

THE N'WEST IOWA REVIEW

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JESSE VAN KALSBECK

HELPED THE DUTCH GO 2-0 LAST WEEK AND AVERAGED 20.5 POINTS, 7.5 REBOUNDS, 3.5 ASSISTS AND 3 STEALS PER GAME.



Which feeling is better in basketball, getting a steal for a dunk or hitting a three-pointer in transition? Steal for a dunk.

What brand or kind of basketball shoes are your favorite? Way of Wades.

What is the most common quote or phrase you hear from your coach? "Relentlessly and joyfully pursue excellence."

Aside from a home game, where is your favorite place to play a basketball game in Iowa? West Lyon.

What is your favorite sports movie? "Thunderstruck."

Do you have a favorite college or professional basketball team? Milwaukee Bucks.

If there was an action figure of you, what two

accessories would it come with? Basketball and Iliuprofen.

Who wins the Super Bowl on Sunday between Kansas City and Philadelphia? Philadelphia

Outside of N'West Iowa, what city or town would be best to live in? San Francisco.

How long could you go without using your phone? One day.

If there was an Olympics for everyday activities, outside of sports, what would you have a good chance at medaling in? Being tardy for animal science.

Where is your favorite place to eat in N'West Iowa? Culver's.

If you could have any superpower, what would you want? Telekinesis.

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MOC-FLOYD VALLEY | BOYS BASKETBALL | JUNIOR



George-Little Rock junior Taryn Odens shoots as Gehlen Catholic senior Jayden Barthole and sophomore Rysaiah Sitzmann defend Thursday in tournament action. Photo by Roy Tucker

THURSDAY GIRLS 1A REGIONAL BASKETBALL

George-Little Rock showcases talents in tournament win

Difficult schedule had team prepared

BY CHARLIE HILDEBRAND
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GEORGE-LR 12 11 22 15 - 60
 GEHLEN CATHOLIC 9 12 13 10 - 44

LE MARS—George-Little Rock created turnovers with its defense and avoided them at the offensive end during a

key third quarter surge Thursday that sent the Mustangs to a 60-44 win over Gehlen Catholic in the first round of the Class 1A Region 1 girls basketball tournament.

The Mustangs, 4-16 on the year coming into the game, got off to a solid start. Wyleigh Steenhoven scored the team's

See REGIONAL on C3

FRIDAY BOYS BASKETBALL

Comets get hot in third quarter of home victory

Orabs make hosts work down stretch

SHELDON 16 8 12 10 - 46
 BOYDEN-HULL 8 11 23 10 - 52

HULL—Boyden-Hull went on an 18-6 run in the third quarter to take the lead, then made just enough plays in the final minute to hold off Sheldon for a 52-46 Siouxland Conference boys basketball victory Friday in Hull.

Sheldon had an opportunity to run away early, starting the game with a 14-2 run.

"Our defense was sharp early. We rotated effectively and did a good job of keeping our guy in front of us," said Sheldon coach

Eric Maassen. "Offensively, it wasn't pretty again. We did move the ball fairly well, but I felt like we missed some opportunities early in the game to get some transition layups that would have let us widen that lead even more."

Boyden-Hull started to cut into the gap by the end of the first quarter. It was 16-8 in favor of the Orabs after eight minutes and Sheldon led 24-19 at half.

"We didn't come out like we wanted to. We were just kind of dead. We played with no energy," said Boyden-Hull coach Isaac Heyer. "I tried to get the boys ready to go at

See COMETS on C4



Boyden-Hull junior Blake Moser rises and fires a jump shot from near the foul line Friday during a 52-46 Siouxland Conference win against Sheldon. Photo by Roy Tucker

OKOBOJI RESCUE

Salmon braves icy water to help



A Jeep owned by Thomas Lee of Milford sits partially submerged under the Highway 71 bridge that spans the channel separating East Lake Okoboji from West Lake Okoboji. Lee and his dog, Cooper, were rescued. Photo submitted

BY SCOTT BYERS
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OKOBOJI—Okoboji High School junior Joe Salmon spends enough time on the lakes to know that even in the coldest stretches of winter, there are certain areas it is better to stay away from.

