.

Hartville's Jace Keith missed a 3-pointer off the back of the rim and Reischman tipped the rebound away as the Eagles were able to run out the clock.

"That's the one thing we preached to our kids -- it's usually not the last shot that beats you, it's that last rebound," coach Shoemaker said. "We really had to compete and go rebound. We're not big.

"We did very well there at the end getting rebounds."

Neelyville, meanwhile, forced 21 turnovers leading to 28 points but missed a few more chances to add to that total.

The Lady Tigers, who finessed second in Class 2 last year, nearly overcame an eight-point fourth quarter deficit after seeing their 10-point, second-quarter lead disappear.

The Lady Eagles trailed 33-23 with 2:10 left in the first half.

Cauble started the comeback with a three-point play on a putback then scored after a steal by Jessica Long before Mackenzie Graviett hit a pull-up jumper and later two free throws. The 8-1 run to end the half cut Neelyville's lead to 34-32 and Cauble opened the third with a go-ahead 3-pointer.

"It was their day," Hale said.

Neelyville led 8-3 early and by as much as seven in the first quarter before a 3-pointer by Ramsey. Payne later scored off a pass from Cauble in transition before knocking down a 3 off an inbound pass for a 14-13 Oran lead.

The Lady Tigers scored the next seven points but Cauble hit a 3 to close out the first quarter as Neelyville led 20-17.

Consecutive buckets by Worley pushed the lead to seven and Oran didn't score until the 4:56 mark of the second. But the Lady Tigers didn't take advantage and Oran got within 24-21 on Cauble's pull-up jumper midway through the quarter.

Worley's 3 capped a 7-0 swing to put the Lady Tigers up 10 with just under 3 minutes in the half but they only had one more basket before the break.

"We're inches away and still missing it," Hale said. "Again, that's ~~on one chance. We should have had~~ three or four people blocking out, rebounding and it wasn't happening."

BOYS

Oran 55, Hartville 52

Oran	13	12	12	18	--	55
Hartville	13	18	7	14	--	52

ORAN (55) -- Max Priggel 24, Todd Priggel 7, Luke Barnes 2, Layne Johnson 4, Jacob Shoemaker 11, Drew Reischman 2, Wyatt Kinney 1, Cole Priggel 4. FG 13, FT 25-32, F 20. (3-pointers: M. Priggel 3, T. Priggel. Fouled out: T. Priggel, Johnson, C. Priggel.)

HARTVILLE (52) -- Braden Keith 9, Dune Piper 12, Jace Keith 9, Deric Jones 17, Wyatt Ward 4, Cody Kelley 1. FG 16, FT 15-28, F 18. (3-pointers: B. Keith 3, J. Keith 2. Fouled out: B. Keith, Jones.)

GIRLS

Oran 72, Neelyville 69

the field but missed 13 free throws.

GIRLS



Neelyville's Jentri Worley, right, is fouled by Oran's Kaylee Payne during the first half of the MSHSAA Class 2 quarterfinal Saturday afternoon, March 4, 2017, at the Bess Activity Center in Poplar Bluff, Mo. (DAILY AMERICAN REPUBLIC/Brian Rosener)

The Eagles watched and cheered on their classmates from the sidelines before punching their own ticket to Columbia.

"I think they came out fired up, their boys had just won," Neelyville coach Becky Hale said.

Leah Cauble scored 33 points and reached 1,000 for the season on a free throw that broke a tie in the third quarter. The 5-foot-9 sophomore sank 13 of 15 free throws and also had eight rebounds.

J'Kayla Fowler led the Tigers (22-5) with 27 points and 12 rebounds while Jentri Worley added 22 points. Neelyville, however, shot 39 percent from the field, including 2 of 15 from 3-point range.

"Our shots didn't fall," Hale said. "Not a good shooting day."

Jessie Long added 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Lady Eagles, Kaylee Payne scored all eight of her points in the first quarter while Briana Stause scored all seven of her points in the second half and made a game-saving play at the end.

Katelyn Streeter's free throw with 16 seconds left put Oran up 71-69 and the teams tied up a loose ball with 5.9 seconds left, giving Neelyville an inbound pass under its own basket.

Fowler was open on the right block but Claire Ramsey got ahold of the ball along with Mackenzie Graviett to force another jump ball, the 10th of the game.

Long threw a long inbound pass to the other end but the player designated to be there didn't break. Stause chased it down, saving it from going out of bounds and Claire Ramsey ended up with it before being fouled with 3.7 seconds left.

"That was a really big play by Bri," Cauble said. "I'm glad she did that or we would have had to put some pressure up top."

Said Evans, "It's okay to be lucky this time of year."

Ramsey's free throw set the final score as Neelyville senior Michaela Eakins got off a late shot.

"We knew it was going to be tough," Evans said. "They've got a heck of a squad and they bring all the pressure in the world, especially at the end with what they were trying to do with Leah, keeping the ball out of her hands."

Cauble hit 10 of 12 free throws in the final 4 minutes after Neelyville cut Oran's seven-point lead to a point by forcing three straight turnovers.

GALLERY PHOTOS



Stause's offensive rebound off a missed free throw with Oran leading 60-59 led to Cauble's first two foul shots of the fourth quarter. Her next trip to the line came after being fouled on a defensive rebound that put the Lady Eagles in the double-bonus. Cauble's steal and split at the line put Oran up 65-59 with 3:05 to play. Four more free throws later made it an eight-point lead with 1:55 to go.

"She's good at getting to the line," Hale said. "All we have to do was look at her."

Rebounding was the difference for Oran, which scored 14 second-chance points, and ended up with the same number of boards as the Lady Tigers.

"That was a big focus. We were preaching rebounding before the game and just to come out there and do it means a lot," Cauble said.

Said Evans, "I thought we did a better job in the second half than what we did in the first half."

Oran	17	15	23	17	--	72
Neelyville	20	14	17	18	--	69

ORAN (72) -- Mackenzie Graviett 4, Brianna Stause 7, Kaylee Payne 8, Katelyn Streeter 1, Leah Cauble 33, Jessie Long 15, Claire Ramsey 4. FG 22, FT 20-27, F 14. (3-pointers: Cauble 4, Payne 2, Stause. Fouled out: Payne.)

NEELYVILLE (69) -- Jentri Worley 22, Mackenzie Hobbs 2, J'Kayla Fowler 27, Lexi Liao 5, Michaela Eakins 4, Lauren Crossen 3, Ashley Oxley 6. FG 27, FT 13-20, F 18. (3-pointers: Worley 2. Fouled out: Liao.)

semoball

Oran boys basketball seals close victory at free-throw line, ends half-century title game drought

By Josh Mlot ~ Southeast Missourian
Thursday, March 9, 2017



Oran basketball team celebrate after making a free throw during the Class 2 semifinals game between Oran and Sacred Heart Thursday, March 9, 2017 at University of Missouri in Columbia. Oran won 64-59.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Forty-eight years ago, the Oran boys basketball team had a chance at a state title, only to have a controversial game-altering call haunt the program. Now the Eagles will have a shot at redemption.

Despite serious foul trouble and an early deficit, the Eagles stiffened up on defense late in the game, hit clutch free throws down the stretch and watched Sacred Heart self destruct at the line en route to a 64-59 victory in a MSHSAA Class 2 semifinal Thursday afternoon at the Hearn Center.

"They played the post really good, though," Harding said. "Whenever we'd throw it up, our post would grab it and turn, and there always be a guy out there to poke it out.

"It's hard to throw that in there, knowing there's a guy right behind him. ... Whenever he turned, there was always a guy digging, and they're not going to call that in a big game like this even if he does get a hit on the arm or something."



Drew Reischman of Oran shoots the ball guarded by Micah Tanguay of Sacred Heart during the Class 2 semifinals game between Oran and Sacred Heart Thursday, March 9, 2017 at University of Missouri in Columbia. Oran won 64-59.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

Tied at 7-all less than three minutes into the game, Sacred Heart went on a 13-3 run, the 9-0 tail end of which was capped by a three-point play by Micah Tanguay to put the Gremlins up 18-10. They carried a 21-12 lead after one quarter.

Sacred Heart maintained that gap until Jacob Shoemaker drained back-to-back 3-pointers in less than 30 seconds to pull the Eagles within three, 29-26, with 2:17 on the clock.

The Gremlins got to the free-throw line before Harding hit a jump shot with 30 seconds left, and Sacred Heart went into halftime with a 35-30 edge.

A Max Priggel 3 at 5:24 of the third quarter gave Oran its first lead, 38-37, in 15 minutes, 59 seconds.

Sacred Heart answered with a 6-0 swing, capped by a basket by Young, but Oran returned the favor with a 10-2 run, as the Eagles got out in transition to go up 48-45 at the 1:11 mark of the third.

Lyles drained a 3 for the Gremlins with 21 seconds remaining, and the two sides went into the final period of play locked at 48.

The fourth quarter saw two ties and three lead changes, but the most important one came with 26 seconds left, as Reischman's free throws put the Eagles up for good.

Max Priggel then went 4 of 4 from the line in the waning seconds to clinch the win and a berth in the state championship.

"I just had confidence in myself," Priggel said. "I was like, 'I've been there before,' you know? I've been there a lot of times, and I've missed it some, But I just had confidence. I was like, 'I've got to make these, and we go to the state championship.' That was just the one thing. I've got to make these."

Drew Reischman, who was limited to just 10 minutes in the game due to early foul issues, hit a pair of free throws with 26 seconds left in the game to lift Oran (21-8) to a 60-59 edge that stuck.

"[Drew] and the other guys, they don't pout about playing time, about shot attempts," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "It's team-first, and they keep believing in themselves. They're very good kids."



Max Priggel of Oran shoots the ball during the Class 2 semifinals game between Oran and Sacred Heart Thursday, March 9, 2017 at University of Missouri in Columbia. Oran won 64-59.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

"Luke Barnes, in the very last game against Hartville, had a moment like that. They're prepared to play when it's their time, and things seem to be working out. It's bouncing our way right now."

Meanwhile, the charity stripe wasn't so charitable to Sacred Heart (25-5), which finished the day 9 of 17 from the free-throw line, including just 3 of 10 in the final quarter and four misses in the final 33 seconds of the game.

The Eagles made the Gremlins pay.

"I give them a lot of credit," Sacred Heart coach Steve Goodwin said. "There's a reason they knocked off the state champs. But I'll take my team shooting free throws to end the game any time. Any coach would. It just didn't fall for us today, but I can't fault our effort. I mean, I thought our kids played extremely hard against a very good team."

Oran had four starters in serious foul trouble for much of the game, with Jacob Shoemaker and Cole Priggel both fouling out, leaving the Eagles without two critical scorers for the final minute and a half.

"That's something where we just have faith in our teammates," coach Shoemaker said. "I gave the guys on our bench a lot of props right before districts. Sometimes they don't get playing time, but this group that we have, they don't pout about it. There's no pouting. It's all about team -- team first -- and they've really bought into that. And that's what got us here."

Jacob Shoemaker and Max Priggel each had 17 points for the Eagles, who also got 14 points and seven rebounds from Layne Johnson.

Oran was 22 of 47 (46.8 percent) from the floor, 8 of 19 (42.1 percent) from 3-point range and 12 of 18 (66.7 percent) from the free-throw line.

The Eagles trailed by as many as nine points in the first quarter and five points in the half, mostly because of defensive struggles. Sacred Heart sliced Oran to the tune of 9-of-10 shooting in the first quarter and was hitting 55.9 percent (19 of 34) of its shots through three quarters.

GALLERY PHOTOS



"One of the things (was) we were at a height disadvantage," coach Shoemaker said, "so we were trying to do some things to take away their height and we did that -- maybe over-coaching on my part -- and we allowed their guards to get around us a little bit.

"They're pretty quick guards, also, so that had something to do with it. But yeah, we weren't as focused as well as we should have been defensively to start the game."

But that changed in the final quarter when Oran held the Gremlins to just 4-of-13 (30.8 percent) shooting.

Sacred Heart guard Trenton Lyles led all scorers with 21 points, Micah Tanguay added 17 points for the Gremlins and Alden Harding scored 11.

Colby Young had nine points and seven fouls when he fouled out with 4 1/2 minutes to play. The absence of the 6-foot-6 junior center was a big one.

"Colby fouls out on a rebound. He goes up, and nobody else is around him," Goodwin said. "Changes the game. Nobody's around him."

Harding said the game's physicality definitely made it hard for the Gremlins to do what they wanted.

He did, and the Eagles are on their way.

Sacred Heart	21	14	13	11	--	59
Oran	12	18	18	16	--	64

SACRED HEART (59) -- Trenton Lyles 21, Alden Harding 11, Micah Tanguay 17, Teagan Trammell 1, Colby Young 9. FG 23-47, FT 9-17, F 17. (3-pointers: Lyles 3-10, Harding 1-2. Fouled out: Young.)

