





SPORTS:

Lady Hounds get first regional win in three years Wednesday night.

See page 5

Urrent Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 | 6 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 49

FM schools revamp remaining schedule

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC FDITOR

FORT MADISON – The nasty artic snap that made going to school a crap shoot on any given day the past three weeks has resulted in an amended school calen-

Fort Madison Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater said the first of those changes will take place on Monday, Feb. 18. Students were originally scheduled for a holiday on Monday, but that will now be a school day.

Additional changes to the calendar include tran-

dar for the rest of the year.



sitioning all Wednesday early outs to full days beginning March 6, as well as eliminating three additional scheduled holidays. Those are March 27, April 1, and April 22. She said with those changes, the last official day of school, pending any additional weather related cancellations would be May 31.

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The full amended calendar can be viewed at the following link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ubC62n- 4LwHc6ld2wlVVIhaQfuk8L5yrw/view.

Slater said the changes were made after district employees were provided a survey on Monday for feedback and recommendations for making up for the weather-related cancellations.

"It was a collaborative effort. We'd been talking as an administrative team, but a lot of those conversations centered around when do we make a decision, if there is more weather to come," she said. "So we sent a Google survey to all employees in the district with four

See **SCHEDULE**, page 6

2019 State Wrestling Tournament Preview



FMHS junior Danen Settles, center, gives a short "Thank You" to the community that turned out for the Wednesday evening send off to the state wrestling tournament in Des Moines. Settles, senior Sam Hayes, and senior Elton Kruse all advanced to the tournament that starts Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

FORT MADISON - It's becoming an annual trek for the family that is Fort Madison High School wrestling. On Friday, Head Coach Ryan Smith thanked about

70 people who showed up at 5 p.m. to wish three Bloodhound wrestlers well as they headed to Des Moines for the state wrestling tournament.

Action begins Thursday morning for the Blood-

hounds, as Class 3A kicks off the tournament at 9 a.m. at Wells-Fargo Arena, with a 7 a.m. weigh-in.

Fort Madison will be represented by seniors Elton Kruse at 113lbs, and Sam Hayes at 195 lbs and junior Danen Settles at 220 lbs.

Head Coach Ryan Smith said the trio has seen some of the other wrestlers in their respective brackets, but that's not the focus.

See **STATE**, page 6

Beside The Point

Chuck Vandenberg, Pen City Current - Editor

This correction goes out to Baldwin & Co.

 ${f M}$ ost of the time in newspapers, when a reporter/editor or balding owner makes a mistake, you get something buried in the bottom of page three off the valuable front page, but plausible.

Not me.

I screwed up.

So we're gonna throw it front and center. Right here with ma' face on it.

On February 1, I wrote that Holy Trinity was closing in on a school record for wins, and in about four minutes I knew something was wrong.

I trusted the website Quik Stats Iowa, to pull my season best record for Holy Trinity Catholic's girls basketball team. I searched all the way back to 2006-07 and, for some reason, the most wins it showed was 14 in the 2014-15 season under current head coach Tony Johnson.

I now, officially on record, hate that website. I didn't like it a lot to begin with because it's only updated about once a week, and it's dependent on state coaches and staff entering data. Then there's the subjectivity of all that jazz, too, and schedule entries are, on occasion, incorrect.

But one glaring error comes at 2007-08, when your Holy Trinity Crusaders, coached by Jay Baldwin, went to the state tournament. Quik Stats shows just

See CORRECTION, page 2

Advertiser Index P.4 Fort Madison Family YMCA......P.6 Great River Regional Waste Authority......P.5 StopBullying.gov......P.4

News Index

Education NewsP.6
From the frontPs.2,6
Local NewsP.3
Lottery Numbers P.2
OpinionP.2
SportsPs.5-6
Weather P.6

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From the Front/Lottery Numbers

HTC's 2008 squad may be the best for some time

CORRECTION - Continued from Page 1

one win and one game. Me, being the enigma in boots with a camera bag that might as well be called a purse (I have gum, tissues and a form of lip balm in there...I swear I do), I assumed that was the year Marquette and Aquinas joined, so technically it wasn't HTC for the whole year.

