



Pen City Current

Sunday, December 15, 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 3

7th grader with genetic disorder makes a couple points

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON -It's not uncommon, but it certainly isn't ordinary, either.

Social media videos go viral when the final score of a game takes back seat to getting someone on the field or the court who ordinarily wouldn't physically be able to participate.

In 2018, Fort Madison High School's varsity football team got Caleb Gehle in to carry a touchdown run in a loss to Washington. Gehle wore leg braces and wasn't able to play for the Hounds but was on the team.

On Thursday night, the game again was set aside in the final seconds as Jon Lynk, a 7th grade team manager for the Fort Madison Middle School Little Hounds got his number (20) called with 15 seconds left in the fourth quarter.

With Hounds inbound and holding a comfortable lead, Lynk was able to get free in the lane, with the crowd and players



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

FMMS 7th grader Jon Lynk takes an inbound pass before sinking a basket in the final seconds of the Hounds' win over Fairfield Thursday. Lynk suffers from a chromosomal deficiency and is the team's manager.

from both squads cheering him on.

He took the inbound pass and dribbled to his right, coming back into the lane and threw up a jump shot from about 12 feet that hit the back of the rim and bounced out. The Hounds got the rebound and fed Lynk again at the same spot and he banked it in as time expired.

Head Coach Ron Walker

said he met up with Lynk in the school's smaller gym prior to basketball season.

"He just came up and gave me a big hug and I asked him what he was doing," Walker said after the game. "I asked him what he was doing during basketball season and if he might be interested in helping us out."

Lynk suffers from what's called 9p Minus or Dele-

tion Syndrome where part of the 9th chromosome is missing. The abnormality is very rare and occurs in only 1 in approximately 50,000 people.

After the bucket, the crowd came to its feet and Lynk's teammates mobbed on the side of the court. Lynk went back to work helping get the team gear off the floor.

The Hounds won 46-34.



Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg,
Pen City Current - Editor

Here comes the fourth year of PCC

They say when you climb a ladder quickly, about half the time you're dangling in the air and moving on momentum.

We just passed our third full year here at the Pen City Current and are flying into the fourth year. I'm not sure about climbing any sort of a proverbial ladder quickly, but we're certainly flying most of the time.

During the holidays, typically it's slower moving news because everyone's gearing up for family time and well, people typically are getting ready to party.

Each time we've rolled over a year, I've tried to take the opportunity to do a few special things. First and foremost to thank the people of Fort Madison and the surrounding north Lee County communities for their support during the year.

Our advertisers are one of a kind people, who not only advertise because they feel we have a dynamic and up-to-date local news outlet, but also because they see value in the product. We have a unique offering that has open-ended exposure based on how compelling the news is and how good we are at writing it.

We've moved to more than 7,600 Facebook followers and have had 3.2 million views on our website. Again, those are up and down depending on the dynamics of the news day. This week was heavy, and one day we had more than 33,000 people check in. That's a lot of impressions due to very unique and tragic news.

But most people see what we see. Gathering news isn't a free enterprise. And even though we don't charge for subscriptions to our product, we have many people who pay us monthly for the product because they, too, see that value. We thank you, too! Without our advertisers and our subscribers we can't continue to climb the ladder.

It's our sincere hope that our momentum continues in the next decade. We had some personnel and product changes in 2019, but we think now we're positioned to bring you more of the news, sports, and information you need - when and where you need it.

No... we don't get to everything. I had a guy stop me

See THE POINT, page 5

That time of year

Mail carriers and parcel services are in high gear for the upcoming weeks for holiday deliveries. Curtis Little, left, and Nancy Fowler, carriers with the Fort Madison Post Office, load up their trucks on Thursday morning.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



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Sports/For the Record

Nikes eek out win over HTC boys

Schneider's baseline layup rolls off rim at buzzer

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison's Chandler Rung (on floor) and Notre Dame's Sam Brueck get after a loose ball in the last minute of the Crusaders' 46-45 loss at home on Homecoming at Holy Trinity High School. HTC head coach John Hellige looks on from the Crusaders' bench.

after Holy Trinity's Jason Thurman made one of two free throws. With a chance to build the lead from the free-throw line, Notre Dame's Matthew Johnson missed the front end of a one-and-bonus. But the Crusaders turned

the ball over near mid-court.