ORAN (64) -- Max Priggel 17, Layne Johnson 14, Jacob Shoemaker 17, Cole Priggel 8, Todd Priggel 4, Drew Reischman 4. FG 22-47, FT 12-18, F 23. (3-pointers: Shoemaker 5-7, M. Priggel 2-8, Johnson 1-3. Fouled out: Shoemaker, C. Priggel.)

semoball

Oran boys basketball earns first state title with win over Crane

Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Saturday, March 11, 2017



Oran basketball team celebrate after the Class 2 championship game between Oran and Crane Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia. Oran won 70-63.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

COLUMBIA, Mo. — For Oran sophomore Jacob Shoemaker, Saturday was years in the making. After all, he had been dreaming about this moment — winning a boys basketball state championship — since the day he was born.

So minutes after Oran captured its first-ever state title by defeating Crane 70-63 at Mizzou Arena, he struggled to put the moment he had been envisioning for over a decade into words. Sitting aside his father, Eagles coach Joe Shoemaker, and a few feet away from senior teammate Max Priggel, Shoemaker was in a title daze.

Oran boys win first state basketball title

Monday, March 20, 2017

The NCAA is not the only place where March Madness is in full swing. This is the time of year that teams have one shot to advance or go home -- for good. Anything can happen. Just ask the Oran Eagles boys' basketball team, which defeated the Crane Pirates 70-63 on March 11 to win their first state championship.

How special is this? Oran not only had not ever won a title, but the team had not even competed in a title game in 48 years. They made the most of this shot.

Sophomore Jacob Shoemaker said the win was "like a dream." Coached by his father, Joe Shoemaker, he played the game of his life. His 33 points, combined with senior teammate Max Priggel's 19 points and Layne Johnson's 10 points helped make the celebration possible.

It was a battle and remained close throughout, but in the end, you know what they say: Maybe Oran wanted it a little more.

Coach Shoemaker told semoball.com's Phillip Suitts that he was "ecstatic" with the "total team effort."

"To be able to come through with a win like this. I know a lot of people at the beginning of the year didn't expect us to be here, but our kids believed and they battled," he said. Their perseverance paid off.

Advance also made it to the state championship but came up short. The team lost 65-62 against Walnut Grove.

"Tough game. Tough loss," Advance coach Bubba Wheatley said. "We played hard all the way to the end, they just made a few more shots than we did."

The Oran girls basketball team reached the final four for the first time in school history, and the underclassmen-heavy roster gained some valuable experience from their fourth-place finish.

"Defense and rebounding is what wins championships and brings it home," coach Ethan Evans said. "I hope we soak that in and also get that other year of experience and not to get that deer-in-the-headlight look whenever we step out here on the floor again hopefully."

Congratulations to these basketball teams on historic seasons. You demonstrate the value of hard work and competition, and you remind us of the reward our efforts yield -- and how sweet it is.

Comments

► Be the first to post a comment

"It's like a dream," Shoemaker said. "I haven't woken up yet."



Jacob Shoemaker of Oran shoots the ball during the Class 2 championship game between Oran and Crane Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia. Oran won 70-63.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

Shoemaker propelled the Eagles to the championship with a game-high 33 points on 7-of-9 shooting from the field. He was 16 of 19 from the free-throw line and hit numerous free throws down the stretch when Crane tried to claw its way back into the game.

Priggel added 19 points, including 14 in the first half, and eight rebounds and Layne Johnson chipped in 10 points.

It all added up to an historic win for an Eagles team that before this season hadn't been in a championship game in 48 years. More recently, Oran couldn't get past Advance, losing to the Hornets the past three years in the district title game.

So for the Eagles, this moment has been a long time coming.

"It's ecstatic right now," coach Shoemaker said. "To be able to come through with a win like this. I know a lot of people at the beginning of the year didn't expect us to be here, but our kids believed and they battled.

"Like I said, it's a total team effort. Maybe not tonight, but other nights getting here with the foul trouble we faced and kids stepping up. I'm very proud of our team and very grateful for our community with the great support they gave us up here."

It didn't hurt that Oran had a full contingent of healthy players for the postseason. It was the first time in the last four year the Eagles has had a full roster for playoffs, according to coach Shoemaker.

Those past defeats helped season the team, too.

"We finally learned from those mistakes we made those last couple years as a team," Priggel said.

"Jacob, Layne, Cole (Priggel), they've all kind of matured a little bit because they were sophomores, freshmen out there and now they're juniors and stuff. I think everybody's maturing, and I'm just proud of how far we've come."

GALLERY PHOTOS



Drew Reischman, who had some crucial free throws in Thursday's 64-59 semifinal win over Sacred Heart, added six points and seven rebounds Saturday.

While Oran didn't have anyone over 6-foot-1, and Crane started 6-3 center Deven White, the Eagles out rebounded Crane 30-28, including 19-14 in the final two quarters, and Crane coach Craig Campbell said his team struggled to deal with the Eagles' physicality.

Oran (23-8) did start slow against Crane. The Pirates (20-11) scored the first six points and led 8-2 early. In the semifinal, Oran trailed by double digits in the first half, so the Eagles weren't fazed. A Max Priggel 3-pointer jump-started a 13-5 run to end the quarter as the Eagles took a 15-13 advantage into the second.

In that period, Oran's offense sputtered as the Eagles went more than 3 minutes without a point. But a 3-pointer from Shoemaker at the buzzer cut a four-point deficit to one, 28-27, heading into the break.

"We left their two best shooters open a couple times in the first half and allowed them to keep it close, especially that 3 right there going into halftime that was a lot of momentum for them going into halftime," Campbell said. "And we didn't shoot it well."

With Shoemaker heating up — he scored 25 of his 33 points in the second half — Oran outscored Crane by six in the third to take a 48-43 lead into the final eight minutes.

The Pirates never got closer than five, and when Crane did cut it to five with about two minutes left, Campbell's team promptly self-destructed with two technical fouls in the span of 11 seconds. By the time the dust settled, Oran had made six free throws to push the lead to 11 and two Crane starters had fouled out — guard Dalton Hayes and White. Hayes scored 23 points.



Max Priggel of Oran shoots the ball during the Class 2 championship game between Oran and Crane Saturday, March 11, 2017 at the Mizzou Arena in Columbia. Oran won 70-63.

Andrew J. Whitaker ~ Southeast Missourian

Crane made it interesting late, hitting three 3-pointers in the final 38 seconds.

But the Eagles put the ball in Shoemaker's hands, and Jacob delivered from the line.

So when the final buzzer sounded, Oran was celebrating its first title in program history.

That victory ensured Max Priggel and fellow seniors Luke Barnes and Wyatt Kinney went out on top.

"I always hear people talk about how they have regrets, like their last game because it's my senior year, and they always regret," Priggel said. "There's always a couple things they wished they could have done different or wished they would have played a little harder or something, and I don't think I have a whole lot of regrets since we won state."

As Priggel finished speaking from his seat on the dais, Jacob playfully whispered, loud enough for others in the room to hear, "free throws." It was a reference to a couple of misses Priggel had in the last few minutes at the line.

Priggel and the two Shoemakers laughed.

In that moment, missed free throws didn't seem quite so important.

Oran was, after all, state champions.

Crane	13	15	15	20	—	63
Oran	15	12	21	22	—	70

CRANE (63) — Tyler Campbell 9, Dalton Hayes 23, Wyatt Vaught 8, Deven White 5, Colton Elder 6, Brent Williams 7, Braydon Cook 2, Bryston Branstetter 3. FG 21-47. FT 15-19. F 27. (3-pointers: Williams 2-2, Vaught 2-7, Branstetter 1-1, Hayes 1-5. Fouled out: Hayes, White.)

ORAN (70) — Max Priggel 19, Layne Johnson 10, Jacob Shoemaker 33, Cole Priggel 2, Drew Reischman 6. FG 19-43. FT 26-36. F 14. (3-pointers: Shoemaker 3-4, M. Priggel 2-12, Johnson 1-1. Fouled out: None.)

semoball

Oran basketball players headline local list of MBCA all-state selections

Southeast Missourian
Friday, March 24, 2017



Oran's Max Priggel talks to the media after the Eagles defeated Crane in the Class 2 championship game on March 11 in Columbia, Missouri.

Missourian file photo

The state champion Oran boys basketball team swept the top all-state honors in Class 2.

Eagles senior Max Priggel was named Player of the Year, while Joe Shoemaker took home honors as Coach of the Year, headlining a local list of Missouri Basketball Coaches Association all-state recipients, which were revealed Thursday.

Oran sophomore Jacob Shoemaker also earned all-state honors in Class 2.

State runner-up Advance placed two players on the Class 1 team, as junior Armani Vermillion and senior Dawson Mayo both received honors. Scott County Central's Deantrell Beard, a senior, was also

a Class 1 selection.

Vermillion produced 20.2 points and 5.6 rebounds per game, while Mayo averaged a double-double with 14.8 ppg and 10.7 rpg.

Senior Will Rogers represents Saxony Lutheran as a Class 3 pick. Rogers averaged 16.5 ppg, 8.1 rpg and 8.3 apg for the Crusaders, who appeared in the state quarterfinals.

On the girls' side, Oran sophomore Leah Cauble was chosen in Class 2. Cauble shot 55 percent from the field and averaged 33 ppg and 5 rpg for the Eagles, who finished fourth in Class 2.

Saxony Lutheran's Laurel Mueller, a junior, earned all-state honors in Class 3 after scoring 11.4 ppg on a Crusaders squad that made an appearance in the state quarterfinals.

semoball

Oran baseball moves closer to a state title with 7-1 Class 1 semifinal win over Green City

By Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Wednesday, May 30, 2018



Oran's Layne Johnson delivers a pitch during a Class 1 semifinal against Green City on Wednesday at CarShield Park in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS

O'FALLON, Mo. -- With the final out recorded and a spot in the championship game secured, Layne Johnson stepped off the mound. Chills spread throughout his body as he walked towards the first-base dugout.

Overcome by emotions, Johnson rose his right arm and pointed his index finger to the sky. Thanks to Johnson's complete-game performance on the mound, Oran baseball is now just one win away from its second-ever state championship.

"That was just spur of the moment thing," Johnson said. "I was like, 'Man, this feels awesome.'"

Thursday at CarShield Field.

Oran scored three runs in the first three innings and cruised from there as its six seniors, a group including Reischman, ended their high-school careers on a high note.



Oran senior Layne Johnson celebrates after scoring a run in the Class 1 state championship game against St. Elizabeth on Thursday at CarShield Field in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS

"So many emotions just flew through my body," said senior Layne Johnson. "I look at Cole (Priggel) -- my best friend, who I've played baseball with since we were like 7 years old -- I looked at him, and we just embraced each other right there in a huge hug. I'm like Cole, 'I love you man.' God, it was awesome."

The crown comes five years after the program's 2013 state title and a year after many of the same players won a state championship in basketball.

"Oh man, there's nothing like it," Reischman said. "It's something I've been dreaming of for a long time, ever since the '13 team did it. You want that feeling again. We got to feel it in basketball last year, and I wanted it in baseball, and we finally got it done."

Reischman scattered seven hits across seven innings, giving up one run and striking out five. He also helped his cause at the plate, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Johnson had a game-high three hits, and Todd Priggel and senior catcher Clay Saucedo had two hits apiece as the Eagles' top four hitters accounted for all nine hits.

Oran (18-9) jumped out to an early lead for the second time in as many days, scoring a run in the top of the first. Johnson led off the game with a base hit and Priggel followed with a bunt single. A ground out by Reischman moved the runners into scoring position, and Saucedo gave the Eagles the lead with a sacrifice fly to deep left field.



Oran seniors, from left, Clay Saucedo, Cole Priggel, Layne Johnson and Drew Reischman pose with the Class 1 state baseball championship trophy after defeating St. Elizabeth on Thursday, May 31, 2018 at CarShield Field in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS ~ bmatthews@semissourian.com

"It just takes the pressure off and makes them breathe and go out and play the game of baseball," Oran coach Joe Bickings said of the early lead. "They've been playing since they were little kids, and they know that. They were able to go out there and compete when they had to."

Oran got some insurance runs in the third thanks to four consecutive singles to begin the inning as Reischman and Saucedo both picked up RBI base hits.

That three-run lead was enough. A day after Johnson gave up one run in a complete-game win, Reischman followed suit.

With a solid defense behind him, the right-handed hurler induced 12 ground ball outs.

"Drew threw probably the best game he's thrown all year, mixing it up, mixing his pitches up well," Bickings said. "The hits they had weren't solid hits for the most part, and when he did make a mistake he at least made a mistake down in the zone and got them -- if they swung at it -- got them to ground out. And our defense played extremely well again today."

"Pitching, defense and timely hitting wins championships, and that's exactly what we did today."