When the 17-year-old looked up from his ice finishing hole last Saturday and saw a Jeep driving near the Highway 71 bridge that spans the channel separating East Lake Okoboji from West Lake Okoboji, he knew there might be trouble.

"Where we were fishing, the ice

was about 13 inches, so it was fine, but you go another 100 meters and its gets pretty sketchy," Salmon said. "The weekend before two ATVs went into the lake in that same spot. That's the channel where two of our lakes meet, so there is usually a strong current there. The water is moving, so it doesn't get as cold and doesn't freeze as much."

Salmon saw the vehicle driven by 83-year-old Thomas Lee of Milford break through the ice and start to sink. Salmon, a track and field, football and wrestling athlete at Okoboji High School in Milford, sprang into

See RESCUE on page C4

Actions of teen aid man stuck in sinking vehicle

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SPORTS

Okobojo teen saves Lee and dog

RESCUE

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action. "When he went past where we were fishing, I was already starting to dial 911. When he went in I yelled at my mom and called them," Salmon said. "I ran straight over there. I was waiving at him to get out, and he didn't do anything. I just assumed he was probably in shock, and I started to get undressed."

By that time, Cory McConnell of Spirit Lake, Kody Harrelson of Nevada, Cody Chester of Estherville and Chris Parks of Hawarden had all made their way near the scene to assist.

The channel is about four feet deep, enough to submerge the entire front end of the vehicle. A bit of the top and back window were still poking up out of the frigid water.

"At that point someone said they thought there was a child in there. One of the other guys threw me a knife," Salmon said. "When I first got in, it was about waist deep. Then it was up to my chest. I ended up having to kind of half swim up to it. The door was locked, so at that point I broke out the back window."

When Salmon broke out the window he saw not a child, but Lee's dog, Cooper. Salmon quickly got the dog out while trying to get Lee to come out too. He said he did not realize right away he was dealing with an older individual.

"Once I saw that I knew I had to be more fast about it. His foot was stuck between the seat and the console. I went in and pulled his foot out and tried to push him up," Salmon said.

The attempt to get Lee out was unsuccessful at first.

"I ended up having to crawl in the Jeep twice. After I got him loose the first time, he still couldn't get out. He couldn't get between the gap in the seats," said the rescuer.

Salmon was not at all familiar with the Jeep brand, but he found a lever that



Joe Salmon, along with Corey McConnell, 30, of Spirit Lake, Kody Harrelson, 26, of Nevada, Cody Chester, 27, of Estherville, and Chris Parks, 27, of Hawarden, were on scene last Saturday to rescue a man trapped in a sinking vehicle. Photo submitted

folded the seat down and created a large enough gap and was able to pull Lee through.

"By then one of the other guys had gotten in, I'm not sure which one, and he helped me pull him to shore," Salmon said. "I went on top of the roof, then climbed up on the spare tire and jumped onto solid ice so I could make my way to the bank."

Besides the obvious concern for Lee, emergency medical technician arriving on the scene took a look at Salmon as well.

"I really didn't think about how cold I actually was. When I got into the water, I expected it to be cold. I guess I did notice once I was up to my chest that it was really cold," Salmon said. "I had so much adrenaline I didn't realize I had some cuts on my hand and stomach too."

Salmon said he did not really think about what he had just done until he was in the ambulance being checked out.

"Once I calmed down and realized what happened, it made me feel happy," he said. "I was just glad I was able to do something good for someone. If it hap-

pened when no one was there, I'm not sure he would have been able to get out by himself."

Lee was taken to the hospital from the scene. Salmon and the others who assisted in the rescue were led to The Okobojo Store to warm up. Salmon was given some dry clothes to put on.

At that point, Salmon realized he had lost his shoes at some point during the ordeal.

The incident quickly went viral. Mike Jay of the Track Guy Foundation sent Salmon a pair of Nike track shoes and a pair of Puma running shoes. ESPN television personality Marty Smith pledged to send him a new pair of Air Jordan shoes.

