

North Harrison rolls past Crawford Co for sectional crown at Corydon; defeats Charlestown in semis

Written by Administrator

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The North Harrison Lady Cats won their first girls' basketball sectional in six years Saturday night at Corydon Central High School, defeating Crawford County 58-35. Crawford County defeated Silver Creek in the first Friday semi final game 43-34, and the Lady Cats had defeated the Charlestown Lady Pirates 53-20 Friday night in the second game.

The Lady Cats never led in the finals against Crawford County, although the Lady Wolfpack got within 14-12 two and a half minutes into the 2nd quarter.

The Lady Cats also jumped out in front of Charlestown, never being behind in that contest either, in the team's nine point win.

And the Lady Wolfpack won a close contest against the Silver Creek Lady Dragons, with Chelsea Benham of the Pack scoring 22 of them.

Finals -

North Harrison 58, Crawford County 35 -

The Lady Cats wasted no time in jumping out on top of Crawford County, with Wynn Shroyer and Sasha Grangier scoring to get their team off to a 4-0 advantage.

Kim Holzbog scored (4:47) to get Crawford on board, but Caitlyn Janes scored four points and Kayla Lambert scored three points in the next 90 plus seconds to pad the Lady Cats' lead to 11-2 by the 3:13 mark in the 1st.

Chelsea Benham scored a lone free throw for the Lady Pack, but Shroyer scored a three at 2:50 to up the lead to 14-3. Chelsea Jellison hit a bucket for Crawford 10 seconds later to get her team to within 14-5, which was the score heading into the 2nd quarter.

The Lady Pack then got the score as close as it would turn out to be when they went on a 7-0 run. Benham and Jellison scored the points between them.

Lambert brought the Lady Cats back to life though, with two baskets, the latter off of a steal in the back court. That made the score 118-12, and Shroyer hit a trey with 2:56 left in the half to up the advantage to 21-12. This prompted a time out by none other than her own team, so coach /Hal Pearson could set up strategy for the rest of the half.

Deidre Book hit a basket 40 seconds after the North Harrison time out, upping the Lady Cats' lead to 23-12, and Kacey Cox heaved a three point shot from way out on the court right before the buzzer, but it was off the mark.

Jellison connected for the Lady Pack at the start of the 3rd quarter, but Lambert hit a pair of freebies and Madison Snodgrass hit a three to send the Lady Cats up 28-14. After a lone Crawford County free throw, Shroyer went on a tear of her own, hitting consecutive buckets (5:57 and 5:30) to make the North lead 32-15.

Crawford County called a full time out (5:14) to discuss the matter, and Jellison was soon fouled after the break by Lambert, who committed her third personal foul. Jellison sank both free throws, but Sasha Grangier answered with a basket. Benham then was fouled by Janes (third personal) at 4:03 in the 3rd. Benham had hit the basket, and sank the free throw for the three point play. The score was 34-20, but they kept fighting to stay in the game.

Grangier scored thee points over the remainder of the 3rd period, Book added a deuce to make the score 39-24 by the end of the 3rd.

Lambert and Grangier combined for three points early in the final period, to partially stem a 7-3 tide by Crawford, , but the 42-31 score was the closest Crawford would get the remainder of the game.

Soon after a 30 second time out by Crawford at 5:03, North went on a 5-0 run, with Lambert scoring off of an assist from Shroyer, with Janes hitting a free throw, and Cox hitting two free throws (47-31).

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After Holzbog hit for the Lady Pack, Cox hit two baskets in quick succession, with the second coming off of a steal. Lambert then had a lay in to make the score balloon to 20 points (53-33).

North Harrison then called a full time out to set up late game strategy, and Shroyer hit 5 of 6 free throws over the remainder of the game to keep Crawford at bay. Jellison hit a basket for Crawford with 51 seconds left for the final margin.

“Our kids played really solid all year long; they came out and got right on it from the beginning,” said Pearson. “I’m really lucky to be able to coach a really good group of kids, and go along for the ride with them.”

The pace of the game slowed down a bit in the second half, and that was on purpose, according to the North Harrison coach. Also, both teams committed several turnovers in the latter 3rd quarter, which wasn’t in the game plan of either team.

“We spread it out in the second half, and kept it going pretty strong. I’m proud of our kids and how they played tonight. We did go back and forth (with turnovers). It was a little bit of jitters. In the 4th quarter, we finished strong. We’ll take it, and show up in Jasper.”

The Lady Cats will play Vincennes Lincoln in the 10 a.m. game at the Jasper Regional on Saturday.

Semi Finals -

Crawford County 43, Silver Creek 34 -

Silver Creek jumped out to a 16-10 advantage after the 1st quarter of play, and Tori Johnston and Mandi Martin were largely responsible for the advantage the Lady Dragons enjoyed.