Oran's Cole Priggel jumps to make a catch as St. Elizabeth freshman Clayton Holtmeyer slides into third base during the fifth inning of the Class 1 baseball state championship game Thursday, May 31, 2018 at CarShield Field in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS ~ bmatthews@semissourian.com

St. Elizabeth (16-6) got on the board in the fifth thanks to an RBI single by Aaron Blomberg, who finished 2-for-3. Mason Kemna also had two hits for the Hornets.

But Oran scored next time up to extend the lead back to three, taking advantage of a two-out error and a balk.

Reischman retired six of the next seven batters to seal the win and the state championship.

"I was locating really well," Reischman said. "My curveball was darting down, my change-up was really good and kept them off-balance and let my defense make plays, and it worked out for us."

Oran's state championship was a long time coming. After falling to the eventual state champions, Bell City, in the district championship for the three previous seasons, the Eagles got their own

It all comes down to one game.

"I've been looking forward to this ever since I was watching my older cousins play up here," Cole Priggel said. "It's pretty big."

Oran	011	011	3	--	7	10	2
Green City	000	000	1	--	1	3	5

WP -- Layne Johnson. LP -- Camden Williams. 2B -- Drew Reischman (O), Cole Priggel (O), Denver Elfrink (O). Multiple hits -- Oran: Reischman 3-4, Priggel 3-3.

semoball

Oran baseball jumps ahead early and cruises to Class 1 state title with 4-1 win over St. Elizabeth

By Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Thursday, May 31, 2018



Oran sophomore Todd Priggel, left, hugs Drew Reischman after defeating St. Elizabeth in the Class 1 baseball state championship game Thursday, May 31, 2018 at CarShield Field in O Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS ~ bmatthews@semissourian.com

O'FALLON, Mo. -- Drew Reischman didn't know what to do. The dream he had for years was now a reality.

As his teammates came pouring out of the dugout and onto the field, Reischman didn't throw his glove in the air or jump up and down. He slowly walked off the mound and gave his catcher a hug. Then his teammates were on top of him, leaving him at the bottom of the dogpile.

Behind Reischman's complete-game win, which his coach called "the best game he's thrown all year," Oran baseball won its second-ever state title, defeating St. Elizabeth 4-1 in the Class 1 championship

Johnson gave up three hits, one walk and no earned runs while striking out 10 to lead the Eagles past Green City 7-1 in a Class 1 state semifinal on Wednesday at CarShield Field.



Oran's Cole Priggel tries to slide under a tag at the plate in the seventh inning of the Class 1 baseball state semifinal game against Green City on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at CarShield Field in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS ~ bmatthews@semissourian.com

In its first state appearance since 2013, Oran will face St. Elizabeth for the state championship at 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

"It's my senior year," Johnson said. "Before this year, we were 0-3 (in districts). To get into the championship game my senior year just means everything."

The Eagles (17-9) took an early lead with a run in the second and kept adding to their advantage, scoring at least one run in five of the seven innings.

At the plate, Drew Reischman and Cole Priggel each had a double and three hits as Oran finished with 10 hits as a team. The Eagles also took advantage of five Green City (14-3) errors to score three unearned runs, including the game's first run.

Priggel led off the second inning with a single and advanced to third on an errant pickoff throw. Kole Simms then drove him in with a sacrifice fly to center.

"Once you get that first run, everything seems to start to flow more," Priggel said. "Once you get up here, it's a pretty big game, but you try not to focus on that. It's a big relief once you get that first one."



Oran's Jacob Shoemaker takes a breath after safely arriving at third base in the sixth inning of the Class 1 baseball state semifinal game against Green City on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at CarShield Field in O'Fallon, Missouri.

BEN MATTHEWS ~ bmatthews@semissourian.com

The Eagles followed with another run the next time up. Todd Priggel drew a four-pitch walk and then scored from first on a Drew Reischman double off the center field wall to give Oran a 2-0 lead.

In the fifth and sixth innings Oran took advantage of a combined four Green City errors to push two more runs across.

"We were aggressive at the plate," Oran coach Joe Bickings said. "We were able to put the balls in play like you said and put pressure on them. ... We got some sacrifice flies, bunts down. We did all the little things right today to give us the 'W.'"

With Johnson in a groove on the mound, Oran rolled from there. After allowing one base runner in both the first and second innings, Johnson retired 10 straight. The ball didn't leave the infield until Jeremy McCarty's single to left field with two outs in the fifth.

"We got the early lead," Johnson said. "I mean, early lead is always good for me whenever I'm pitching because our boys are pretty good at defense, and once we get rolling the runs just keep coming, I feel like."



The Eagles broke the game open with three runs in the top of the seventh, tallying five hits and knocking Green City starter Camden Williams out of the game.

Williams took the loss, giving up seven runs (four earned) in 6 2/3 innings.

Green City's lone run came in the seventh thanks to two Oran errors. With the win, Johnson improved to 9-3 on the season.

"He's been lights out the last five or six games," Bickings said. "We expect that of him, being a senior and kind of being our ace of our staff. He came out, pumping strikes early. ... He just looked like he got stronger and stronger as the game went on."

While Johnson didn't get a shutout, it did nothing to damper his mood.

The moment had been four years in the making.

After falling in the district championship to the eventual state champions, Bell City, for the past three years, it's now Oran's turn to try to win a state championship.

championship moment.

Soon to come: some championship rings to remind them of this season and the euphoric postgame celebration.

"I've been waiting for it since we started playing baseball," Johnson said. "It means the world to us guys. That group of seniors right there, we've been together through everything, district losses, and to finally get that ring is just awesome. I can't wait."

Oran	102	001	0	--	4	9	0
SE	000	010	0	--	1	7	1

WP -- Drew Reischman. LP -- Dakota Kemna. 2B -- Dylan Wobbe (SE). Multiple hits -- Oran: Layne Johnson 3-4, Todd Priggel 2-4, Drew Reischman 2-3, Clay Saucedo 2-2. St. Elizabeth: Aaron Blomberg 2-3, Mason Kemna 2-3.

GALLERY PHOTOS



COMMENTS

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semoball

Oran boys basketball enjoys the moment in Class 2 sectional win over Valle Catholic

By Phillip Suitts - Southeast Missourian
Wednesday, February 27, 2019



Oran's Todd Priggel steals the ball from a Valle Catholic player during the Class 2 sectional game Wednesday at Jackson High School. The Eagles advanced to the state quarterfinals with a 69-41 victory.

TYLER GRAEF

It's a simple concept, one moms often tell their children before games. The Oran boys basketball team even writes it on the whiteboard before each game.

Have fun.

Wednesday, it took a quarter and a half for the Eagles to enjoy the moment. When they did, there was no stopping them.

Oran put together a 19-0 run spanning the end of the second quarter and start of the third period to pull away for a 69-41 win over Valle Catholic in a Class 2 state sectional at Jackson High School.



Oran's Jacob Shoemaker (12) puts up a shot, scoring two points while being fouled in the process during a game Wednesday against Valle Catholic High School at Jackson High School.

TYLER GRAEF

With its 20th consecutive win, Oran advances to the state quarterfinals for the second time in the last three seasons.

The Eagles (28-1), ranked fourth in the Class 2 state coaches poll, were tied 13-all with Valle (16-13) with 3 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the second quarter when coach Joe Shoemaker called a timeout.

"I kept it simple," Shoemaker said. "We do three things that we try to put on our board. Great attitude, great effort and have fun. I thought we had great attitudes. I thought we had great effort. We wasn't having fun. 'Relax and go have fun.' We were our own worst enemy right there."

Coming out of that break, Todd Priggel came up with a steal and a fast-break layup. Another Oran steal followed with the Eagles converting it into another two points. In less than a minute, Oran had scored four points and wouldn't trail again.

"They're a very well-coached team, trying to dictate tempo," Shoemaker said. "We had to gamble a little bit, give up some shots to get those turnovers, but that was OK with me."

Valle remained close, within three late in the half when Oran ended the quarter on a 4-0 run to take a 24-17 lead into halftime. That run extended into the start of the third quarter with the Eagles scoring the first 15 points.

GALLERY PHOTOS



By the time Valle scored with 3:21 remaining in the period, Oran's lead was 20 points, 39-19. The Warriors didn't get any closer the rest of the way.

Jacob Shoemaker led Oran with 24 points, nine rebounds and four steals. He was one of four double-digit scorers as Tyson Goodale added 17 points, Todd Priggel had 15 and Ty Johnson finished with 10.

"That's something we've got to do to be successful," coach Shoemaker said. "Four in double-figures, and I don't think they had anybody in double figures, and that's something we talked about. Where the mismatch is, being unselfish. If somebody helps, give it to the next guy."

Johnson also had four assists and four steals, and Priggel had three steals, while Langdon Scheeter had three assists to go along with three points.

Kyle Gielow and Aaron Doza had eight points apiece to pace Valle.

Oran's press discombobulated Valle Catholic early with the Warriors throwing the ball out of bounds or stepping out of bounds. The Eagles couldn't turn those turnovers into points, though, and at the end of the period it was knotted at 13.

Neither team scored for the first four minutes of the second quarter. Then coming out of that timeout, the Eagles made their run.

Oran will now face Portageville at 1 p.m. Saturday at Three Rivers College in a state quarterfinal. The Bulldogs (22-6) beat Thayer 43-41 in a state sectional on Wednesday, their sixth consecutive win.

"They're playing very well," coach Shoemaker said. "We've got to play better than we did tonight."

Valle	13	4	7	17	--	41
Oran	13	11	23	22	--	69

VALLE CATHOLIC (41) -- Kyle Gielow 8, Ryan Grein 2, Aaron Doza 8, Carter Hoog 7, Nolan Schwent 7, Jordan Weiler 3, Bryce Palmer 4, Aidan Heberlie 2. FG 17, FT 4-7, F 18. (3-pointers: Hoog, Schwent, Weiler. Fouled out: Grein.)

ORAN (69) -- Jacob Shoemaker 24, Langdon Scheeter 3, Tyson Goodale 17, Ty Johnson 10, Todd Priggel 15. FG 26, FT 14-21, F 13. (3-pointers: Shoemaker 2, Goodale. Fouled out: None.)

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C2 STATE: Oran boys basketball outlasts Portageville to advance to second final four appearance in three years

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Saturday, March 2, 2019



Oran's Jacob Shoemaker runs off the floor after beating Portageville 49-46 on Saturday, in the Class 2 Quarterfinals, at the Libla Sports Complex at Three Rivers Community College, in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Liza King/Standard Democrat

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. — Returning to the final four for the second time in the last three years; the Oran boys basketball team is riding a 21-game winning streak.

On Saturday afternoon, the Eagles met up with a Portageville team that was coming off of a three-game stretch of games that were decided by five points or less.

Saturday marked the fourth game in a row where Portageville (22-7) had a battle on its hands, but this time fell to the Eagles 49-46 in a Class 2 state quarterfinal at the Libla Sports Complex at Three Rivers Community College, in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

A game that went down to the final seconds, Portageville and Oran were in a dog fight from the tip with neither team getting out to an insurmountable advantage.

Struggling to get into a groove the entire game, senior Jacob Shoemaker was the beneficiary of the most crucial play of the afternoon.

Shoemaker drew the foul, and headed to the free throw, trailing by one point.

After sinking the first one to tie the game at 46, the second attempt missed, but the official called a lane violation on Portageville, give the Eagles another chance — this time to take the lead.

Shoemaker converted on his third attempt, giving Oran (29-1) a 47-46 lead.

For Oran head coach Joe Shoemaker, he wouldn't want to have anyone else on the line.

GALLERY PHOTOS



“I’ll take our chances with him on the line,” Shoemaker said. “I can’t count the number of free throws he shot on his own. He missed the second one and it kind of bounced that way. They had an unfortunate lane violation; we missed a wide-open layup earlier. Those little things happen. Portageville certainly didn’t lose the game, they’re so well-coached and a talented team. I don’t know if we won it. We just got some bounces our way at the end of the ball game.”

Leading up to that point, Jacob found it hard to get his shots to drop or drive on a tough Portageville defense.

A player that typically fills it up regularly, Jacob headed into the fourth quarter with just nine points.

Going into the game, Portageville senior Bub Lance drew the assignment of guarding Oran's best player.

Holding him to just 4 of 11 (36 percent) shooting from the floor, Portageville head coach Jason Irby said that Lance's defense — and the defense in general — was phenomenal.

"I thought we played really, really hard," Irby said. "We held a good Oran team that typically scores a lot of points down to 49, and Bub Lance's effort on Jacob Shoemaker was phenomenal. He normally scores a lot of points and was one of the better players in the area, and he had 11 points tonight.

"Defensively, we really got after it. Our kids fought and battled. It wasn't a lack of effort, we just had a few mistakes here and there with two good teams going at it, and somebody had to lose, and unfortunately, it was us."

Jacob was not the only one to struggle offensively. On both sides, scoring points came few and far between.

Entering the quarterfinal matchup, Portageville averaged 63.4 points per game, while Oran averaged 73.2.