My story posted to Facebook and the families and girls from the HTC teams from 2005-2008 started blowing up the feed. I tossed the phone on the bed and slooowly backed away. Bzzzzz....Bzzzzzz....

I quickly realized that something wasn't right and hooked up with the affable Baldwin, whom I knew coached the girls at some point. (Whom am I kidding, at this point I wasn't really sure of anything).

He indicated that apparently something happened to Quik Stats Iowa years back and information was lost and has not yet been recovered.

In addition to only showing one game in

the 2007-08 schedule, they have nothing for the 2006-07 schedule. The name Holy Trinity Catholic wasn't even there, again reaffirming my incorrect assumption that there was no HTC that year. Well, the Crusaders went 22-3 that year.

Have I indicated that I don't like that website anymore?

In 2007-08 Quik Stats Iowa shows HTC with one win. That team had 1 LOSS....all year. (I'd use an exclamation point here but a burly, grumpy editor once told me I get seven of those in my career, so I'm saving it).

The Crusaders went 26-0 prior to the state tournament that year (and they weren't even the top seed, talk about metro bias). Apparently, Lady Crusaders that could hit a volleyball, don't get me started on that, transitioned well into basketball - a feat not so easy considering the state volleyball tournament cuts into the front side of the basketball season and the girls need a little downtime. So Baldwin and company were inherently behind the eight ball going into the season.

That year, southeast Iowa was rich with top-shelf basketball talent, with ranked teams sprinkled all over the area. The 2007-08 Lady Crusaders knocked off ranked Harmony in the first game of districts and then beat Maharish, also ranked by 27, bounced Melcher-Dallas by 26 and then slipped ranked

New London by a bucket 51-49 to get the state tournament.

So I spent some time doing some research, because I don't want to go, again, down the dark, swallowing hole that is inaccuracy.

I found out that apparently senior Sara Fedler can shoot some hoops and led a juggernaut of an offense that had five players hovering around double digit scoring averages for the year. That's almost unheard of.

Fedler averaged 16.2 points per outing that year and Emily Fullen-kamp averaged 10.4, but the three other starters, Megan Wagner, Cameron Wilkens, and Jessica Panther were all very close to averaging double figures with each at about 9.5 points per game.

What's even more ridiculous about that team is that three players averaged more than seven rebounds per game, and Julie Garmoe came

off the bench and hauled in five boards per outing and scored five points.

The Crusaders averaged 57 points per game that year

HTC's Tom Gendron came over finger waggling at me after a game last week while I was trying to beg for mercy from Baldwin. Jay's a standup guy, and was laughing with me about it. I tried to explain that it was all the website's fault, but it wasn't.

We are responsible for what we report. So to Jay and staff, and the team of Sara, Megan, Emily, Cameron, Jessica, Ashley Harvey, Ashley Steffensmeier, Caitlin, Lindsey, (she's my favorite...she's a Vandenberg), Abby, Susan, Tam, Julie, Shannon, and Lauren....I ask your forgiveness.

To Tony Johnson & Co. congratulations on your winningest season at HTC with 15 wins ... and counting? I'm sure I got that right, but that's Beside the Point.



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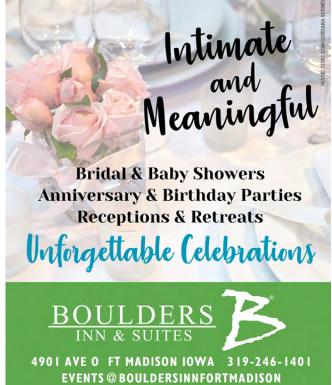
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Sports

Lady Hounds find first regional win in three years

Bloodhounds will now take on Keokuk on Saturday in regional semifinals

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

BURLINGTON – The Fort Madison girls basketball team couldn't have picked a better time to find their second win of the season.

