

More of the same for AGWSR

Split keeps girls perfect, boys winless

BY COREY MEINTS
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The AGWSR boys had been playing better since the Christmas break, Friday's loss was a set-back, keeping them winless. Meanwhile, the Cougar girls continued their perfect start.

The two split their North Iowa Cedar League-West road games in LeGrand, the girls beating the Eat Marshall Mustangs 73-36 and the boys losing 70-32.



Smith

AGWSR's girls moved to 13-0 on the season and 4-0 in the conference behind a quartet of double-digit scorers led by freshman Nakia Ollivierre's 24 points. Nine of those in the first half when it was still a game.

The contest was knotted at 8-8 with three minutes to play in the first quarter, but AGWSR led 17-10 entering the second. The spread got bigger from there, with the visitors up 33-12 at one point. EM (2-11, 0-5) pulled close by halftime, but only to 35-20.

A 14-2 run to start the third quarter set the tone for the rest of the game. With Brynn Smith leading the way against their top scorer Morgan Neuroth (21.2ppg), AGWSR's defense held the hosts to just 16 second half points.

"Brynn did an amazing job on their leading score and Brynn kept her to eight points," AGWSR head girls coach Mike Finger said. "And six of those came in the last couple of minutes. Karis Lippert and Trevyn Smith also guarded her. Karis gave us a huge lift off the bench and played amazing defense and rebounded like nobody else. She's at three games in a row where she's played really well."

The Cougars out-rebounded the Mustangs 32-10 and forced and grabbed 10 steals to along with 19 forced turnovers. While that defense thrived, so did the offense. Adding to Ollivierre's game-high total, Josie Kuper added 17 while Lippert and B. Smith each tossed in 10.

"Nakia was very good offensively as she is every night," Finger said. "She took her own opportunities when it was available and did an awesome job of sharing the ball with her teammates as well. Josie played well and was 5-5 from the free throw line."

While Finger continued to see his girls roll, Cougar boys skipper Ryley Schipper was just looking to compete. He got it, in the opening seven minutes. The game was 7-all with two minutes to go in the first quarter, but EM (3-9, 2-3) led 12-9 a minute later. Another 60 seconds saw them with a 20-9 lead.

That late spurt was part of a 19-0 run that lasted more than two minutes into the second quarter.

"We weren't able to recover from that," Schipper said. "I thought we executed pretty well at times but got caught with some bad turnovers that really turned things."

The Mustangs led 44-21 at the half. Then, early in the third quarter, AGWSR's leading scorer Bradley Roder (19.6ppg) turned an ankle. He didn't return. The visitors scored just seven points in the frame, only two in the final four minutes and four in the fourth.

"I wanted to see us compete and we played a really great first quarter until the one minute mark," Schipper said. "We lost Bradley early in the third with an ankle injury so we will see what comes out of that. We have to continue to get better and focus on ourselves and we will do that." ●

AGWSR vs. East Marshall

Jan. 13 at LeGrand

GIRLS	AGWSR:	17	18	22	16	-	73
E. Marshall:	10	10	8	8	-	36	

Scoring
AGWSR: Nakia Ollivierre 10 0-0 24; Josie Kuper 6 5-5 17; Karis Lippert 3 4-6 10; Brynn Smith 4 0-0 10; Trevyn Smith 2 2-2 6; Ava Olson 2 0-0 4; Avery Lafrenz 1 0-0 2.

EM: Vaeda Bryan 3 4-6 10; Morgan Neuroth 3 2-2 8; Makayla Hala 4 0-0 8; Ava Bringmann 3 2-2 8; Delany Ryan 0 2-2 2.

BOYS

AGWSR:	9	12	7	4	-	32
E. Marshall:	20	24	21	5	-	70

Scoring
AGWSR: Bradley Roder 4 3-3 11; Gabe Nederhoff 2 1-1 6; Carter Roder 2 0-0 5; George Van Hove 2 0-0 4; Ryne Pickering 1 0-0 2; Jesus Garibay 0 2-2 2; Eli Kuper 1 0-2 2.

EM: Junior Brown 7 3-3 21; Cale Hungerford 4 0-0 9; Adrin Arif 4 2-2 13; Carter Anderson 4 2-2 10; Landen Neuroth 4 0-0 8; Leland Hamilton-Youngbird 2 0-0 5.



Jack Green of the Aplington-Parkersburg Dirty Bird Club was all smiles during his first match at Sunday's Curtis Benning Youth Tournament. Dozens of youth clubs were represented.

SUNDAY ON THE MAT

Big turnout for 43rd Curtis Benning Memorial

STORY AND PHOTOS BY COREY MEINTS
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There were 72 brackets with nearly 300 youth wrestlers from kindergarten through eighth grade in Ackley on Sunday. They were there for the 43rd Annual Curtis Benning Youth Tournament held in memory of Curtis Benning who was killed as an Ackley-Geneva middle schooler. Registrations came from as far away as Ohio to wrestle more than 400 matches.

"It was great turnout with a lot of kids and a lot of alumni coming back," said Brian Benning, brother of Curtis and a three-time A-G State placewinner and State champion. "It's always good to see so many help every year to make this something great for the kids." ●



Kyle Meyer wipes away tears after losing a match at Sunday's Curtis Benning Youth Tournament. He was one of nearly 300 kids to wrestle in the 43rd annual event.