The viral social media posts quickly spread to traditional media worldwide. Salmon was featured on national television in a piece done by Fox Weather Channel on Thursday.

Salmon said while all of that was cool, what he was really looking forward to was meeting Lee in a more traditional setting. The two, who had never met before the incident, made plans and had supper together on Friday evening.

Boyden-Hull overcomes quiet stretch late

COMETS

Continued from page C1

halftime and they responded. I just told them we're not this team anymore. We haven't played with this kind of lack of energy and focus in a while. The guys responded."

Sheldon kept the lead for a few minutes in the third before Boyden-Hull pushed for its major run.

"Things picked up. We settled in offensively," Heyer said. "We had a stretch where we had good ball pressure and got into some passing lanes. We got some layups and easy buckets."

Sheldon held Boyden-Hull scoreless for a six-minute stretch of the fourth quarter and had the lead down to 47-46 with just over a minute to go.

"We had some guys who took some iffy shots in the fourth quarter when we probably should have held the ball until we got a little deeper in the shot clock," Heyer said. "It got close and we knew Sheldon runs a lot of set plays. Our guys did a good job of understanding what they wanted to do at the end and communicating those screens. Then we had a couple of guys step up and make some big free throws."

Carter Kleinwolterink and Eric Nilles each scored 11 points for the Comets. Kason Woelfer finished with eight.

Blake Radke tossed in 15 points for Sheldon. Cooper Jansma netted 10 points and Anthony Provost had seven.

Big surge in fourth leads Jays to victory

GEHLEN CATHOLIC 8 10 11 23 - 52
SOUTH O'BRIEN 15 11 14 11 - 51

PAULLINA—Soon-to-be retiring Gehlen Catholic boys basketball coach Mike Langel experienced one of the most thrilling games of his 18-year career Friday night.

Langel's squad outscored South O'Brien 23-11 in the fourth quarter to rally for a 52-51 nail-biter. Keaton Bonderson scored 10 fourth-frame points and three-point baskets from Connor Kraft, Keaton Logan and Ryan Augustine also helped the Jays, who ended the regular season with five wins in their final six games.

"Ryan hit a big three," Langel said. "It was with about two minutes left. It put us ahead for the first time. He was confident and put it down. It was a big momentum thing."

It was the fewest points Gehlen Catholic scored in a victory this season as South O'Brien held the visitors 15 points below their 67.1 scor-

ing average. However, the jays helped themselves out on defense.

"In the fourth quarter, we put a press on and did a nice job," Langel said. "We rattled them a little bit. We got the tempo of the game moved up, more quicker, more our style."

South O'Brien, which entered the game yielding an average of 49.3 points, held the high-scoring jays to just 18 first-half points. Gabe Wiltgen scored all of Gehlen's eight first quarter points.

"We had to respect everyone that they put out there," said South O'Brien coach Kiley Yates. "They have some good three-point shooters. They don't have a back-to-the-basket scoring threat other than on offensive rebounds."

"We played our zone higher and wider than we normally would and tried to be there when they caught it. We challenged their shots and other than Wiltgen in the first quarter, we were able to get them to miss and we got the defensive rebound."

The Wolverines entered the fourth quarter with a 40-29 lead. Yates said he felt his defense didn't break down, but gave credit to Gehlen Catholic's shooters. The Jays' shots, Yates added, were contested.

Boston Riedemann led South O'Brien with 16 points. David Bottjen's 10 points included a three-quarter court three-pointer near the end of the game.

Bonderson provided 19 points, six rebounds and three steals for the Jays. Wiltgen also provided 10 rebounds and three steals.

Augustine and Kraft each tallied eight points. Logan's four assists gave him 102 for the season and he had five rebounds.

Langel said he made his retirement decision following last year's 15-8 campaign, telling his assistant coaches that the 2022-23 season would be his last. He told the players during their annual basketball trip for a Creighton game.

"Kelli and I retired this year from the farm and her at the bank," he said, referring to his wife. "We decided it was time to step back and let someone else take the reins."