At halftime, both combined for 46.

Leading the way for the Eagles after two periods of play was junior Tyson Goodale.

Goodale scored 14 of his team-high 18 points, including going on a pair of runs, by himself, over that stretch. He started with a 5-0 run to end the first quarter while adding a 7-0 in the second frame to pace the Eagles, who overall couldn't buy a bucket.

"He's doing such a good job," Shoemaker said. "He's unselfish with his screening for Jacob. As Jacob draws so much attention, Tyson's able to slip on some of those screens. We do some stuff where it's kind of misdirection and Jacob's willing to be the decoy to open Tyson up, and it seemed to work out well for us. Tyson had some great post moves tonight."

Portageville junior A.J. Hicks broke the first run, after a layup, while sophomore Drew Irby ended the second after hitting a corner 3-pointer.

Irby's shot jolted the Bulldogs to a 5-0 run which saw them tie the game at 22 before Oran sophomore Todd Priggel ended the half with a buzzer-beating layup to give the Eagles a two-point advantage.



Oran's Todd Priggel (35) rises up for a shot against Portageville on Saturday, in the Class 2 Quarterfinals, at the Libla Sports Complex at Three Rivers Community College, in Poplar Bluff, Mo. (Liza King/Standard Democrat) Ending the half strong, Priggel had six points and 10 rebounds.

After a back-and-forth third quarter saw the game tied at 35 heading into the fourth, the final eight minutes proved to be the most thrilling.

After Oran got out to a 39-35 lead to start, the Bulldogs did not show any give up and gave the Portageville fans in attendance some excitement after a 5-0 run gave them the lead right back at 50-49.

Senior Bryce Rone contributed after finishing at the rim for a layup, while Hicks added a 3-pointer from the right wing to add to the total.

Hicks — who was a force all night — finished with a game-high 19 points, and utilized his athletic ability to create easy shots at the basket.



Portageville's A.J. Hicks drives into the lane against Oran's Todd Priggel on Saturday, in the Class 2 Quarterfinals, at the Libla Sports Complex at Three Rivers Community College, in Poplar Bluff, Mo. (Liza King/Standard Democrat)

"We thought he could really attack their defense," Irby said. "We thought he had a quickness advantage and he was able to get to the paint, create some havoc. He got some steals, got out in transition, made a three, he played really well offensively for us. The way that we struggled to score, it was great that he was able to contribute those points."

After Goodale ended the run with a layup of his own, Hicks responded right back with another layup to put Portageville on top with four minutes left to play.

Hicks' layup sparked a personal 4-0 run as well.

On the ensuing Oran possession, Hicks created the turnover but missed the layup. He was able to rebound his miss and finish on his second attempt, though, to give the Bulldogs a three-point lead.

All leading up to the closing moments of the game, Portageville found a way to stick around and make things interesting.

Even after the Shoemaker free throws gave the Eagles a one-point advantage, Portageville could not execute on the other end, leading to the Bulldogs forcing to foul. Priggel made both of his attempts to make it 49-46, with nine seconds left and one last gasp for the Bulldogs.

Out of the timeout, Portageville could not find what they wanted, leaving the ball in Hicks’ hands. He could only get off a contested 3-pointer that missed, thus ending the Bulldogs’ season.

“We were trying to get Bub free off of a screen the screener action,” Irby said. “Get him on the weakside wing, and they did a good job of switching everything, and we were forced to take a really tough, contested three with AJ. Credit to them and it’s hard in that situation when you know you have to have a three, to get a good look, especially with a well-coached team like they are. We tried our best there; we just came up a little bit short.”

Finding multiple ways to win, Oran now advances to the final four for the first time since the 2016-2017 season, where the won the program’s only state championship to date.

The road is not easy, though, as the Eagles take on Van-Far, who are looking to repeat as state champions after defeating Hayti last season 56-55 in overtime.

Oran	9	15	11	14	—	49
Portageville	8	14	13	11	—	46

ORAN (49) — Jacob Shoemaker 11, Langdon Scheeter 4, Tyson Goodale 18, Ty Johnson 2, Todd Priggel 14. FG 19, FT 10-12, F 10. (3-pointers: Shoemaker. Fouled out: none)

PORTAGEVILLE (46) — Steven Guo 2, A.J. Hicks 19, Drew Irby 3, Bryce Rone 6, Bub Lance 9, Terry Kirkwood 6, Brendan Garmon 1. FG 20, FT 4-9, F 14. (3-pointers: Hicks, Irby. Fouled out: none)

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Oran boys basketball pulls away in second half, knocks off defending state champion Van-Far to advance to Class 2 state title game

By Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Friday, March 8, 2019



Oran's Langdon Scheeter and Tyson Goodale celebrate Friday's win. Oran beat Van Far 58-40.

Bailey Vassalli ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A nine-point lead had dwindled to one, and the Oran boys basketball team was going through its worst offensive drought of the day.

A lead change seemed inevitable midway through the third quarter, but Oran coach Joe Shoemaker didn't burn a timeout. He trusted his players.

After all, they had been in pressure situations before, with many winning a state championship in baseball last year, and brought a 21-game winning streak into Friday's contest.



Jacob Shoemaker dribbles past Van Far's Caden Wilburn. Oran beat Van Far 58-40.

Bailey Vassalli ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

That faith was rewarded as Oran outscored Van-Far by nine points the rest of the quarter and pulled away in the fourth for a 58-40 win over the Indians in a Class 2 semifinal at JQH Arena.

"I've got a lot of faith in our guys," Shoemaker said. "We've got some guys that have been in moments before, whether it be state baseball championship, basketball in the past, just big games, and I trust them.

"I talked to my assistants and thought about a timeout. This is a group that I have a lot of confidence in those situations, so I just let them run with it."

With the win, the Eagles knocked off the defending state champions and will go for their second state championship in three years at 2:40 p.m. Saturday against Greenwood.

Jacob Shoemaker led the way Friday with a game-high 24 points, with 12 coming in the second quarter. His first of four 3-pointers in the quarter gave the Eagles (30-1) an 18-15 lead with 6 minutes, 14 seconds remaining in the period.



Todd Priggel waits to throw the ball back into play. Oran beat Van Far 58-40.

Bailey Vassalli ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

It was their first lead of the game. They wouldn't trail again.

"We lost [Shoemaker] too many times in the second quarter," Van-Far coach Pat Connaway said. "It was a backbreaker."

That Shoemaker 3 was part of a 10-2 Eagles run that spanned the end of the first quarter and start of the second and came with Van-Far senior Caden Wilburn sitting on the bench with two fouls.

"I had to take him out," Connaway said. "He's been our best defender for four years."

At halftime, Oran led 29-22, and Tyson Goodale opened the third quarter with a jumper to give the Eagles a nine-point lead.

Van-Far responded with that 8-0 run to draw within one, holding the Eagles scoreless for more than four minutes.

GALLERY PHOTOS



The player who broke the drought: Jacob Shoemaker. He nailed a jumper with 3:04 left in the quarter, and seconds later 5-foot-8 Cooper Priggel pulled down a defensive rebound and went coast-to-coast for a layup.

It was the start of an 11-2 run to end the period, giving Oran a 41-32 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Van-Far didn't get any closer than seven the rest of the way as the Eagles were patient and looked for high-percentage shots, twice finding Goodale open under the basket in the closing minutes. He finished with 10 points.

"I felt like if we had a lead, it would definitely be in our favor there at the end," coach Shoemaker said, "because we could kind of dictate tempo and try to shorten the game a little bit."

Todd Priggel chipped in eight points and a team-high four rebounds for Oran, which despite a significant height disadvantage had three fewer rebounds than Van-Far.

Four of the five Indians who played 25 minutes or more were 6-2 or taller. Oran didn't play anyone over 6-feet.

"They were big," Todd Priggel said. "I think we did an all right job getting rebounds."

Oran's press and hot shooting — the Eagles were 20 of 33 from the field (60.6 percent) and 6 of 9 on 3s (66.7 percent) — helped neutralize the Indians' advantage inside.

"That's something we've definitely got to do; we've got to hit some shots to try to spread them out a little bit," coach Shoemaker said. "Hopefully, our quickness can take over. If you don't hit shots and

(they) are able to pack it in with the height, then it makes for a tough game.”

Van-Far was 17 of 40 from the field (42.5 percent), including 2 of 12 on 3s (16.7 percent).

Thanks to that solid defensive effort, the Eagles are back in the state title game. Two years ago, Jacob Shoemaker poured in 33 points as Oran won the state championship.

Now, the Eagles are back in that same spot.

“It feels great,” Jacob Shoemaker said. “Ready to go.”

Geenwood (28-3) presents a challenge unlike anything Oran has seen this season with five-star recruit Aminu Mohammed. The sophomore is averaging more than 30 points per game and scored 35 points in the Blue Jays’ semifinal win Friday.

“You’ve going to have butterflies in your stomach; that’s going to happen,” coach Shoemaker said before Saturday’s opponent was known. “But hopefully, we’re not scared of the moment. They’ve prepared all year.

“They go out and take the shots. If they fall, they fall, that’s with God. If they don’t, they don’t. Don’t be scared of the moment.”

Van-Far	13	9	10	8	—	40
Oran	12	17	12	17	—	58

VAN-FAR (40) — Verlyn Johnson 7, Verdell Johnson 7, Caden Wilburn 13, Trey Miller 9, Dillion Minor 2, Colin Wilburn 2. FG 17, FT 4-9, F 17. (3-pointers: Caden Wilburn 2. Fouled out: None.)

ORAN (58) — Ty Johnson 5, Todd PRiggle 8, Tyson Goodale 10, Jacob Shoemaker 24, Langdon Scheeter 7, Cooper Priggel 2, Samuel Shoemaker 2. FG 20, FT 12-17, F 14. (3-pointers: Johnson, Shoemaker 4, Scheeter. Fouled out: None.)

COMMENTS

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Oran boys basketball father-son duo ready for one last ride together

By Phillip Suits ~ Southeast Missourian

ORAN, Mo. -- Two games left. Period. No matter what happens, win or lose, Jacob and Joe Shoemaker know these are the last two games they'll compete in as a father-son, coach-player duo. For years, Joe Shoemaker has been Jacob's coach, starting in elementary school and continuing through Oran High School. Together, the two have experienced highs,...

Oran wants to repeat that accomplishment this weekend. First, it must get past an experienced Van-Far team.

"I've watched some game tape on them," Goodale said. "They seem pretty good, not going to lie, a pretty good team. It's going to be pretty hard to beat them. Like you said, if we play together as a team and be very unselfish with the ball and never give up, we might have a chance."

Shoemaker, Priggel and Goodale make up three-fifths of Oran's starting lineup, along with sophomores Langdon Scheeter and Ty Johnson. Those two were in junior high in 2017, along with sixth man Cooper Priggel. Johnson was part of the state championship baseball team last year, though.

"The thing is the team we get first off had everybody there last year also," Oran coach Joe Shoemaker said. "But between the state baseball championship and basketball two years ago, hopefully we're not as nervous as some. But it doesn't matter how many times you've been there, you're always going to get a few nerves, butterflies in the stomach."

Van-Far outlasted Hayti in the state championship last season, winning 56-55 in overtime as Trey Miller scored 16 points. He's back this year and leads the team in points (14.5 per game) and rebounds (7.4 per game). He's one of six Indians on this year's roster who played in that state championship game.

Oran (29-1) brings a 21-game winning streak into the matchup, its only loss coming to Class 4 Notre Dame on Dec. 27. Van-Far enters at 22-7 and has won all five of its postseason games by 12 points or more.

"They're well-coached, a very talented team," coach Shoemaker said. "They've got a few more losses than us, but they've been to much bigger schools. They're a very good defensive team, and also, like everybody else, they're taller than us."

Four of Van-Far's starters are taller than 6-feet, including the 6-5 Verlyn Johnson. Goodale, Priggel and Johnson are Oran's tallest starters at 6-feet flat. Through districts, Van-Far was also averaging 10 more rebounds per game than Oran, 36.9 to 26.9.

"Each team is a little different challenge, depending on how they use the height," coach Shoemaker said. "It's always a unique challenge we've got to face and battle as a team. We can't make it a one-on-one battle."

Todd Priggel averages 12.1 ppg and a team-high 6.7 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. Goodale is averaging 12.6 ppg, and Jacob Shoemaker leads the Eagles with 22.9 ppg. He is also the Eagle with the most final four experience. His advice for the younger players is simple.

"Can't be afraid of the moment, that's one thing and just try to enjoy it," Jacob said. "Last time, I just focused on the games and didn't enjoy the experience as much."

Coming off a sectional loss to Hayti last year, Oran has returned to the stage where it experienced so much success two years ago. Comparison between the two teams is inevitable, and Goodale sees some similarities.

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't really see much in that, but toward the end we started to play together a lot more, very unselfish with the ball," Goodale said. "Plus Jacob's shooting is pretty good. Todd's rebounding is excellent. Ty's effort is just amazing. I love playing with these guys."

