

## Salem, North Harrison fall in Sectional Semi-finals

Written by Janna Ross

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The Sectional 30 semi-final round was played last Friday night at Charlestown High School's Sports Arena to a packed house.

The opening game pitted the Braves of Brownstown Central (22-1) against the Salem Lions (0-21) while the night cap featured the Corydon Panthers (18-5) and the North Harrison Cougars (14-8).

Brownstown Central- 67

Salem- 12

The Braves shots fell early and often as they took a 17-0 first quarter lead and just added to the score throughout the contest.

Salem freshmen guard Christian Lamb found the scoreboard for the Lions at the 5:33 mark of the first half in route to five of his team's 12 points in the contest. Lion junior forward Jason Zink nailed a triple at the 2:11 mark as Salem netted six points in the quarter.

Brownstown added 26 points in the second quarter to push the lead to 43-6 at the halftime break.

The Braves continued their domination of the scoreboard as they tallied 15 more points in the third quarter while only giving up four. Salem's Caleb Couch finished the scoring for the Lions in the final eight minutes of play. The Braves added nine points for the 67-12 win.

Salem will lose three seniors including Eli Voyles, Trent Pennington and Derek Catlett.

Brownstown earned the right to advance to Saturday's championship contest against the Panthers of Corydon.

Corydon Central- 48

North Harrison- 47

The Cougars came into the Sectional Semi-final looking to avenge an earlier season loss to the Panthers. Corydon Central took the 63-55 win over the Cougars early in the season's second game. Both teams hit the court ready to take the victory and right to advance to the Sectional championship. The teams battled to a 9-9 tie at the end of the first eight minutes of play with North Harrison's Joseph Hinton drilling a triple in the stanza and Corydon's Bronson Kessinger slamming down a dunk.

The second quarter seen North Harrison take over as they continued to add to the scoreboard. Austin Nolot tallied six of the team's eight points in the stanza. Corydon only collected a bucket in the eight minutes as North Harrison pushed out to a 17-11 lead heading into the halftime break.

North Harrison's Cory Smith found the bucket in the third quarter as the junior drilled three from behind the arc in the period. The Cougars tallied 14 points in the period but gave up 20 points. Corydon Central's Kessinger tallied nine points in the stanza while teammate Tyler Ross added six including a bucket to knot the ballgame at 29.

The teams headed into the final eight minutes of play tied at 31.

The final quarter gave the fans all they could handle as the Panthers would jump out to a small lead only for North Harrison to storm back to knot the game at 42 on a three from Hinton with just 1:10 remaining. Corydon's Brayden Lander would calmly nail two from the charity stripe to push the Panthers lead to 46-42 with 29.4 seconds left. A bucket from North Harrison's Tyler Bement cut the Corydon lead to 46-44 with 22.3 seconds left. Teammate Cory Smith nailed two-of-three from the free throw line at the 10.2 mark to cut the Corydon lead to 48-46. The Cougars had two chances to win the game in the last 6.6 seconds. North Harrison went 1-of-4

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from the free throw line to fall just short, 48-47, to the Panthers.

North Harrison was led by Cory Smith with 13 points. Tyler Bement added 11 and Joseph Hinton chipped in 10.

Corydon was led by Bronson Kessinger with a game-high 17 points. Tyler Ross added 13 points and Brayden Lander collected 11 points in the win.

North Harrison will lose four seniors including John Martin, Tyler Bement, Dalton Fessel and Tyler Cockerham.

Corydon advanced to the sectional championship game against the Braves of Brownstown.