On the ensuing in-bounds play, with 17 seconds left, Holy Trinity got the ball back after forcing a 5-second call. The Crusaders took some of the final seconds off

the clock, but a trap near midcourt forced another Holy Trinity timeout.

That's when Hellige drew up the final play. Schneider, who led the Crusaders with 14 points,

See HTC, page 4

FORT MADISON – The play went exactly how it was designed.

The shot didn't cooperate.

See the last seconds here: <https://youtu.be/jK7GBVktGjA>

Quentin Schneider's layup as the buzzer sounded rolled around the rim, and off, and Holy Trinity's boys basketball team fell, 46-45, to Notre Dame in Friday's Homecoming game at Shottenkirk Gym.

"It was what we wanted," Holy Trinity coach John Hellige said of the final play. "Other times, that shot goes in. He had a great look, made a great shot, it just didn't fall."

The miss ended a back-and-forth game in which each team had its opportunities to take control before the other fought back.

Notre Dame led 46-45

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

12/12/19 – 9:39 a.m.

– Fort Madison Police arrested Kimmi Jo Nelson, 21, of Fort Madison in the 600 block of Avenue G, on a charges of violation of a no contact order, 1st-degree harassment, and 2nd-degree criminal mischief.

12/12/19 – 2:15 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 1000 block of Avenue H. 12/12/19 – 7:51 p.m. – Fort Madison Police arrested Katie Ann Bennett, 19, of Fort Madison, in the 2700 block of Avenue N, on a warrant for failure to appear. She was taken to the Lee County Jail. 12/12/19 – 9:26 p.m.

– Fort Madison Police arrested Brandon Lee Hayes, 28, of Fort Madison in the 2600 block of Avenue L, on a warrant for failure to appear, and charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession

of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

12/12/19 – 9:41 p.m.

– Fort Madison police arrested Adam James Huss, 31, of Fort Madison, in the 400 block of 15th Street, on four separate warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee county Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

12/12/19 – 9:56 a.m. –

Darrin Michael Fitzgerald, 18, of Keokuk, in the 700 block of Avenue F on warrants for 1st-degree harassment and assault with a weapon. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and released on pre-trial release.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

12/12/19 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to three medical calls, one assist, and one stand by.

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Obituaries/Weather

OBITUARIES

VERNON E. PECK

Vernon E. Peck, 81, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 4:41 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital. He was born on March 28, 1938 in Keokuk, IA to Raymond & Eva Pruett Peck. He married Jeanette E. Prasch on October 27, 1956 in Fort Madison, IA.



STEFFEN

He was an entrepreneur and owned a heating & cooling business and a locksmith business in Fort Madison for many years and was the co-owner of the Cottage Café for 30 years. He served in the U.S. Air Force for 5 years and was a member of Holy Family Parish. He was a collector of numerous types of antiques, including airplanes & antique cars.

Vern is survived by: his wife: Jeanette Peck of Fort Madison, IA; 2-daughters: Karen McAlister of Fort Madison, IA & Sue (Ronnie) Rea of Fort Madison, IA; 1-son: Danny (Paula) Peck of Fort Madison, IA; 5-grandchildren; 10-great grandchildren; 1-great great granddaughter; 1-step brother & 1-step sister. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2-brothers & 1-sister.



Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 with the family to receive friends from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A funeral service will be held at 6:00 p.m. immediately following the visitation. A private family burial will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery. A memorial has been established for Holy Family Parish or West Hancock County K9 Rescue. Online condolences and a video tribute of Vern's life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

OBITUARIES

JAMES F. STEVENSON

James F. Stevenson, 83 years, of Quincy, Illinois died December 13, 2019 at the Sunset Home, Quincy, Illinois. He was born January 29, 1936 at his family farm in Hancock County, Illinois, a son of Frank and Cecilia (Schmitz) Stevenson. He was the fifth child of seven children and raised on the family farm near Adrian, Illinois. Jim lived the last twenty years of his life in Quincy, Illinois.

He graduated from Colusa High School in 1953. He graduated from Western Illinois University in June of 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting and Business Finance. He was drafted in 1958 serving in the United States Army from September of 1958 to September of 1964.