Oran hopes that history will repeat itself, starting with a win today.

Win that game and the Eagles will be playing for a second state title in three years Saturday.

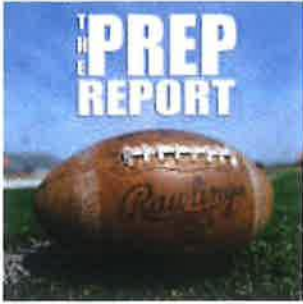
Community support

There's no school today in the Oran School District to allow the community to make the trek to Springfield, Missouri, for the final four. It's the third consecutive year an Oran sports team has advanced to this stage.

In 2017, it was the boys and girls basketball teams. Last year, it was the baseball squad. Boys basketball is back once more, and the excitement hasn't diminished.

"I just want to thank the community for our great support, our school and our community," coach Shoemaker said. "We've been fortunate enough and blessed to go to a couple final fours in sports and they still support us every year. Appreciate it."

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Prep Report

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LIVE BLOG: Class 2 boys basketball state championship

Posted Saturday, March 9, 2019, at 1:28 PM



Oran boys basketball goes for its second Class 2 state championship in three years when it faces Greenwood on Saturday, March 9, 2019, at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri.

Championship Saturday is upon us.

The Oran boys basketball team goes for its second Class 2 state title in three years at 2:40 p.m. Saturday. The Eagles (30-1) bring a 22-game winning streak into the matchup against Greenwood (28-3) at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri.

Greenwood, which is located just 200 feet from the JQH Arena, has a five-star recruit in Aminu Mohammed. The 6-foot-4 sophomore is averaging over 30 points per game and scored 35 points while grabbing 23 rebounds in a 61-54 semifinal win over Plattsburg on Friday.

Behind some hot shooting and a full-court press, Oran overcame Van-Far's height advantage Friday to earn a 58-40 semifinal victory over the defending state champions. Jacob Shoemaker scored 24 points in the win.

The Eagles will likely need another big game from the senior guard, who scored 33 points in Oran's 2017 state championship victory. If you are interested in learning more about Jacob Shoemaker and his relationship with his father, Oran coach Joe Shoemaker, check out this story by Phillip Suits.

You can also follow Phillip on twitter @semoballPhillip for updates. @SemoballAlex and @Semoball will also have updates. You don't need to have a Twitter account to see the tweets.

At halftime and after the game, check back for updates on the game. There will be a full story and photo gallery on semoball.com later tonight.

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COMMENTS

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The Oran boys basketball team came up just short in the Class 2 state championship game, falling 55-54 to Greenwood on Saturday at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri.

Sophomore Aminu Mohammed scored 24 points for Greenwood (29-3), which ended Oran's 22-game winning streak.

A 3-pointer by Grant Harper gave the Blue Jays the lead for good with 1 minute, 14 seconds remaining. Oran had chances to tie or take the lead but was unable to do so. Mohammed missed a free throw with two seconds left, but Oran couldn't make the shot at the buzzer. The bench wanted a foul but none was forthcoming.

Tyson Goodale had a team-high 17 points and nine rebounds for Oran (30-2), and Ty Johnson added 14 points and five rebounds.

Oran led by as many eight in the third quarter, but Greenwood responded with a 6-0 run. Tommy Pinegar caught fire, hitting three long-range 3-pointers in the quarter.

Oran pushed the lead back to seven thanks to a Goodale 3 with less than two minutes left in the period, but the Blue Jays scored the final five points of the quarter to cut Oran's lead to 43-41 heading into the fourth.

Greenwood then scored a minute in to tie the game at 43-all.

Todd Priggel then hit two free throws to restore the Eagles' lead but Mohammed responded with a 3. It was like that all quarter with the Blue Jays capturing the narrow win.

Check back to semoball.com for a complete game story and notebook and a photo gallery.

Cooper Priggel scored a outback at the buzzer to give Oran boys basketball its largest lead of the game at halftime.

The Eagles led Greenwood 29-23 at the break as Ty Johnson has a team-high 12 points. Greenwood's star Aminu Mohammed has 13 points. He averages over 30 points per game.

Oran won the opening tip and scored within seconds as Ty Johnson found Tyson Goodale under the basket for a layup. Goodale scored the first six Oran points, and the Eagles led by four with less than two minutes left in the period.

The Blue Jays responded with a 7-0 before Jacob Shoemaker hit a pointer in the final seconds of the quarter to tie it up at 16-all.

Shoemaker and Goodale both finished with six points in the first half.

Despite the 6-foot-4 Mohammed's presence, Oran out rebounded Greenwood 14-9 in the first half. Oran didn't play anyone taller than 6-feet.

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FINAL BLOW: Oran ends season at 30-2, falls to Greenwood in Class 2 state championship game 55-54

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Saturday, March 9, 2019



Members of the Oran boys basketball team lift the second-place trophy above their heads, after losing to Greenwood 55-54, in the championship game of the Class 2 Show-Me Showdown, on Saturday, at the JQH Arena, in Springfield, Mo.

Alex Wallner/Standard Democrat

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — With the scored knotted up at 50 and 3:30 left to play, the Oran boys basketball team had a battle on its hands with Greenwood in the Show-Me Showdown Class 2 state championship game on Saturday afternoon, at the JQH Arena, in Springfield, Mo.

Big shots by Greenwood's Grant Harper and Thomas Pinegar made the difference in the contest in the end, as the Blue Jays defeated the Eagles 55-54, to win the school's first state championship in boys basketball since 1941.

A contest determined by foul shooting at the end, Oran (30-2) could not capitalize when the Blue Jays missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity with 10 seconds left.

GALLERY PHOTOS



Pinegar — a freshman — missed the front end of the one-and-one, but when senior Jacob Shoemaker rebounded the ball and dribbled it up the court, he fell to the ground, but his hand was out-of-bounds, giving Greenwood the ball back with 3.6 seconds left.

Then, after fouling sophomore Aminu Mohammed, he missed his chance to give the Blue Jays a two or three-point lead. Junior Tyson Goodale went on to collect the miss and threw it down the court to Jacob Shoemaker, but as he dribbled and was trying to get a look at the basket, could not get the shot off on-time, and as he hit the floor, the buzzer sounded.

After a semifinal where Mohammed, a five-star recruit, had a 35-point and 23-rebound affair, the Eagles made it a little tougher on the sophomore in the championship game.

Mohammed finished with a double-double — 24 points and 14 rebounds — and Joe Shoemaker applauded him after the game.

“He’s a phenomenal talent,” Joe Shoemaker said. “He plays so well and so unselfishly also. He’s a great passer; he gets other people involved. He kind of got through the first half without getting in major foul trouble and that allowed him to be very aggressive in the second half. He’s such a difference-maker on both ends; it’s the type of talent you don’t get to see a whole lot of, and I was proud of how our kids battled.”

Mohammed had 13 points and seven rebounds at halftime, but Oran went into the locker room leading 29-23.

Everything went Oran’s way in the first half, as the Eagles shot an efficient 52 percent from the floor and 50 percent from 3-point range.

A player that is typically not talked about a lot is sophomore Ty Johnson.

Johnson's first half was nothing short of excellent for the Eagles, as he went into halftime with 12 points on 5 of 7 shooting and 2 of 3 from 3-point range. He also did not sit at one point during the first half, logging a full 16 minutes.

After an even first quarter, Johnson set the tone in the second frame. He went on a personal 5-0 run after Greenwood scored the opening basket of the period, pushing the Oran lead out to 21-18 before a Pinegar 3-pointer tied the game at 21.

Getting into the lane was how Oran was able to score nearly all of its points during the first eight minutes; driving and trying to get easier baskets was one area where the Eagles excelled.

Finishing with 10 points in the paint in the first quarter, Oran would not reach that number again the rest of the game.

Goodale — who has shown bright spots over the last month for the Eagles — continued his confident ways early and was a big part of the inside game. He scored the games first six points and was everything that Oran wanted, with Jacob Shoemaker being the focal point of the offense.

“He's really stepped up,” Joe Shoemaker said. “He plays super hard. He runs the floor so well, and he finds the right spot; that's about the best way I can describe him, and he's playing with a lot of confidence right now. He's really stepped his game up during the last month of the year.”

Goodale neared a double-double, with a team-high 17 points and nine rebounds.

Overall, attacking the lane was something that the Eagles did well early, but faded away from down the stretch.

With the length that the Eagles faced with at the rim, though, Joe Shoemaker said that he commended his team for starting that way.

“Todd went right at the rim the first possession and the second possession of the game,” Joe Shoemaker said. “I don't think it was intimidation. It was just kind of the style of defense they've played, and the big thing is a lot of times, if it's somebody who's not as athletically-blessed as him, then they're probably fouls, but he's athletic enough that he can get up and take the shot away without fouling.”

A player as difficult to game-plan against as Mohammed, Joe Shoemaker said that it was hard to take-away the outside shooting that Greenwood possesses while staying attached to the sophomore.

“That's what makes it so tough and No. 5 can shoot it with great range, and we knew that,” Joe Shoemaker said. “He's kind of streaky, and he got hot and hit several shots, and we kind of had to do some things differently after that defensively to try and take him away. It's tough to do, and I fault our kids, they did the best job they could at it.

“I thought we did a good job of effort plays, trying to get in front of the basketball especially when Mohammed had it. You got to stay in front of the basketball and do the best that you can in that

situation. I thought that's something we did there for a little bit; we just couldn't do it quite long enough."

Shooting 47 percent in the first half, Greenwood hit nearly every shot it attempted in the second. The Blue Jays shot 57 percent from the floor and 62 percent from the arc, as they ended the game outscoring Oran 32-25.

From the first half to the second, Greenwood (29-3) looked like a different team. During the break, head coach Darren Taylor said that he told his team that they weren't playing like they are accustomed to playing.

"I told them that we're not playing like the way Greenwood can play," Taylor said. "I said that I think you can be better than them if you'll come out and play with a little more energy and we rushed the traps a little bit. We didn't execute some of the plays — I think we ran two of the plays correctly in the first half and scored on both of them and then in the second half, we did a little bit better. Grant did some good creating, Aminu got to the hole, and of course, Tommy made some threes."

Pinegar who had 15 points — on four 3-pointers — was a much-needed lift for a Blue Jays team that needed it, to help Mohammed.

After all, having a sharp-shooter on the team never hurts, and for Mohammed, he said that it added a big spark.

"I told him that you have to shoot the shot and you have to make the shot," Mohammed said. "They're going to guard me, and if you don't make that shot, I won't be free because we have to pay him some respect so that two guys can go their and I can be free to do what I do and he stepped up real big."

Oran ends its season with just two blemishes on the schedule.

Jacob Shoemaker ends his career with the Eagles with a record of 89-30 (74 percent). He finished his last game in the Blue and White with 12 points, three rebounds, six assists, one blocked shot, and one steal and played the entire game.

Greenwood	16	7	18	14	—	55
Oran	16	13	14	11	—	54

GREENWOOD (55) — Garrett Lutherland 2, Aminu Mohammed 24, John Sharp 6, Grant Harper 8, Thomas Pinegar 15. FG 21, FT 5-8, F 12. (3-pointers: Pinegar 4, Harper 2, Mohammed 2. Fouled out: none)

ORAN (54) — Ty Johnson 14, Todd Priggel 7, Tyson Goodale 17, Jacob Shoemaker 12, Langdon Scheeter 2, Cooper Priggel 2. FG 22, FT 3-7, F 13. (3-pointers: Shoemaker 4, Johnson 2, Goodale. Fouled out: none)

semoball

FINAL FOUR NOTEBOOK: Oran boys basketball reflects on season following state championship loss, Mohammed lives up to hype, ending stirs up controversy

By Phillip Suitts ~ Southeast Missourian
Saturday, March 9, 2019



Oran's Jacob Shoemaker, Ty Johnson and Calen Read walk across the court after Saturday's Class 2 State Final 55-54 loss to Greenwood at JQH Arena in Springfield, Missouri.

Bailey Vassalli ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Joe Shoemaker rarely shows emotions, talking quickly and without pause and often focusing on Xs-and-Os.

But minutes after a heartbreaking state championship defeat, the Oran boys basketball coach, sitting on a dais and looking out at a gaggle of reporters, visibly choked up when talking about his team.

"This whole group, very proud of them," Shoemaker said after a 55-54 loss to Greenwood on Saturday. "The things they've done for Oran basketball, two state championship games, one state championship in basketball, one in baseball. Nothing to hold our heads about.



Todd Priggel attempts to block Greenwood's Aminu Mohammed during Oran's Class 2 State Final 55-54 loss to Greenwood at JQH arena in Springfield, Missouri.

Bailey Vassalli ~ Special to the Southeast Missourian

"It wasn't about lack of effort or bad attitude. It's just the way it goes."