Wildcats grind out tilt with Spirit Lake

SPIRIT LAKE 13 10 15 16 - 54
WEST LYON 18 8 19 15 - 60

INWOOD—West Lyon went back and forth with Spirit Lake in a nonconference boys basketball game on Friday and made enough clutch plays late to earn a 60-54 win to close the regular season.

"We needed a good game,"

said Wildcats' coach Aaron Johnson. "The score by quarters doesn't tell you it was a back and forth game."

West Lyon led 18-13 through one quarter. Spirit Lake outscored the hosts 10-8 in the second period but still trailed 26-23 going into halftime.

"When you get to halftime, whether the score is close or not, you like to have the lead," Johnson said. "In the first half, we could have done a better job of moving without the ball. Our offense was stagnant. In the second half, we did a better job with our movement."

The Wildcats held a 19-15 edge in the third period and entered the final stanza with a 45-38 advantage.

West Lyon's Evan Faber made some free throws late in the fourth quarter to help the hosts end the regular season with a victory.

Darren Meyer finished with 20 points, five rebounds and blocked three shots for the Wildcats. Faber and Devan Van Wyhe each scored 10 points. Trevor Ciesielski had eight rebounds and five assists.

"We needed a good grind out game like this one," Johnson said. "Hopefully, it gives us a little edge going into the tournament."

Klein hits milestone, Dutch top Pioneers

OKOBOJO 20 9 6 18 - 53
MOC-FV 27 22 13 15 - 77

ORANGE CITY—Senior Ayden Klein hit a major milestone and Class 3A third-ranked MOC-Floyd Valley kept the offense coming even when the defense was late to the party as the Dutch topped Okobojo 77-53 Friday in Siouxland Conference boys basketball.

Klein finished with 18 points and six assists for the Dutch. His point total brought him to 1,002 for his career. Klein is the seventh person in MOC-Floyd Valley history to meet that mark. The last two, Levi Jansen and Christian Korver, both reached it in 2015.

"The fun thing is Ayden did it on a night where he still had six assists. His freshman year we had a very good team that won a conference title and he was a real spark for us off the bench," said MOC-Floyd Valley coach Loren De Jong. "He's been a starter ever since and has provided a lot for our team and our program. He's a fierce competitor and a great teammate."

De Jong wasn't too excited by MOC-Floyd Valley's defense early on, but the Dutch had the firepower to make sure it didn't matter. The hosts led 27-20 after one quarter.

"There was not much called, but it wasn't a physical game anyway. It was pretty high scoring and had a good flow to it," he said. "I'd be lying if I didn't say I was disappointed with our defense in the first quarter. It just wasn't the sharpest. In the middle of the game we played harder and played with better focus. I hate to simplify it like that, but basically we picked up the intensity and that was the difference."

MOC-Floyd Valley made 23-of-34 field goal attempts in the opening half and led 49-29 at the break. The lead was up to 62-35 by the start of the fourth quarter.

"We got a lot of good looks. We moved the ball well, but a lot of that came in transition," De Jong said.

The big lead gave the coach a chance to let his reserves take over for the final six minutes.

"It was a fun night and a good way to close out the regular season," De Jong said. "Everybody got to play and everybody got to play a lot."

Jesse Van Kalsbeek matched Klein with 18 points and six rebounds. Van Kalsbeek added four steals for the Dutch. Luke Korver scored 15 points. Owen Vander Pol cleared eight rebounds. Ahman Langton managed three thefts.

The guard court duo of Caleb Simington and Jase Jostand led the way for the Pioneers, scoring 19 and 18 points, respectively.

Huge quarter lifts Warriors to triumph

SIBLEY-OCHHEYEDAN 18 5 12 11 - 46
SIOUX CENTER 20 31 16 16 - 83

SIOUX CENTER—After a tight first frame, Sioux Center used a massive second quarter to pull away from Sibley-Ocheyedan for an 83-46 win over the Generals in a Siouxland Conference boys basketball game to close the regular season.

The Warriors led 20-18 through the opening period. "In the first quarter, I thought we played well in pockets," said Sioux Center coach Brian Schmalbeck. "We got a 10-point lead. Sibley made a few threes to close the gap at the end of the quarter."