Jim worked for the State of Illinois in the Revenue Department and the Driver's License Department and as an accountant for Sheller-Globe Corporation, Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company, Ernst and Ernst, International C.P.A. Firm. He worked in Electronic Data Processing while in service.

He enjoyed reading the paper daily and listening to his favorite radio stations. He loved coffee and visiting with friends.



Jim is survived by his two brothers: Albert Stevenson, of Fort Madison, Iowa and Richard (wife Nancy) Stevenson, of Fort Myers, Florida; one sister, Sara (Richard) Foster, of Savoy, Illinois and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Betty Ward and two brothers, Robert and Donald Stevenson.

A private family burial will be at the Thornber Cemetery, Powellton, Illinois with a family gathering at a later date. A memorial has been established for the Thornber Cemetery, contributions may be made at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve James' Family and an online guest book may be found at www.barrmemorialchapel.com.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

SUN 15 Dec



Snow
27.4° F | Low - 24.4° F

MON 16 Dec



Light Snow
High - 27.1° F | Low - 21.6° F

TUE 17 Dec



Clear Skies
High - 30.2° F | Low - 23.2° F

WED 18 Dec



Clear Skies
High - 27.8° F | Low - 25.7° F

THU 19 Dec



Moderate Clouds
High - 40.5° F | Low - 34.3° F

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Sports/Lottery Numbers

14th-ranked Notre Dame runs by HTC girls

Crusaders hold on into 3rd quarter before Nikes pull away

BY JOHN BOHNENKAMP
PCC SPORTS

FORT MADISON – Claire Pothitakis drove to the basket for a layup early in the third quarter of Holy Trinity’s Homecoming game against Notre Dame on Friday.

At that moment, the game was tied.

Four minutes later, the Class 1A 14th-ranked Nikes had grabbed control of the game.

The Crusaders’ 49-30 loss to Notre Dame was de-

Junior Claire Pothitakis gets a shot blocked by Notre Dame’s Hope Ward in the first quarter of Friday’s loss at home.

cided by a 25-2 run by the Nikes in the second half.

Holy Trinity coach Tony Johnson liked the position his team was in with that 23-23 tie with 6:42 to go.

“I think we got discouraged,” Johnson said. “We missed some easy shots, and we got discouraged by that. They made shots, and we didn’t.”

The Crusaders (3-2) trailed by five points at halftime and seven points to start the third quarter, then went on a 7-0 run, capped by the Pothitakis layup.

Then the Nikes took over. Madelyn Stutsman hit a 3-pointer, then Gabby Deery and Reagan Engberg had back-to-back layups. After Holy Trinity’s Avery Hopper scored inside, Notre Dame scored the final eight points of the quarter.

“When they were making shots, we might have panicked a little bit,” Johnson said. “But I told the girls after the game, what we didn’t do right can be corrected. And we have a lot of time to do that. It was not an ‘effort’ problem tonight. We fought hard.”

Hopper led Holy Trinity with 17 points, the only Crusader who scored in double figures.

Taylor Ackerman and Katy Stephens each had 13 points for Notre Dame. Rylie Todd added nine.

“We’re working four new starters in, so it’s going to take a little time,” Johnson said. “Like I said, the mistakes we made can be corrected.”

Holy Trinity will take on it’s second ranked team in less than a week when they hit the road on Tuesday for matchup with 2A No. 4 Van Buren in girls/boys varsity doubleheader.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Junior Bailey Hellweg brings the ball up the floor during the Crusaders’ 49-30 loss to 14th-ranked Burlington Notre Dame on Friday. HTC was tied at 23 with less than seven minutes remaining in the contest.

Wild fourth quarter ends in loss for HTC boys

HTC - Continued from Page 2

drove the left baseline and let the shot go right before the buzzer sounded. The layup looked perfect, but at the last second rolled off. Schneider slapped the court in frustration as the Nikes celebrated.

“This is a special bunch,” Hellige said. “They listen to everything that’s said in the huddle during timeouts, and then they go out and execute it. I can’t ask much more of them. This team is taking steps forward every day, and we’re learning on the fly.”

Schneider led the Crusaders with 14 points. Vasin Thurman added 10 points.