Oran nearly captured a second Class 2 basketball state championship in three years but instead suffered a one-point loss at JQH Arena to five-star recruit Aminu Mohammed and the rest of the Blue Jays.

It was the final high school basketball game for Jacob Shoemaker, who scored 12 points and dished out six assists. After the game, as Joe went down the line and shook the hands with all his players, he took a moment to dole out a hug to Jacob, who he started coaching in elementary school.

"I just told him I loved him," coach Shoemaker said. "I was proud of him."

Oran put together a phenomenal season, not losing a game from December 28th through March 8th. Its two defeats came to the Class 2 state champions and Class 4 Notre Dame.

"There's really not a loser, I feel like, in today's game," coach Shoemaker said. "Everybody's a winner. We may have lost on the scoreboard, but you'd ask anybody at the beginning of the year, 'You get to

the state championship game, a chance to go play it,' every coach and player is going to say sign me up and that's where we're at today.

GALLERY PHOTOS



"A lot of teams would love to be where we're at right now."

Jacob is one four seniors who played their final game Saturday, along with Avery Mitchem, Calen Read and Luke Patterson.

"A lot of fun," Jacob Shoemaker said of his high school career. "I love these guys."

Guarding Mohammed

It's not often, if ever, that Oran faces a five-star recruit. That's what happened Saturday, though, and Mohammed certainly lived up to the expectations.

The sophomore has offers from Florida and Seton Hall among other college programs. He played at Archbishop Carroll in Washington D.C. as a freshman before transferring to Greenwood last summer. His older brother, Kabir, just finished up his junior season at Missouri State.

Now, Aminu attends school 200 feet away from Missouri State's JQH Arena.

The 6-foot-4 guard averaged over 30 points and 15 rebounds for the Blue Jays this season, turning a seven-win team the year before into state champions for the first time since the 1940s.

Oran managed to hold him below both his averages as Mohammed finished with 24 points and 14 rebounds. He made 10 of 17 shots from the field, including 2-of-4 shooting on 3s. No other Greenwood player took more than eight shots.

"He's a phenomenal talent, and he plays so well and unselfishly also," coach Shoemaker said. "He's a great passer. He gets other people involved. He kind of got through the first half without getting in

major foul trouble and that allowed him to very aggressive in the second half."

Tommy Pinegar did finish with 15 points on 4-of-7 shooting for the Blue Jays.

Mohammed was also a one-man defense in the paint, often altering or blocking shots. He finished with five blocks.

"He's such a difference-maker on both ends," coach Shoemaker said. "It's a type of talent you don't get to see a whole lot. I was proud of how our kids battled."

Todd Priggel was one of several Eagles who defended him throughout the night. He had seven points and seven rebounds.

"He can get to the basket, and he can shoot," Priggel said. "And he's [6-4]. That's really tough to guard."

Those attributes proved too much for Oran.

Controversial ending

With two seconds remaining, Mohammed missed a free throw, and Tyson Goodale, who had a team-high 17 points and nine rebounds, grabbed the rebound and passed ahead to Jacob Shoemaker.

Shoemaker's desperation heave was off target, and a Greenwood player ran into him as he followed through with the shot. The contact appeared to come after the buzzer sounded, and the referees did not call a foul.

After the game, both coaches didn't discuss the call, or non-call, when asked their view of the final play.

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ORAN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Oran holds off top-seeded Kelly in OT slugfest to claim OIT title

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Friday, December 4, 2020



Oran's Ty Johnson accepts the championship plaque after the Eagles defeated Kelly in overtime to win the 65th Oran Invitational Tournament Friday, Dec. 4, 2020. (David Jenkins/Standard Democrat)

Oran, Mo. — The last time Kelly and Oran met the game ended in an overtime thriller, with the Hawks coming away victorious.

Friday night marked another classic between the two Scott-Mississippi County Conference rivals, as both met in the finals of the 65th Oran Invitational Tournament. The Eagles ousted the Hawks 38-37 in overtime to win their fourth-straight tournament crown.

“They’re well-coached, and being a broken record, they’re bigger and stronger than us,” Oran head coach Joe Shoemaker said. “I take my hat off to their team. They played hard until the end, got us into overtime, and it could have bounced either way in a one-possession game. Whether it be the first possession or the last possession, we’ve got to clean up some things.

“Offensively, we had too many turnovers, and they guarded. Their length bothered us quite a bit, even when we attacked the rim. I’m just happy to get a win tonight.”

There was a lack of offense between the two, as the extra four minutes saw only five points.

Junior Gavin Jansen gave Kelly (1-1) the first shot at winning the program’s first championship since 1998, after converting a layup to make it 37-35.

However, Oran answered right back, as senior Cooper Priggel stepped up and hit a 3-pointer to give the Eagles a 38-37 lead.

“I asked him in the timeout if he was ready to put us up one,” Shoemaker said. “I looked him in the eyes, and he said yes, so we called his number, and he did his part. I got the easy part; he had the hard part.”

That was all the scoring that Oran needed to start the season 3-0.

Kelly, though, did have a pair of chances to try and tie the game, but both of those opportunities turned into turnovers in the end.

With 16 seconds left, Kelly senior Bryce Morgan got the ball near half-court and tried to muscle his way to the rim.

As Morgan was maneuvering his way into the lane, he fell to the floor and tried to use a timeout. The officials, though, whistled a traveling violation on Kelly and returned the ball to the second-seeded Eagles.

The same sort of play happened to end the game, as the Eagles’ suffocating defense was too much for the Hawks to overcome.

“We can’t stop them, but we did try to limit them,” said Shoemaker of his team’s defensive showing. “We had a foul to give there at the end, so we were super aggressive on the ball, and it was just effort. It’s nothing but heart from our kids and not giving up.”

In a contest that featured six lead changes and four ties, there was no tie more significant for the Hawks than junior Joel McClain’s basket that tied the game at 35, after nearly eight minutes of Oran hanging onto a two-point lead.

Toward the end of regulation, Oran did have a pair of chances to win the game.

Priggel had a chance to give the Eagles a three-point lead, but his 3-point attempt went off-the-mark. After junior Samuel Shoemaker snared the rebound, though, Oran would use a timeout.

Not much came out of the break, as on the ensuing inbound pass, Kelly nearly forced a five-second violation, as senior Langdon Scheeter couldn't trigger the pass due to the Hawks swarming defense.

The near turnover resulted in another timeout, leading to another look for Priggel in nearly the same spot. Attempting another perimeter jumper from the right-wing, McClain stuck to his man well, reacted, and blocked Priggel's shot to send the contest into overtime.

McClain finished with 11 points and eight rebounds. He shot 5-of-9 from the floor.

Priggel reached double-figures, with 11 as well. He shot 4-of-12 from the floor and 3-of-9 from 3-point range.

This win marked the second-straight year that Kelly and Oran met in the tournament finals. Last season, Oran won 79-49.

Oran has now won eight tournament titles, defeating the Hawks three times to earn the title.

"Each one is different," Shoemaker said. "Every team I've had is different and has their own identity, and I love each one the same. We didn't get to scrimmage anybody in the summer, so we're still trying to figure out rotations. The guys on the bench made some big contributions. We're playing with nine kids right now, and it was a total team effort."

Senior Ty Johnson led Oran in scoring with 14 points. He shot 5-of-12 from the field as well.

Jansen led Kelly with 17 points. He shot 7-of-11 from the floor and added five rebounds.

Oran returns to the floor on Tuesday, when they play at Risco at 7:30 p.m., while Kelly hosts Caruthersville, also at 7:30 p.m.

Oran	10	16	9	0	3	—	38
Kelly	13	5	15	2	2	—	37

ORAN (38) — Ty Johnson 14, Cooper Priggel 11, Langdon Scheeter 8, Seth Cauble 3, Diesel Cato 2. FG 17, FT 3-11, F 12. (3-pointers: Priggel 3, Johnson, Cauble. Fouled out: none)

KELLY (37) — Gavin Jansen 17, Joel McClain 11, Bryce Morgan 4, Drew Klipfel 3, Jay Noon 1, Ty Powers 1. FG 15, FT 3-6, F 18. (3-pointers: Jansen 2, McClain, Klipfel. Fouled out: Noon)

CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

(4) Chaffee 43, (6) Scott County Central 42

ORAN, Mo. — In the consolation championship game of the 65th Oran Invitational Tournament, the Chaffee boys' basketball team narrowly defeated Scott County Central.

Jagger Sadler finished with 15 points, while Isaiah Fitzgerald had 10 in the Red Devil's 43-42 victory.

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DOWN GO THE CHAMPS: Oran defeats defending state champion Thayer to advance to first state semifinal since 2017

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Saturday, March 7, 2020



Oran's Katie Webb jumps in the air after teammates rush the floor, after a win against Thayer, in the Class 2 State Tournament Quarterfinals, on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the Sikeston Field House.

Liza King/Standard Democrat

SIKESTON — It's safe to say that there were nerves in the back of Oran junior Katie Webb's mind as she headed to the free-throw line with the game on the line, Saturday afternoon at the Sikeston Field House.

Webb, however, moved past those nerves and sank both of her attempts from the charity stripe — which ended up being the clinching shots — as the Lady Eagles defeated the defending Class 2 state champion Thayer Bobcats, 41-40, in the quarterfinals of the Class 2 State Tournament. The win advanced Oran to its first trip to the semifinals since 2017.

ORAN VS. THAYER



“I was hoping I was going to make it,” Webb said. “We practice 20 free throws every day, and it’s just really important to me to make them, but I didn’t know if I was going to make them or not, but I’m glad I did.”

The last time the Lady Eagles made it to the state semifinals, they finished with a record of 27-5. That season was also Oran senior Kaylee Payne’s freshman first go-around with the Lady Eagles.

Now, in her final season on-the-court, Payne was smiling from ear-to-ear and couldn’t hold her excitement after the game.

“Going into the game, I just reminded my teammates that it’s just a game, and no matter what, you got to keep your composure,” Payne said. “Winning the game was also pretty exciting.”

A battle the entire game, Oran played to Thayer's strength — a low-scoring contest — as players from the bench rushed the floor and celebrated with their teammates.

Before Webb's free-throw, however, it looked like Thayer was about to end the Lady Eagles season.

Out of a timeout, the Bobcats got what they wanted.

Sophomore Callie Johnson found herself wide-open in the right-corner and made the most of her open look, as she nailed a 3-pointer with seven seconds left that sent the Thayer fans in attendance into a frenzy.

After making that shot, Oran head coach Larry Boshell said that he didn't plan on wasting a timeout. He instead wanted to play it out, which proved to be the correct call.

"If we call a timeout there, I'm not smart enough to run a great play in 10 seconds or whatever it was to get it down the floor and setup," Boshell said. "We have a better chance with them; they're celebrating, they're tickled to death because they think they won the game. Our girls are pushing the ball down the floor and trying to score. We did that same thing when Dexter beat us earlier in the year."

On the next Lady Eagles' possession, Webb caught the ball underneath the basket and drew a foul as she was going up for a shot to head to the foul line with a lot at stake.

After making her first free throw, Webb jumped up-and-down with excitement, as she tied the game right before a timeout got called.

Trailing 28-27 heading into the final quarter, Thayer started off the final period in the right direction.

Junior Madyson Kerley started the frame by drawing a foul on Oran senior Kaylee Payne — her fourth — to head to the charity stripe. She went 1-of-2 at the line to push the Bobcats ahead by one, 29-28.

Then, with 6:57 remaining, the Bobcats made it a three-point contest, after senior Jurnee Rolen cut to the basket, received a pinpoint pass, and got a layup, making it 31-28.

Oran, though, would not go away.

Freshman Grace Davis drove from the right-baseline right to the basket and converted her layup attempt, which cut the lead to one, 31-30.

After that, the Lady Eagles forced a turnover and translated that into points at their end of the floor. Sophomore Traci Hency missed her layup attempt, but there to gobble the miss was Webb, who went up strong and got her layup to drop, which gave the lead right back to Oran, 33-32.

From there, a back-and-forth game ensued.

Thayer would retake the lead, with 4:58 left, after junior Shelby Coursey caught the ball in the low-post, and made her layup attempt, to put the Bobcats ahead 33-32.

Webb would then hit a short jumper from the right elbow to push the Class 2, District 3 champions ahead 34-33, with 4:39 left.

Nearly 1 1/2 minutes later, a Kerley layup off a drive to the basket pushed the defending state champions ahead 35-34 with 3:16 remaining in the game, with the see-saw affair not stopping at that moment.

Finally pushing ahead by more than one point, senior Taylor Lowes drilled a 3-pointer from the right-wing that pushed the Lady Eagles ahead 37-35 with 2:37 left on the clock.

“I knew we couldn’t break down,” said Lowes on what she told her team after her shot. “No stupid fouls and you have to contain your excitement.”

Another layup from Kerley, however, would tie the game at 37 with 1:44 left, after she went from the right-baseline and right to the hole.

