

PREP ZONE BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS

Favorites win in close games

By Lee Brown
Sentinel-Voice

Perhaps Green Valley High School Head Basketball Coach Jeff Wagonseller put it best earlier this week when he said, "Anybody can beat anybody in a one-game situation."

With changes this season in the way teams are selected for the state tournament, it all boiled down to one game for zone tourney participants Tuesday, and as just as Wagonseller said, anything can, and almost did happen. In the end, favorites Bishop Gorman, Durango, Las Vegas and Valley high schools snuck away with wins and will not only advance to the semi-final round Friday, but more importantly, they will represent the Southern Conference in the Class AAAA State Championship next week in Reno.

Different from previous

years, division winners no longer automatically qualify for the state tournament. To make it to state, a team must only win its opening round zone playoff game.

Though two-time defending state champion Durango outlasted upset-minded Basic 82-72 in first-round action Tuesday, the final score was no indication of how close a game it really was. With the score tied at 68 with less than three minutes remaining, Durango managed a 14-4 run to pull off the win and qualify for state.

Though Durango's star point guard Thomas McTyler paced the Trailblazers with 30 points and 14 assists, it was the Wolves' Damon Caldwell who kept the game close and made things interesting.

Caldwell, the Southern Conference's leading scorer averaging just over 22 points

per game, led Basic (13-11) with 39 points on 15-20 shooting, including 8 of 11 from three point range. Steve Simister and Tyler Kidd added 16 and 14 points respectively for Durango.

The win puts the Trailblazers (20-10) in Friday's semi-finals where they will take on the Sunset Division champion Las Vegas Wildcats. The two teams will meet at 5:45 p.m.

All semi-final games, as well as Saturday's zone finals, will be played at Durango High School.

Las Vegas got a scare of its own in a 62-59 win over the visiting Spartans of Cimarron-Memorial High School. Paced by likely heroes guard Lucas LeCour's and forward Corey Kauffman's 21 and 16 points, respectively, the Wildcats (24-5) fought back from a five-point deficit with just over two minutes remaining to seal the victory. The Spartans (14-11), who went 0-for-3 from the free throw line in the final two minutes, failed to score on their final two possessions in the loss.

"We knew we needed to be ready to play," said Las Vegas Head Coach Tom Farnsworth. "We knew we had to stop their big men to win the game." Farnsworth was referring to the Spartans' 6-5 twin brothers Mark and Matt Schroeter who combined for 33 of Cimarron-Memorial's points.

Farnsworth's Wildcats, a favorite along with the Gaels of Bishop Gorman to win the zone tournament, are one of the smaller, yet athletic teams

in the Southern Conference.

Robbie Cole came up big for Las Vegas with 14 second half points including nine in the third quarter to keep Las Vegas close. Brian Lang added 13 points and a game-high nine rebounds for the Spartans.

In other opening-round action, the senior backcourt tandem of LaRontae Johnson and Jevon Banks led the Valley Vikings to a 65-54 win at home over the Desert Shields of Cheyenne High School. With the pair pouring in 28 of the Vikings' 35 second half points, Valley (20-6) move on to the semi-finals where they will face long-time rival Bishop Gorman following the Las Vegas-Durango matchup Friday at Durango.

The Desert Shield (17-12) kept the game close using a slow, half-court offense and a trapping zone defense, but it

wasn't enough to stop Johnson and Banks who scored 22 and 20 points, respectively. Forward Alex Hernandez added 10 points for the Vikings, who finished second in the Sunrise Division standings to Las Vegas. Cheyenne was led by Theo Logan's 13 points, while Marcus Webb finished with 12.

Finally, Bishop Gorman moves on to the semi-finals after posting a close 56-51 win at home over the Gators of Green Valley.

A smaller, yet more athletic team than a year ago, the Gaels (25-6), who finished second in the state tournament last year to Durango, captured the Sunset Division title this time around, finishing three games ahead of Durango.

Bishop Gorman, led by Shane Christensen's game-high 20 points, sank five of its

last six free throws to seal the victory.

Green Valley (16-12) trailed by only three points with just under seven seconds remaining, but Christensen, who hit four three pointers in the contest, put the game out of reach by canning two free throws.

Green Valley was paced by 6-6 senior Kyle Green's 11 points and eight rebounds. He was the only Green Valley player to score in double figures. Bishop Gorman got 10 points from Jason Van Meetren and nine points and seven rebounds from Kendall Soares, one of the city's top players.

"We want to make it back to state," said Soares of avenging last year's state title loss to Durango. "We're focusing on one game at a time."