Holy Trinity trailed, 24-18, at halftime, then outscored Notre Dame 17-9 in the third quarter to set up a wild fourth quarter in which each team led by no more than three points.

“We learned a lot tonight,” Hellige said. “We’ll get better.”

The Crusaders go on the road Tuesday with a girls/boys doubleheader at Van Buren.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

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Game	Draw Days	Sales Cutoff Time	Approx. Drawing Time
Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



12/13
17 21 29 39 56
Mega Ball: 22
Megaplier: 3



12/13 MID-DAY
9 7 7
12/13 EVENING
6 0 6



12/13 MID-DAY
5 1 2 2
12/13 EVENING
6 5 2 8

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Current-Lee/From the Front

CURRENT-LEE

LEE COUNTY – The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current. These listings are updated throughout the week and run in our E-edition regularly.

The Enchanted Forest

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Enchanted Forest again this year in the Old Lee County Bank Building at 803 Avenue G. Businesses have sponsored Christmas trees that will be on display each Saturday before Christmas from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Santa's Shop

The Santa's Shop at St. Paul Lutheran Church on 20th Street and Avenue I, will be open the general public on Monday and Tuesday Dec. 16th and 17th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for last-minute Christmas shopping. All proceeds go to the PAW Animal Shelter.

Tree of Love Gatherings

Lee County Health Department is once again hosting a series of gatherings to help and support those dealing with the loss of a loved one over the holidays. Each Event is Wednesdays during the month of December from 2 to 3 p.m. at #3 John Bennett Drive in Fort Madison. Call 372-5225 for more information.

It's your story, we're just telling it

THE POINT - Continued from Page 1

in the street while I was at a police incident Thursday morning and say, "Man, you get to everything don'tcha?"

"We try," I replied. But we do miss things with a news staff of one and what's even greater about the people that support our product is they're there to help fill in the cracks with submissions and photos. We thank you, too! It's that partnership that makes this enterprise work.

We're looking at different ideas and how to take what we've built and create even more synergies within our coverage area. We're open to new ideas from you. I think you all have my phone number. You certainly have my email. Send me any thoughts you have. What would you like to see more of in a community news outlet?

It is our goal, and has been, to add writing staff this year. We don't know what that looks like yet, but we would currently be interested in talking to those who have some background in writing and have some experience with government, education, sports, photography, etc.

You can't be afraid to ask questions and conduct interviews, but at the end of the day we're just writing stories about the people of these communities. It's their story, we're just putting it down on "e" paper.

So give me a call, shoot me an email, text, video.... whatever. We're gonna be here listening to scanners, working sources and meetings, and covering sports. It's what we do.

And speaking of what we do, I was at the Holy Trinity boys basketball game Friday night. The Crusaders lost by one to Burlington Notre Dame as Quentin Schneider missed a driving layup from the left baseline and fell to the court as time expired.

This kid slapped the floor, jumped up and shook hands with the Nikes, and then ran over to a young boy on the first bleacher in the home stands who had a sign that read "Quentin Schneider's No. 1 Fan". Schneider stood with the boy for some time taking pictures.

Friday night I loved my job even more. And that IS the point.

Chuck Vandenberg is editor and co-owner of Pen City Current. He can be reached at editor@pencitycurrent.com.

Partners Annual Dinner

The Fort Madison Annual Dinner is set for Feb. 21, 2020.

Fish Fry Benefit

The Fort Madison Elks Club will be hosting a Fish Fry as a fundraiser to benefit Kirby and Theresa Marsden and their employees on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fish will be from the Quality Fisheries in Niota that burned Dec. 3. A 50/50 raffle and bake sale will also be held. Dine in or Take Out. Call 372-3724 for take out.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursdays at the Public Library.

Kensington events

Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.

FM Day at Carver Hawkeye

It will be Fort Madison Day at Carver Hawkeye Arena on Dec. 29 at 3 p.m. Tickets for the game include a t-shirt for \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. A bus ticket for a Trailways ride to the game is \$5. Tickets can be purchased through Dec. 11 at the Partners office.

Ornament workshop

The Fort Madison Public Library is hosting a Christmas Ornament Workshop on Dec. 24 from 9:30 to noon at the library with a visit from Santa Claus.