As time was dwindling, the Eagles eventually got possession with 47 seconds left — while also drawing a foul — after Webb collected a Thayer missed shot. She went on to make both of her attempts to push Oran ahead by two, 39-37, which then set up the final moments of the game.

Webb finished with a game-high 22 points, doing most of her damage in the second half.

“No. 32, she’s a great player,” Webb said. “She blocked me a couple of times, and I was really glad that we were able to get it down low, though, because our other post, Traci, whenever I wasn’t open, she was doing very well at getting my boards, and I was doing well at getting hers. We just worked great down low.”

After trailing by three, 20-17 at halftime, Oran continued displaying it’s “never quit” mentality, even when it looked like Thayer was going to pull away.

Starting the third quarter, Webb rebounded a Payne missed 3-pointer and went up strong with her second-chance opportunity. She missed her ensuing layup, though, stayed with it and got another rebound, and on the way up to the goal, drew a foul and headed to the charity stripe to earn her points.

Webb went 1-of-2 at the line to cut the Thayer deficit to 20-18, just one minute into the second half.

Then after Rolan made a driving layup to push the lead to four, 22-18, with 6:32 remaining, the Lady Eagles cut into the lead again.

With 6:03 remaining, Payne drove to the basket and drew a foul to head to the foul line. The Southeast Missouri State softball commit went on to make both of her attempts, making it 22-20.

Just as the fourth quarter went back-and-forth, the third followed suit.

A Rolan floater from the lane made it a four-point game, 24-20, with 5:34 left, before Hency rebounded a missed turnaround jumper from Webb, and took it to the cup while drawing a foul. She went 1-of-2 at the line to make it a three-point game, 24-21.

Following that, two more free throws by the Bobcats pushed the margin out to five, 26-21.

Webb, though, had an answer, as she got in position in the low-post and got a layup out of it, to make it 26-23, with 4:10 left.

Webb's basket started a 7-0 run for the Lady Eagles, which saw them take a 28-26 lead with 23 seconds left.

After her initial basket, Webb found the bottom of the net again, after Payne drove near the right-block, and delivered a pass around her Thayer defender. The pass went right into the hands of the 6-foot-1 junior, who finished with a layup.

Hency then got to the charity stripe again, after she caught the ball in the low-post and drew a foul, where she made 1 of 2, to even the score at 26 with 55 seconds left.

The run concluded for Oran after Webb rebounded a missed shot, missed her initial layup attempt, but stayed with the ball, again, and watched as her layup attempt dropped, to push Oran ahead by two, 28-26.

Johnson ended the Lady Eagles' momentum, with 0.6 seconds left after she drew a foul to head to the charity stripe. She made 1 of 2 at the line as well, as the Bobcats trailed by one heading into the final eight minutes.

Oran faces No. 2-ranked East Buchanan (27-3) in the semifinals on Friday, at 2:40 p.m. The game is at Hammons Student Center in Springfield, Missouri.

Thayer	9	11	7	13	—	40
Oran	13	4	11	13	—	41

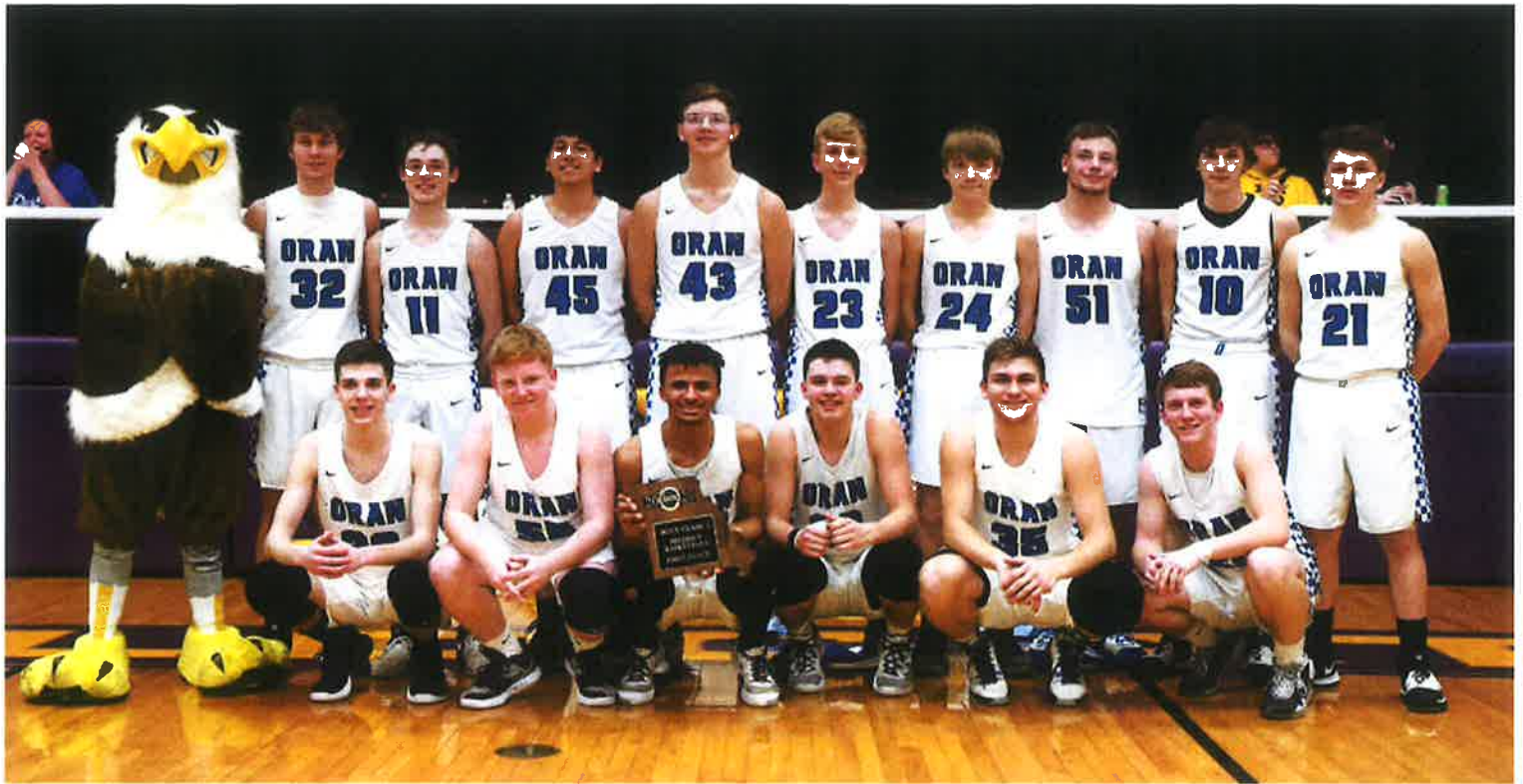
THAYER (40) — Madyson Kerley 17, Callie Johnson 6, Jurnee Rolen 6, Shelby Coursey 5, Avery Pierce 4, Katelyn Wade 2. FG 13, FT 11-16, F 14. (3-pointers: Johnson, Pierce, Coursey. Fouled out: Coursey)

ORAN (41) — Katie Webb 22, Taylor Lowes 9, Kaylee Payne 5, Grace Davis 2, Traci Hency 2, Hope Woodfin 1. FG 12, FT 13-19, F 14. (3-pointers: Lowes 3, Payne. Fouled out: none)

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FOUR-PEAT: Oran defeats St. Vincent to win fourth-straight district championship

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Thursday, February 27, 2020



The Oran boys basketball team poses for a picture after defeating St. Vincent, in the championship game, of the Class 2, District 3 Tournament, at Bloomfield High School, in Bloomfield, Mo., on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020.

Liza King/Standard Democrat

BLOOMFIELD, Mo. — A senior class of Todd Priggel, Tyson Goodale, and Kaiden Massey have never experienced a season at Oran without celebrating a district championship.

Three years, three titles.

That streak continued on Thursday evening, at Bloomfield High School, as the No. 1-seeded Eagles defeated the No. 2-seeded St. Vincent Indians 61-48 to claim the Class 2, District 3 Tournament championship.

“Everyone’s special,” Oran head coach Joe Shoemaker said. “You can’t take anything for granted, because you never know how short life is going to be and God’s plan for you. Each team is a different team and has its personality.”

Not one Oran player left the floor with a frown on their faces, as the Eagles managed to stave off an Indians comeback, that saw them close the Eagles’ lead to four points, midway through the third

quarter.

With Oran leading 27-19 at the break, St. Vincent didn't show any signs of doubt.

Luke Brickhaus started the second half off with a bang for the Indians. The junior drained a three-pointer from the right-wing to cut the deficit to five, 27-22.

Oran, though, hit back-to-back three-pointers after that, to push it's lead back to double-digits, at 33-22. Goodale made the first long-range jumper, from the left corner, while junior Cooper Priggel added a three of his own, from the left-wing.

St. Vincent would then turn around and go on a 5-0 run to cut the lead to six, 33-27, with 5:35 left.

Senior Charles Sauer converted an old-fashioned three-point play, while senior Alex Brickhaus finished a layup off a turnover.

Receiving the ball near the left baseline, junior Ty Johnson stopped the St. Vincent run, after he drove into the lane, spun around his defender, and got his floater to drop, to push the lead to eight, 35-27.

The Indians, however, returned the favor, as they scored the next four points quickly.

With 4:36 left in the third, Sauer went up for a layup, but in doing so, knocked down Oran junior Langdon Scheeter — who was then helped off the court by a trainer. Scheeter did return and finished the game for the Eagles.

Following that, Sauer went to work on the Eagles defense again, as he made a driving layup, which in the process, cut the lead to four.

That would be the final points that the Indians made in the frame, as Oran closed on an 8-0 run to head into the fourth quarter ahead 43-31.

"We got too passive and quit looking to score," Shoemaker said. "We got to find that fine line between taking some time off and still looking to score. They made a good little run at us, they're a well-coached team, and we knew they would."

Starting the game, Oran got out to a 7-2 lead, with 3:25 remaining in the period.

Goodale scored the first points for the Eagles, after driving to the basket and converting a layup. The Indians answered, though, after Alex Brickhaus knocked down a mid-range jumper to knot the game up, 2-2, with 4:20 left.

From there, Priggel made the first — of three — three-pointers to push the Eagles lead to three, 5-2.

Scheeter then followed that up by getting a look in transition off a turnover and driving toward the rim. As he went up for a shot, he drew the foul and headed to the line. He would make both of his attempts in the process, to push the lead to 7-2.

Alex Brickhaus ended the Indians' drought after that, on a layup that cut the margin to three, with 3:17 remaining.

Scheeter, though, had an answer. With 3:06 left, the junior nailed a jumper from the left corner that pushed the lead to six, 10-4.

Continuing to battle, St. Vincent cut the lead to four, 10-6 after Luke Brickhaus made his layup attempt after an excellent bounce pass from Shawn Koishor underneath the basket.

Once again, though, Oran answered back after Priggel nailed his second three-pointer of the game to make it 13-6.

As the quarter was coming to close, St. Vincent cut the lead to five, as Alex Brickhaus attacked the goal and got his floater to drop, making it 13-8, with 1:11 left. Brickhaus finished the quarter with six points and led the team with 18 points.

Giving it to the hot shooter, Priggel got his chance to end the quarter in-style for the Eagles.

As time was ticking away, Priggel got his last-second three-pointer to drop, right as the buzzer sounded and give the Eagles a 16-8 advantage after the first eight minutes. Priggel finished with 16 points.

After the brief break, Oran pushed it's lead to double-digits for the first time after Todd Priggel threw an outlet pass to a streaking Scheeter for a layup attempt. He drew the foul in the process and made both of his free-throws to make it 18-8, with 7:12 left in the frame.

St. Vincent, though, would go on a 5-0 run after that, as senior Garrett Dobbelare nailed a three-pointer from the right-wing and Sauer converted a layup to cut the Oran lead to five, 18-13.

A once slim lead, at the time, would turn into another double-digit contest for the No. 1 seed, as Oran went on a 7-0 run that ended with 3:52 left.

Johnson hit a three from the top of the arc, while Scheeter got a rebound and put-back to make it 23-13. Goodale then ended the run after making both of his shots from the charity-stripe that pushed the lead to 12.

The Indians would end the quarter on a 6-2 run, as Alex Brickhaus made a pair of free throws, junior John Wibbenmeyer made a driving layup, and junior Shawn Koishor spun around his defender and got a shot to go, to make the score 27-19, with 44 seconds remaining.

Sauer was the other St. Vincent player to reach double-figures in the scoring column, with 11.

Goodale finished with a game-high 20 points for Oran. He was also 5 of 5 at the free-throw line.

“At the beginning, I felt low,” Goodale said. “Wore out a little bit, but I started to progress a little bit and started to get in a flow, and my team was helping me out.”