Cancer survival rates increase

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Long-term survival rates for children with cancer are increasing dramatically say pediatric experts.

With one in 900 young adults estimated to be a childhood cancer survivor by the year 2000, there is growing hope for successful treatment of an illness that is relatively rare in children.

"Today, childhood cancer survivor rates exceed 65 percent," said Dr. ZoAnn Dreyer, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "But as the survivor population grows, we are beginning to see a number of delayed effects caused by previous cancer therapies."

Dreyer, director of the Long-Term Survival Clinic at the Texas Children's Cancer Center, says the clinic provides diagnostic, education and treatment resources for patients who are survivors of childhood cancer and have been off treatment for at least two years.

"A big concern is the future quality of life for these young survivors. We want to keep them healthy," said Dreyer.

Possible effects of cancer treatment can include heart problems from chemotherapy or radiation, learning disabilities, infertility, growth/hormonal disturbances, the development of second malignancies, and psychological issues.

"The effects of surviving cancer can be subtle and difficult to diagnose," said Dreyer. "That's why it is important that long-term survivors have access to specialists skill in the follow-up, detection and intervention of such problems."

For most long-term cancer survivors, life is not centered around worries about reoccurrence of the disease, but rather on learning how to remain healthy.

"Monitoring these patient's unique health needs can keep them healthy for years to come," said Dreyer.

Survivors of childhood cancer, including those who received their primary cancer treatment at other hospitals, are eligible for evaluation at the Texas Children's Cancer Center's Long-Term Survivor Clinic. For more information, call 1-800-CANCER 9.

Entrepreneur

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become millionaires from and through their own businesses. If you want to earn \$50,000 or more per year, you have a 98 percent chance of earning it in your own business, but only a two percent chance of earning this sum working for someone else. Clearly, the road to high income and financial independence can better be reached through your own business.

We believe the keys to successfully starting your own business are learning and applying success techniques that hundreds of thousands, who started with no dollars or a few dollars, have used to achieve success. Applying

them successfully doesn't depend on whether you are male or female, black, white or Hispanic or Asian, working, unemployed or on welfare. All that matters is how diligently you work the techniques and how determined you are to achieve success.

Are you ready to start, operate and maintain a successful business enterprise and learn how thousands of others have done the same thing? Are you ready to learn

how to use that business to build the kind of life that you want? You've come to the right place. Join us here each issue.

Pierre A. Clark is a nationally-known entrepreneurship/self-employment columnist. For a free sample copy of his newsletter, "Self-Employment Simplified," send a S.A.S.E. to Pierre Clark, 601 South LaSalle Street, 6th Floor, Suite C-818-EC, Chicago, IL, 60605.

Horizons

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will take more math and science courses," she said.

This year's conference is designed to meet the specific needs of each age group. Girls in grades six and seven will be assisted in "Developing Awareness," while the theme for girls in grades eight through 10 will deal with "Clarifying Choices." The "World of Work" will be introduced to the participants in 11th and 12th grades, who also will hear about college opportunities.

Lunch will be served and

there will be a resource fair after the conference at which students and their chaperones can explore programs that help students learn more about careers or assistance to help them get through school. Parents and teachers are invited to attend a special adult conference session on careers and educational opportunities available for young women.

For additional information about the Expanding Your Horizons conference, call UNLV's Educational Equity Resource Center at 895-1380.

Hilton

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newspapers, cover special issues impacting the African-American community and the larger African world.

These writers are from the United States, the West Indies, Africa and Latin America. Many have advantaged degrees, but many also have the kind of knowledge that no degree could adequately measure.

They teach/discuss business, politics, sociology, literature and psychology, to name a few of their areas of expertise.

In many ways, however, the knowledge that they and the scores of other contemporary writers have goes unnoticed by college and high school students, unless they read newspapers such as the one that you are now reading.

We strongly encourage students and educators at all levels to contact 1) African-American newspapers in their areas, 2) the National Newspaper Publishers Association in Washington D.C., 3) your favorite speakers bureau or 4) HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION to inquire about the availability of a particular journalist as a campus speaker.

An additional advantage to connecting with these individuals is that you are creating a solid media ally for future potential battles and issues.

One final suggestion, every parent and/or educator should also commit to writing periodic articles for these newspapers as well. Few people can tell your story to the Black Press' over 12 million readers better than you can.

By participating as a writer for this press, you not only strive to be the best in your profession, but also to be one of the best "adjunct professors" in the African-American press.

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