Each of the players hit a pair of three point shots in the opening quarter, and Molly Voyles and Kim Jamros each hit a basket, although in both cases, they failed to score a three point ply, missing the ensuing free throw attempt.

Chelsea Benham kept the Lady Pack in the contest in the 1st, scoring five points.

Crawford outscored Silver Creek 10-4 in the 2nd quarter, and Benham scored five markers again this period.

Crawford gained the lead at 28-27 with 3:31 in the 3rd quarter, when Ashley Forbes hit a basket, was fouled, and hit the resulting free throw.

Chelsea Jellison hit a bucket afterwards, increasing the Crawford lead to 30-27. Johnston connected again for the Creekers, and Voyles hit a basket to give the lead back to Silver Creek at 31-30 headed into the 4th quarter.

Jellison lit the board up with a three to start the period, giving the Lady Pack a 33-31 lead with 6:07 in the game. It was to be a lead they would not relinquish, and Benham added to the cause nearly a minute later, with a score (35-31).

Both teams went about 2:30 without scoring, and Crawford County called a full time out with 2:30 left in the game to set up late game strategy.

Lindsay Fluhr hit a three for the Creekers to pull her team to within 35-34, but after a defensive stop, they lost the ball on a travel in the front court.

Crawford hit a pair of free throws, and Silver Creek then called a full time out (40.7) to try to pull out a win.

With 38.6 on the clock, the Creekers committed another turnover, and Benham sealed the game with a pair of free throws with 28 seconds in the game. Crawford called another full time out before the clock started again, and Silver Creek then missed a shot in the paint. Benham then hit a basket and two freebies for the final margin.

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Crawford hit 14 of 20 free throw attempts, and Silver Creek was 1 of 9 from the line.

Silver Creek coach Ryan Apple said he thought the key part of the game was when his team was up 20-10 with five minutes to go in the 2nd quarter, and Crawford called a time out and proceeded to tie it up at 20-20.

"We just dried up," lamented Apple. "Our shots just stopped falling. You can't win ball games like that. In the 2nd and 4th, we couldn't buy a basket. (I) got on them a little bit about not giving up a big lead like that."

Apple added, "If teams are putting the clamps on you, you've got to create your own shots. Nerves got them, a little bit, maybe,"

North Harrison 53, Charlestown 20 -

Unlike the first meeting between the two teams in early February, the Lady Cats wasted no time in getting out fast to a lead.

Sasha Grangier and Kayla Lambert scored to get the Lady Cats off to a 4-0 lead, before Charlestown called a 30 second time out. Afterwards, Charlestown's Cara Rhoten scored a basket, was fouled, and sank the free throw.

Grangier then scored at 5:53, and Kacey Cox scored four straight points to give North a 10-3 lead. Rhoten scored twice for the Lady Pirates, with a Katie Watts scoring a basket in between.

Up 12-7 after the 1st quarter, Cox got the Lady Cats out in front even further, with a three at the 5:26 mark, and she gave an assist to Grangier to raise the lead to 17-7.

Charlestown called a full time out (4:21), but the Lady Cats went on a 6-2 run, with Madison Snodgrass, Cox, and Grangier each scoring a pair of points each.

After the Lady Pirates hit a pair of free throws, Shroyer buried a three at the buzzer gave North a 27-11 lead with a half left in the game.

Shroyer and Lambert started the second half off with a basket a piece, sandwiched around a full time out by Charlestown. With a 31-11 lead, Amanda Miller connected for Charlestown, but Snodgrass hit a three, Caitlyn Janes connected, and Cox hit a free throw to cap a 6-0 run by North.

Both teams called full time outs over the next few seconds, but although Miller hit a pair of baskets for the Lady Pirates over the next three minutes, Janes and Book hit deuces and Cox a three for North, giving them a 44-17 lead with 2:14 in the 3rd.

Book connected again, but Alicia Zollman and Miller combined for three to make it 46-20 with a period left.

Zollman fouled out with her fifth personal at the 5:32 mark in the game, and Book scored five points along with a pair of free throws from Rachel LaDuke with 1:20 in the game.

"We played well, and attacked. We were scared coming in; Charlestown is a very slow, methodical team. They kind of slowed us up where we played them earlier in the year, when we struggled for a half," said North Harrison coach Hal Pearson.

"The big thing was making sure we had enough defensive pressure, so they couldn't sit back and see what we were in defensively, and then run a quick offensive set on us every time down."

Charlestown coach Tony Hall praised North Harrison, and wished them luck in the sectional final.

"North Harrison's got a great team. It was going to take our "A" game, and we didn't have that. They're well coached, have got a lot of great girls, and great fan support. We're going to miss these three seniors. They exposed a lot of weaknesses we have."

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Kacey Cox led all scorers with 14 points.