'Tis the Season of Gifting



As you celebrate the season, please remember that most gift wrapping is not recyclable.
 Please do not recycle Christmas wrapping paper as some of the materials used to make it are not recyclable.
 Dispose of your Christmas wrapping paper in your regular trash cans.
 Any curbside bins containing these materials could compromise an entire load.

Thank you for keeping your Christmas green!



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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Agenda**

**DATE: TUESDAY,
December 17, 2019
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
Correctional Center
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA**

AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Approve Tuesday, December 10, 2019 Board Minutes
Consider Approval of Claims
Public Input
Consider Appointment to Board of Health
Consider Appointment to Conservation Board
Consider Appointment to Library Board
Consider Approval to Replace Part-time Court Security Officer
Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolutions (4)
Personnel Actions:
A. Step Increase-Auditor's Office
Reports:
A. Sheriffs Monthly Report
B. Treasurer's Report of Fees Collected (2)
Commission or Committee Reports
Adjourn

Workshop to Follow

**PUBLIC MEETING
CITIZENS WELCOME**

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319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FORT MADISON
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2019**

**6:00 P.M.
Finance: Wondra/Ross
REVISED AGENDA**

I. Call meeting to order and determination of a quorum
II. Recognition of guests
III. Reading of Foundation documents
IV. Monthly communications
A. Student Rep Report – Taegan Hamilton & Allie Miller
B. Curriculum Corner - Perkins Update - Greg Smith
C. "Did You Know?"
D. Superintendent Goal Report
• National School Safety Conference - Patrick Lamb, Chris Schelich, Adrian McKay
• Indicators of Progress
• Collective Commitments
E. District Presentations
• ESTES Facility Assessment Report
• Facility Committee recommendation
V. Approve the agenda
VI. Consent Agenda
A. Minutes
1. November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. December 2, 2019 Work Session
B. Financial reports
1. November Balance Sheet
2. November Revenue Summary
3. Expenditure Report
4. Student Activity Report
C. Accounts payable
1. November General Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
2. December General Account Board Bills for Approval
3. Student Activity Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
4. Nutrition Account Board Bills for Approval AMEX
D. Consider personnel resignations
1. Jennifer Gracey, associate at Richardson
2. Andy McWhortor, bus driver
3. Dawn Eid, associate at the middle school
4. Angela Stein, associate

at Richardson
5. Lynne Lange, administrative assistant to the associate principal at the high school and student government sponsor
E. Consider employment of personnel
1. Emily Bruxvoort, associate at Lincoln
2. Sydney Simons, associate at Lincoln
3. Amy Gruntmeir, administrative assistant to the associate principal at the high school
4. Tim Harmon, associate at Richardson
5. Melissa Pollpeter, associate at Richardson
6. James Boyle, food service delivery driver
7. Karen Jones, student government sponsor
F. Consider contract modifications
1. Judy Hand, transfer in assignment with increase in hours and add technology stipend
G. Consider leave of absence
H. Consider open enrollment requests
I. Other reports
1. Activity and athletic fundraisers
Director moved and director seconded the documents submitted in the consent section of the agenda be approved and/or filed as submitted.
VII. Action Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
1. Approve District Developed Service Delivery Plan Committee members
B. Superintendent – Erin Slater
1. Consider approval of SBRC Modified Allowable Growth Application
2. Consider approval of the sharing agreement between FMCS and Holy Trinity for Girls Tennis for the 2019-2020 school year
3. Consider approval of travel for a group of four to attend the national symposium for Strategic CSforALL Resource and Implementation Planning in Denton, TX on January 14 and 15.