AGWSR state placer Clay Meinders gets ready to ref A-P's McKinley Goetsch and Mayera Neuendorf.



This was the seen before wrestling even started at the 43rd Curtis Benning Youth Tournament in Ackley.



Parents lined the mats in Ackley with cameras and advice at the ready during Sunday's annual youth tourney.

Split ends home duals

Gerbracht honored at farewell triangular

BY COREY MEINTS
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AGWSR head coach Chad Gerbracht doesn't seek the limelight. It's always been about his wrestlers. But when more than two dozen of his former guys stood up, he couldn't help but give a little wave and wipe away a few tears.

Thursday was Gerbracht's final home triangular after 24 years. It was also the final home dual for six of his boys; Aaron Huber, son Bo Gerbracht, Ben Puente, Jared Granzow, Eli Brandt and Tate Miller. Two other seniors, Trinity Rotgers and Kylie Willems, awaited their home finale for a night later.

The near-capacity crowd was treated to two highly-contested duals, with the Cougars losing to the Jesup J-Hawks 41-39 and beating the Hudson Pirates 42-33.

For Gerbracht, all the hoopla surrounding him seemed secondary. What he liked most was his team competed - though his wet cheeks showed the emotion of it all.

"Dual wise, the kids competed hard and are great leaders," Gerbracht said. "They wanted to impress the crowd, which was awesome having everybody here, and they did. We talk about leaving it all on the mat, and they did that. We had a couple guys come up short, but I don't fault their efforts. They all battled hard the entire time. We're where we want to be today."

Both matches came down to the final match.

After Jesup downed Hudson 48-27 in the North Iowa Cedar League triangular opener, the Cougars opened a 12-0 lead on the J-Hawks. Aiden Heitland started the Cougars off with a fall at 220, followed by a pin by senior Tate Miller. Jesup four matches, three by fall and a forfeit, to take the lead.

Noah Klikeman (132) took the first of three-straight Cougar wins by taking a free one. Bo Gerbracht (138) - another senior - and Kaden Abbas followed with pins for an AGWSR lead at 30-24. A technical fall at 152 and a forfeit at 160 gave that lead right back to the J-Hawks with three matches to go.

Senior Ben Puente did his part with a pin at 170 to put AGWSR up again. Jared Granzow, another senior, led his match 10-0 after the first period at



COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Aiden Heitland picked up two pins last Thursday in AGWSR's final home meet of the season. AGWSR split the triangular, with a loss to Jesup and a win over Hudson.

NICL Wrestling

Jan. 12 at Ackley
Jesup 41, AGWSR 39
220: Aiden Heitland (AG) pin Skyler Blad 3:02; 285: Tate Miller (AG) pin Evan Sebetka 0:59; 106: Cooper Hinz (J) pin Jariyah Bowles 0:43; 113: Ayden Bergman (J) pin Aaron Huber 0:47; 120: Ethan Krall (J) pin Jaedrek Bowles 1:54; 126: Treven Delagardelle (J) FF; 132: Noah Klikeman (AG) FF; 138: Bo Gerbracht (AG) pin Braydon Van Brocklin 0:46; 145: Kaden Abbas (AG) pin Dawson Bell 0:42; 152: Kile Bucknell (J) TF Collin Willems 16-0 4:28; 160: Brady Gleiter (J) FF; 170: Ben Puente (AG) pin Wyatt VanderWerff (J) 3:10; 182: JD Sadler (J) pin Jared Granzow 3:22; 195: Eli Brandt (AG) dec. Drew Munson 6-1.

AGWSR 42, Hudson 33

285: Miller (AG) pin Kason Ingamells 0:56; 106: Jar. Bowles (AG) pin Andrew Langham (H) 2:23; 113: Mason Fogt (H) pin Huber 0:22; 120: Jae. Bowles (AG) pin Brody King 1:10; 126: Jamison Buskohl (H) FF; 132: Noah Klikeman (AG) pin Oswaldo Gomez 2:40; 138: Gerbracht (AG) pin Jackson Colsch 1:36; 145: Abbas (AG) pin Ben Holton 1:07; 152: Carter Boeding (H) pin Willems 1:35; 160: Braden McCullough (H) FF; 170: Blake Carolan (H) dec. Puente 3-2; 182: Andrew Gaudian (H) dec. Granzow 8-4; 195: Trevor Koelling (H) dec. Brandt 7-4; 220: Heitland (AG) over Colin Olson 0:27.

182, but lost by fall. That meant senior Eli Brandt needed a pin at 195 to give the hosts the dual. He scored a take-down in each of the three periods, but couldn't find the turn, and settled for a 6-1 win.

The Cougars got off to another good start in the nightcap against Hudson. Miller opened with a fall, followed by a pin by Jariyah Bowles at 106. Aaron Huber, the final senior on the roster, was upended to end the early run but the

Cougars got that six back with a Jaedrek Bowles pin at 120.

Following a forfeit at 126 for Hudson, the Cougars got pins from Klikeman, Gerbracht and Abbas to hold a 36-12 lead. Then the tide turned. Hudson picked up a forfeit at 160 and three-straight decision to pull to within three at 36-33.

All Heitland needed to do was win, but he turned in his second pin of the night - this one in just 26 seconds - for the dual win. ●