The Lady Hounds held on for a 46-44 win over host Burlington in the first round of Class 4A regional action Wednesday night at Carl Johannsen Gym.

The Grayhounds had handed Fort Madison a 46-40 loss nine days ago in a game also played at Burlington.

Fort Madison Head Coach Todd McGhghy said he prepared for what the Grayhounds have done all year and instituted a new press breaker, but the Burlington jazzed things up.

"We were much better prepared for everything that they had done the last time we played them," McGhghy said.

"We go and prepare for 1-2-2, we prepare for a diamond press, and then they show up in a 1-3-1 so we went into a little bit of panic mode."

That came about in the fourth quarter when Burlington slapped on a full court zone press, which turned into a 6-1 run where the Grayhounds took their first lead of the second half at 35-34.

After McGhghy called a full timeout, senior Jazzmine Bass leaked behind the press and Kester found her down court where Bass was able to score in transition to give Fort Madison the lead back at 36-35.

The Hounds would stretch the lead to six on a 3-ball from the left wing by junior guard Anna Kester. But BHS senior Kayla Glasgow hit a three to pull the game to within three and prompting a Grayhound time out.

Senior Braxtyn McGhghy would convert a couple free throws and then, with Fort Madison in the early bonus, Kester would convert a couple more to give Fort Madison a comfortable 45-38 lead with 1:03 left in the game.

Glasgow would hit on another long ball with :37 left to cut the lead to four and prompt another Grayhound timeout. The Grayhounds were forced to foul to try and get a possession. Kester was fouled quickly by Breanna Porter, but missed the front end.

The Hounds went down the floor and Porter threw up a shot on the run that missed of the back of the rim and the Hounds cleaned up the miss and headed the other way where Rashid was fouled bringing the ball up to put the Hounds in the double bonus. Rashid missed the first freebee, but converted the second for a 46-41 lead

Junior Bailey Wiemann hit a three-ball with 00.2 on the clock and the Hounds didn't have time to call a time out before the buzzer sounded on their season, down 46-44.

Kester's two long balls in the second half provided a little cushion for the late run. She said she has confidence with the ball late, but could see any of her teammates taking those shots.

"I think any of my teammates can make a shot when they're open. I have confidence in all of them with the ball," Kester said.

She said despite the Lady Hounds having only two wins on the year and three wins total over the past two years, they are starting to play like a team.

"It feels like we worked hard as a team this year and we're turning a corner. We're getting the new stuff that Coach McGhghy has put in and it's finally paying off," Kester said.

"We didn't know a bunch of the stuff he's been teaching us, but it's nice to finally be able to play good basketball."

Burlington jumped out to a shallow 7-6 lead at the end of a first quarter that saw the Grayhounds shoot a

chilly 3-11 from the field. The Hounds were just as cold going 2 for 8 and hit 2-of 4 from the free throw line.

The Hounds tied it up quickly in the 2nd quarter on a free throw from McGhghy. But Fort Madison would only get two buckets the rest of the half. With just a three-point lead at 16-13 with 2:35 left in the second quarter, Hound junior Maddie Rashid pulled up from about 20 feet out on the left win for a three-pointer, but was fouled on the play by Wiemann.

Rashid drained all three freethrows on the play and pushed Fort Madison to a 19-13 lead. Then Burlington's Angel Baylark would hit on a turn-around jumper from about seven feet out to close it four at 19-15 and that's where the score would stay until the half.

Fort Madison led by as many as eight in the third, highlighted by a bucket from Bass at 3:36 to give Fort

Madison a 25-17 lead, but Burlington would battle back on a 8-0 run capped by a Porter basket.

Kester would then hit one of her 3s, to at 1:42 to give the Hounds a little breathing room. Bass would score again with just :21 left in the 3rd for a 32-27 advantage at the end of three quarters.

Kester would finish with 12 points on the night. They would get eight each from Rashid and Bass. McGhghy scored seven points, Brandy Walker had five, while Nadia Boeding, Anna Lynk each had three points.