4. Consider approval of travel for the high school music department to go to Disney in Orlando, Florida on April 6-11, 2021
C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
1. Approve Depository Resolution
2. Approve DLR Contract for High School HVAC
VIII. Discussion Items
A. Director of Curriculum and Student Services – Kim Harmon
1. Superintendent – Erin Slater
1. Consider policy changes
200.4 - Shared Decision-Making: Position Statement **ours only, no changes**
206.5 - Board-Superintendent Relationship **ours only, no changes**
207 - Board of Directors' Legal Counsel **same as IASB, no changes**
208 - Board Committees **same as IASB, no changes**
208-R - Committees to the Board **ours only, no changes**
208.1-E-1 - Ad Hoc Committees **same as IASB, no changes**
208.1-R - School Improvement Advisory Committee **ours only, no changes**
501.6 - Student Transfers-In **information only**
501.6b - Admission of Exchange Students **recommend to delete**
505.5 - Graduation Requirements adopt IASB model with changes
505.5-R - Graduation Requirements adopt regulation
2. Certified Employee Attendance
3. Board Member Attendance
4. Schedule board instructional tour
C. Board Secretary/ Business Manager – Sandy Elmore
1. Board discussion about the IASB Convention
IX. Comments from the audience
X. Legislative update
XI. Announcements
January 6, 2020 6:00 PM - Work Session, Board Room, Central Office
January 20, 2020 6:00 PM - Regular Meeting, Board Room, Central Office
XII. Adjourn

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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Sports

Lady Hounds' rally falls short in loss to Fairfield

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Last year the Fort Madison girls basketball team lost to Fairfield by a combined 65 points in conference play. In the second quarter Friday, it looked like a similar story was playing out.

But despite being down 25 points with about 4 minutes to go in the 3rd period, Fort Madison made a game of it before falling 49-40 in Southeast Conference action.

The Hounds went into a cold slump from the field and at one point were 2 of 18 from the field in the second and third periods and trailed 41-16.

A basket by junior Brandy Walker fell after she got bumped by Fairfield sophomore Hannah Simpson in the lane, and seemed to send a spark Head Coach Tony Sargent's crew.

After a couple defensive

stops on both ends of the court, freshman Camille Kruse scored slashing her way through the Lady Trojans matchup zone for a bucket to cut the lead to 19 at the end of the third.

Then Sargent started to change things up a bit. "We had to go into a man defense and we hadn't played man much," Sargent said.

"I thought the girls did a decent job of it, and I thought it caused Fairfield to play a little quicker and caused some turnovers there."

The move worked as Fairfield couldn't really get set in the halfcourt and didn't get good looks at the basket. Fort Madison turned up the heat in the lane as well holding Fairfield to only one offensive rebound in the fourth quarter.

Senior Anna Kester got things going in that quarter with a 3-ball from the left wing and Walker would

follow up with another tough basket inside on the next trip down.

The man defense held up as Fairfield failed to score a point until Fort Madison had closed the gap to eight at 35-43. Senior Destiny Gridley scored from right side of the lane to end the drought and put the Trojan back up by 10.

Walker would score again inside with 1:55 left to cut it back to eight and force a full time out by Fairfield. Out of the break, Fairfield would stretch the offense and force Fort Madison to foul. The Trojans were able to keep the ball in the hands of Sara Drish, who would hit four of six free throws in the final minute to seal the win.

"We're right there," Sargent said. "In the last two losses we shot 22% against Mt. Pleasant and 28% tonight, and you're not going to win many games, no matter who you play, shooting like that."



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Fort Madison freshman Camille Kruse pulls up for a jump shot from the right side of the free throw line in the fourth quarter of the Lady Hounds' 49-40 loss to Fairfield Friday in Fort Madison.

The Hounds are now 2-3 on the year, but have lost their last two games by a combined 14 points shooting about 25% from the field.

Sargent said he was proud of the way the girls didn't give up in the fourth quarter, but said the shooting has to come around.

"We got back within seven and you gotta be proud of those kids. They didn't

give up – they were on the floor, hustling," he said.

"If you look at the game we missed so many easy baskets. We work 45 minutes to an hour every night on shooting. It's gonna turn around. Last year you get beat by this team by 40 and 25 and now their coach says, 'you guys play hard'.

"As a coach, that's the best compliment you can

get – your kids play hard."


Walker led the Hounds with 12 points, Kester and Sara Bernhart each had nine, while Nadia Boeding and Kruse each chipped in with five. Kruse and Bernhart combined for 14 boards to lead Fort Madison in rebounding.

Fort Madison travels to Danville on Monday for a non-conference matchup.


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- ◆ Dress warm, if you are warm, your muscles will stay relaxed.
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- ◆ Take extra time and pay attention.
- ◆ Keep your driveway and walkways clear.
- ◆ Ask for help if needed!

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