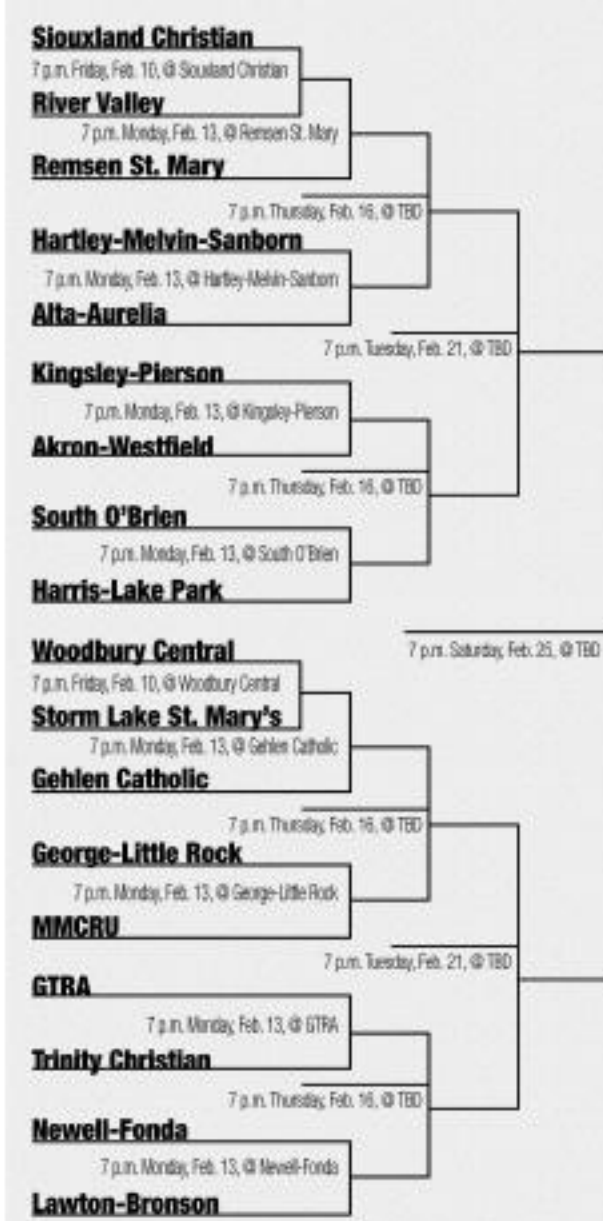
Sibley-Ocheyedan coach Brandon Bergfeld said he was happy with how his team played early.

"They got a lead to start in the first couple minutes," he said. "We called a timeout and regrouped. We did a good job responding."

Sioux Center then outscored the Generals 31-5 in the second stanza to take a 51-23 lead into halftime. The Warriors

2023 SUBSTATE BOYS BASKETBALL

CLASS 1A SUBSTATE 1



CLASS 2A SUBSTATE 1



CLASS 2A SUBSTATE 8



held the visitors at 23 points from the six-minute mark in the second quarter into the first minute of the third.

"The second quarter and on, we turned up the pressure and got after them a bit," Schmalbeck said.

Bergfeld said his team struggled with Sioux Center's press in the second period.

"We turned it over quite a bit. They rushed us. They wanted us to go 100 miles per hour," he said. "It was a learning experience in the second quarter. We responded after halftime. We played a lot better in the third and fourth quarter."

The Warriors held a 16-12 edge in the third period to take a 67-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

"We moved the ball a lot better," Bergfeld said of his team's

performance in the second half. "We picked our spots. We buckled down a little more in the second half defensively too."

Tyler Roseberry made eight three-pointers in the game, including five in the first half, and led Sioux Center with 24 points.

"His teammates did a good job at finding him and getting him going," Schmalbeck said. "That was good to see."

Kylar Fritz scored 17 points for the Warriors. Cael Van Beek finished with 15 points, five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Sam Chambers finished with 18 points, four rebounds and three assists for the Generals. Javier Martinez had 18 points and three steals. Gavin Stanton handed out four assists.