Scheeter added 13 points and was 5 of 8 at the charity stripe.

For Todd Priggel, it was another game under his belt after a long time to recover.

Priggel finished with two points on a layup with 28 seconds left. He also provided a highlight-worthy play as he found Goodale underneath the basket for a layup off a behind-the-back pass that drew the attention of the heavy Oran crowd in attendance.

“It feels good,” Priggel said. “Finally back, and it feels good to be back. It’s good to play with all my friends again, and I’m glad to win another district championship.”

St. Vincent	8	11	12	17	—	48
Oran	16	11	16	18	—	61

ST. VINCENT (48) — Alex Brickhaus 18, Charles Sauer 11, John Wibbenmeyer 5, Luke Brickhaus 5, Garrett Dobbelare 4, Phillip Ernst 3, Shawn Koishor 2. FG 18, FT 9-16, F 17. (3-pointers: Wibbenmeyer, Luke Brickhaus, Dobbelare. Fouled out: none)

ORAN (61) — Tyson Goodale 20, Cooper Priggel 16, Langdon Scheeter 13, Ty Johnson 8, Samuel Shoemaker 2, Todd Priggel 2. FG 17, FT 19-26, F 17. (3-pointers: Cooper Priggel 4, Scheeter 2, Goodale, Johnson. Fouled out: Cooper Priggel)

COMMENTS

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Smaller Oran holds on - barely - against Brentwood



Tom Davis

Thursday, March 5, 2020



Oran senior forward Tyson Goodale (31) blocks a shot at the buzzer by Brentwood senior center Jordan Mitchell (34) as time expires in the Class 2 sectional basketball championship Tuesday at Jackson High School.

Ben Matthews ~ Southeast Missourian

The Oran boy's basketball team had little margin for error in its Class 2 Sectional game against Brentwood Tuesday at Jackson High School.

Brentwood had physical mismatches at two positions and kids that could rain in 3s at the other spots.

If Oran didn't put forth 100 percent effort at the defensive end – and then some - while cutting and passing its way to some semblance of offensive success, Brentwood was getting on their bus afterward

in a really good mood.

Oran did enough to survive. Barely.

Oran got a pair of free throws from junior guard Cooper Priggel – his only points of the game – with :05 remaining to beat Brentwood 59-57.

Oran (25-5) will now battle Thayer (22-5) in the Quarterfinals Saturday at 2:45 p.m. at Sikeston.

Brentwood had two assets at its disposal in senior post Jordan Mitchell (6-foot-5, 270 pounds) and senior guard Chris Hill (6-foot-3, 210 pounds).

There ain't no one built like those two in Oran – regardless of age - and Eagle coach Joe Shoemaker realized that.

“They had two extremely good offensive players mismatch-wise for us,” Shoemaker said.

That is an understatement.

Shoemaker had seniors Tyson Goodale (6-foot-1, 165 pounds? maybe) and Todd Priggle (6-foot and 175 pounds) double Mitchell (16 points) often, with a dash of Ty Johnson (5-foot-10 and 170 pounds) thrown in for good measure, but it only had moderate success.

And as far as Hill was concerned, Shoemaker was deathly afraid of the All-State guard all game long.

“(Hill) can get his shot when he wants,” Shoemaker said. “It was just whether he makes it or not. And then (Mitchell) was such a problem in the post.”





Oran had success with Hill, who averages nearly 28 points per game (second-most in the St. Louis-area).

The scrappy (if not big) Oran defenders limited Hill to 15 points, just four in the final three quarters.

Brentwood (14-11) closed the opening half on a 6-0 run to lead 35-29 at the break and it felt like Oran was just hanging on for dear life.

Brentwood tried to keep that feeling going by feeding Mitchell on the block to open the third quarter and it worked.

Brentwood stretched its lead to nine (43-34) and Shoemaker could tell his squad needed to regroup, so he called a timeout with 4:14 remaining in the quarter.

Todd Priggle, Goodale, and Langdon Scheeter each got buckets to pull the Eagles back to within 44-40, and their pressure began to generate some turnovers to keep them in the game.

Brentwood's response was to feed the ball to Mitchell some more, as he scored consecutive baskets to open the final period and give his team a 55-51 margin.

"I told the kids 'Work your butt off,'" Shoemaker said of the post defense. "I didn't have a lot of good answers for them."

ORAN HS BASKETBALL



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(click to play, view in full screen) Oran High School beat Brentwood 59-57 in Class 2 Sectional Wednesday at Jackson High School on a pair of free throws by junior guard Cooper Priggel with five seconds remaining.

Goodale cut for a bucket off a Cooper Priggel pass to trim Oran's deficit to 55-53 and then Todd Priggel and Scheeter made steals, with Scheeter later scoring four consecutive points to tie the game at 57 with 5:00-plus remaining.

After forcing another Brentwood turnover, Shoemaker had had enough of trying to trade punches with Brentwood. He called for Todd Priggel and Scheeter to pull the ball out and run clock.

"I thought I would rather take our chances with one shot on the offensive end," Shoemaker said.

Oran ran the clock to just under two minutes when Todd Priggel drove and couldn't finish.

Mitchell grabbed the rebound and threw an outlet to Hill, who was speeding down the court.

As Hill drove to the rim, Johnson, who had battled pain in his shin for most of the game and noticeably limped during breaks, got back in position and took a charge from a guy nearly 50 pounds heavier than himself.

"How about that play," Shoemaker said shaking his head.

Oran held the ball for the final shot and with 15 seconds on the clock, began to run offensive action.

The ball was reversed to Cooper Priggel, who had missed every shot he had taken, and quite frankly, he didn't look like he wanted the ball at THAT moment.

He began to dribble toward the top of the key and Hill bumped him and got whistled for the foul.

"His teammates had told Cooper to keep shooting the basketball," Shoemaker said. "We want him to shoot. We expect him to shoot. We've talked to him before that he is one of the guys we want at the line in the end."

Shoemaker knows his players because Priggel's shots were perfect and Oran lived to play another day.

"Our kids could've hung their heads," Shoemaker said. "We didn't shoot well and I thought we needed to shoot well or turn them over to have a chance, to be honest."

Goodale led the winners with 21 points, while Scheeter and Johnson added 14 each.

Scoring

Brentwood - 18 17 16 6 - 57

Oran - 16 13 20 10 - 59

BRENTWOOD (57) - Josh Danforth 9, Justin Erby-Carr 7, Chris Hill 15, Jordan Mitchell 16, Alex Hayes 3, Ian Thornton 7. FGs 24, FTs 1-4, 3-pointers (Danforth 2, Erby-Carr, Hill 3, Hayes,

Thornton).

ORAN (59) - Cooper Priggel 2, Langdon Scheeter 14, Tyson Goodale 21, Ty Johnson 14, Todd Priggel 8. FGs 21, FTs 11-15, 3-pointers (Scheeter 2, Johnson 4).

COMMENTS

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BACK-TO-BACK: Oran makes it back-to-back trips to the state semifinals after 45-39 win over Thayer

By Alex Wallner ~ Standard Democrat
Sunday, March 8, 2020



The Oran boys' basketball team celebrates after defeating Thayer, in the quarterfinals of the Class 2 State Tournament, on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the Sikeston Field House.

Liza King/Standard Democrat

SIKESTON — Storming the floor is something that the Oran Eagles have done a lot in the past four years.

Just as the Oran girls basketball team celebrated on Saturday, the boys followed suit, after defeating Thayer 45-39, in the quarterfinals of the Class 2 State Tournament, at the Sikeston Field House.

The win advanced Oran to the state semifinals for the second-straight year, and third in the last four years.

ORAN VS. THAYER



“It means a lot for our kids,” Oran head coach Joe Shoemaker said. “Each team is different, and I give our kids credit, they battled a very well-coached, quality team. They’re young, so they’re going to give people fits in the future. We got down a little bit, just never gave up. We kept battling, hit some free-throws late.

“We did a pretty good job late, defensively, to try and take away we wanted I felt like. I was very proud of our kids for that. To go with the girls at the same time is always special. I hope the kids enjoy this and make great memories.”

It wasn’t the easiest battle for the Eagles on Saturday, as Thayer competed with Oran for the entire game.

Leading by three, 21-18, at halftime, Thayer came out of the locker room, and within the opening minute, built it’s lead nearly to double-figures.

The play of sophomore Jordan Andrews hurt the Eagles early into the third quarter.

Andrews scored the first — and only — points of the frame for the Bobcats. A pull-up jumper from the right elbow started the third quarter, making it 23-18.

However, Andrews didn't stop there.

With 7:03 left, Andrews attacked the basket and got his shot to fall while drawing a foul to set up the conventional three-point play. He made his free throw, to push the Bobcats ahead by eight, 26-18, but that was all the offense that Thayer could muster.

Oran pitched a shut-out after Andrews' and-one, and took a 28-26 lead into the final eight minutes, closing the third on a 10-0 run.

Senior Todd Priggel started the run by attacking the basket and drawing a foul. He split both of his free-throws to make it a 26-19 contest with 6:28 left.

A short jumper from the right elbow by senior Tyson Goodale, then cut the deficit to five, 26-21, with 6:03 remaining.

Priggel then attacked the basket again, and drew another foul, with 3:45 left. This time, the senior calmly knocked down both of his attempts to make it 26-23.

Junior Ty Johnson then tied the game at 26, after nailing a 3-pointer from the right-wing, with 2:15 remaining, to please the Oran-heavy crowd in attendance.

The run ended for the Eagles, after Goodale made a layup, with 1:36 left, to give Oran its first lead since the 4:08-mark of the second quarter, when it was 16-12.

Despite trailing by three at halftime, Shoemaker told his team that there were a couple of things that he felt they didn't do.

"We didn't rebound," Shoemaker said. "We had a couple of uncharacteristic turnovers, and we shot some long threes early. We don't have to settle for those shots, we wanted to try to be more aggressive offensively, and we had to step our defensive rebounding up. Those guys did that."

Entering the final quarter of regulation, Thayer began to start building more momentum early in the period.

Junior Jayce Haven tipped the ball in with 7:34 left, to tie the game at 28.

Priggel would then give the Eagles its lead right back, with 5:52 left, after making both of his free-throws, to make it 30-28.

However, a right-corner 3-pointer from sophomore Landry Pitts pushed the Bobcats in front, 31-30, with just under five minutes to go, while Haven attacked the basket and converted his layup attempt, to make it a 33-30 Thayer lead with 4:19 left.

Needing a big shot, junior Langdon Scheeter stepped up and did just that as he hit a confident 3-pointer from the top of the key to tie the game at 33.

Scheeter's 3-pointer started, what was, a 12-0 run that widened the lead for Oran down-the-stretch. The run also ended any momentum that Thayer was gaining at the time.

Following that, Oran forced a turnover which led to Cooper Priggel getting a layup to go, off a pass from Todd, that gave the Eagles a 35-33 advantage.

Another pair of free throws from Todd Priggel then pushed Oran out to a four-point lead, 37-33, with just under two minutes remaining

The free-throw line was kind to the Eagles, especially toward the end of the game.

Oran went 10 of 13 at the line in the fourth quarter and shot 16 of 24 for the game.

“We got the lead and were able to take care of the basketball,” Shoemaker said. “We had one turnover late, but we were able to attack. We ran some sets, and they took away the first two options. Our kids were patient enough to find the third option, and we hit a big three out of it.”

Todd Priggel led Oran with 11 points.

Despite his injury, Todd didn’t show any signs of it hampering his game plan. The senior showed his aggressiveness to the basket and made them count at the free-throw line in the end.

“It’s starting to get back to how it was,” said Priggel on his ankle. “That feels good, and I hit some free-throws, finally.”

Goodale added 10 points but said that he could have helped his teammates out a little more, especially on the glass.

“I’m glad my teammates were there to help me and support me through the game,” Goodale said. “I’m glad we play as a team.”

Cooper Priggel was the final Oran player to reach double-digits, with 10, while Johnson had eight, and Scheeter six.

Haven led Thayer with 15 points, while Andrews had 13.

Oran plays No. 3-ranked Skyline (29-2) in the semifinals, on Friday, at 6:20 p.m. The game is at Hammons Student Center in Springfield, Missouri.

Thayer	7	14	5	13	—	39
Oran	11	7	10	17	—	45

THAYER (39) — Jayce Haven 15, Jordan Andrews 13, Landry Pitts 9, Keaton Nicholson 2. FG 14, FT 3-7, F 21. (3-pointers: Pitts 3, Haven 2, Andrews. Fouled out: none)

ORAN (45) — Todd Priggel 11, Tyson Goodale 10, Cooper Priggel 10, Ty Johnson 8, Langdon Scheeter. FG 12, FT 16-24, F 13. (3-pointers: Cooper Priggel 2, Johnson 2, Scheeter. Fouled out: none)

There was no public attendance or newspaper article because of the Covid virus + Oran was given 3rd place in 2020.