Burlington was led by Baylark's 12. Alexis Standard pitched in with 11 and Glasgow had nine in the loss. Burlington finished the year 4-16.

The Bloodhounds will now face Keokuk, at Keokuk, in the Region 6 semifinal on Saturday beginning at 7 p.m.



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From the Front/Weather

Hounds just focusing on what they do best

STATE - Continued from Page 1

"As far as who's in the brackets, we've see one of them head-to-head this year at 113 and the others will be brand new," he said. "The big thing is that we continue to take care of what we do and not worry about our opponents. We do what we do, battle hard and put pressure on our opponents and wrestle in positions that were comfortable in."

Senior Elton Kruse goes into the tournament with a 22-12 record after claiming second at the district qualifier in Cedar Rapids last weekend.

Kruse's first match is against North Scott's Josh Conner, who comes into the match 28-13 and recently scored an 8-0 decision over Kruse in the North Scott duals two weeks ago.

"He's solid on top and he gets to his offense quick on his feet so I just gotta make those adjustments," Kruse said.

He said as far as any other wrestlers he will come up against in the bracket, he just has to do what he's done all year and have the right frame of mind.

"I just do what I've done all year and go in with

mindset that I have to wrestle hard for six minutes each match," he said.

Junior Danen Settles, who will be wrestling at the 285lb bracket said he hasn't even looked at the bracket. He goes in with a 32-11 record and will face Davenport Central's senior Manuel McGowan-Serrano who has a 26-7 mark on the year.

But Settles said the bracket doesn't matter because he will just face who's in front of him.

"I haven't even looked at it," Settles said. "I don't worry about that stuff I just go out and do what I have to do."

Hayes, who's had three years of potential state tournaments taken away due to various injuries is going in with a simple mindset. Just keep winning. Hayes takes on Glenwood senior Noah Carter. Carter is 19-4 on the year.

"There's tough kids out there, obviously, and I just have to give 100%

Hayes said he's seen some of the kids in the bracket, but he said most of those are on the upside of the

bracket.

"I've wrestled several of them but there are on the upside of the bracket, but I'm just going to go out and do what I do. It doesn't matter what's out there," he said.

Smith told the send-off crowd that having the community support provides incentive to the kids headed to Des Moines.

It helps when they go out on the mat and they know you folks are behind them and they're not going out there alone," Smith said.

"I'm excited about the opportunity these guys have. They are all great kids and I'm confident that they'll do well and put forth their best effort."

All brackets are available and updated at www.track-wrestle.com. And Pen City Current will be updating Bloodhound matches on our social media channels as they are completed.

Changes made to keep students from heat of June

SCHEDULE - Continued from Page 1

questions around what they thought priorities were in adjusting the calendar. We gave them a 24-hour turnaround and based on that feedback we went back and created these amendments."

She said canceling the Wednesday Professional Development sessions was a tough call because so much progress is taking place in those sessions.

"That was a really hard decision because we are making such great strides with efforts on those afternoons. It was a tough call to make because that time is so valuable to the teachers, but we made the decision to put student instruction first."

She said canceling the early outs put enough hours back into the schedule to make up two instructional days.

She said several of the days that were originally scheduled as days off were professional development days. March 27 was a spring break day, but April 1 and 22 were development days that were pushed into June so students weren't exposed to the heat of the buildings, which Slater said can get to 100 degrees very quickly.

She said there were some roadblocks with the changes, but the district will work through those.

"We've had some follow up from people who had other things going on and we will work through those with labor management groups," Slater said. "We'll respond to those, and in the very best way we can with the understanding that schedule changes can be very difficult."



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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

THU 14 Feb



Clear High– 38.4° F | Low – 16.2° F

FRI 15 Feb



Snow High– 10.7° F | Low – 9.3° F

SAT 16 Feb



Light Snow
High– 22.1° F | Low – 20.5° F

SUN 17 Feb



Snow High– 27.1° F | Low – 21.9° F

MON 18 Feb



Light Snow High– 23.1° F | Low – 20.7° F

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