

# Bears hold on for 58-56 win over Pirates

by Coach Dale Finck

On Tuesday night the Bears traveled to New York Mills. We were playing the late game of the doubleheader and we were looking to match the Lady Bears as they played a solid game to pick up a conference win.

The Eagles came out playing more aggressive and we struggled to get anything going on the offensive end. Our defense was keeping us in the game, but we couldn't capitalize on scoring situations as we shot 30% from the field in the first half. However, in the last 11 minutes we were able to out-score the Eagles 15-5 to take a 27-21 lead into halftime.

In the second half, we kept the lead to around 10 points for most of the half, but the Eagles hit back-to-back 3's and another field goal to cut the lead to 6 points with 5:22 remaining. We answered the bell by not allowing another field goal the remainder of the game. We stretched the lead to 14 by the end of the game to pick up a 59-45 win over the Eagles.

Matthew Fretthem scored 21 points, 11 rebounds and 6 assists, Murphy contributed 11 points and 6 rebounds, Grewe had 11 points, Voge had 7 and Templin, Kirscht and Riewer each added 2.

On Thursday night, the Bears



Michael Grewe played some tough defense against the speedy Dallas Ehrmantraut as he drove to the basket.

—photo by Matt Ganz

hosted the Verdale Pirates for a PRC battle. The first game between the two teams went into overtime and the Bears outscored the Pirates 13-2, to win 58-47.

Both teams looked for this to be another good battle which turned out to be just that as the game had four ties and eleven lead changes.

The Bears started with the first four points and held the lead for the first eight minutes as they built a small lead of five points with some good half court offense. The Pirates didn't panic and showed more consistency on the offensive end as they took the lead with 9:43 left.

In the last five minutes, the Bears offense struggled to make shots and create any second shot opportunities. The Pirates took advantage as they outscored us 11-1 to take a 7 point lead into half-time, 21-28.

In the second half, we focused on getting offensive rebounds and trying to give players opportunities to penetrate the Pirates zone. This helped create more scoring opportunities for the us and we went on a 24-10 run in the first nine minutes of the second half with eight players scoring at least one basket during this

stretch.

The Pirates answered back with some great offense by Ehrmantraut and we found ourselves trailing again with 5:37 remaining. With back-to-back field goals the Pirates took the lead 54-56 with 3:55 remaining. Finally, with two minutes remaining the Bears tied the game when Murphy found Fretthem for a bucket. The Bears got a defensive stop with 1:13 remaining and decided to hold the ball for the last shot.

As the Pirates came out and put pressure on us we didn't panic and worked the ball around. With the time running out, Riewer looked for Fretthem in the middle of the court, however, the Pirates had lost containment. Riewer made a basketball play and drove the left side and scored a layup with 6.2 seconds remaining to take the lead 58-56 Bears.

The Pirates were able to create a quality shot with six seconds remaining, but the ball rattled in and out, Bears win 58-56.

With this win the Bears improve to 11-5, 8-1 in the PRC.

The Bears were led by Fretthem's 25 points and 13 rebounds, Grewe had 15 points and 6 rebounds, Riewer contributed 6 points, Murphy and Voge each had 4 apiece and Dittberner and Templin each added 2 more.

# Knights of Columbus' free throw champions



Knights of Columbus held their annual Free Throw District Champions. Winners were, front row: Zak Irsfeld, Nate Petermeier, Josh Jeziorski and Grace Bruder. Back row: Quinn Kircher, Kendra Buchta, Crystal Pearson, Noah Iten, Bryce Irsfeld and Knights of Columbus' Victor Clasemann. The Section Championships will be held in Sauk Centre later in February.

—submitted photo

# Broncos grapplers finish 8th in Prairie Conference Tourney

The Broncos traveled to Long Prairie on Saturday for the Prairie Conference Tournament. The Broncos had to leave the first 5 weight classes open, before sending their first wrestling to the mat.

At 138 lbs. Tylor Kent defeated Darius Erlandson (OTC) by a fall, in 4:55. Kent advanced to the second round where he was pinned by NYM wrestler Maison Roberts in a time of 1:02. In the wrestlebacks, Kent emerged victorious over Wyatt Puttonen (UNC) in a 11-2 decision. Once again, Kent found himself facing Erlandson (OTC), whom he defeated 13-0 to take third place for the day.

Jordan Statema, 145 lbs., received a bye, sending him into the second round to face Mike Johnson (UNC) where he lost by a fall of 1:06. In the wrestlebacks, Statema faced off against Josh McKeown (PP), losing by a fall, 3:53.

Matthew Schettler at 152 lbs. was defeated by Dylan Huttunen (UNC) by a fall of 2:25. In the wrestlebacks, he faced off against Nick Bennet (BHV), winning in a close match 11-9. During the second round, Schettler found himself up against Austin Collins (OS), where he lost by a fall of 1:54. In the match between 5th and 6th place, Schettler was defeated by Austin Montgomery (OTC) by a fall of 1:26, giving Schettler a 6th place finish on the day.

Austin Butler, 160 lbs., finished in third place on the day as he was given a bye in the first round, but lost to Jamie Wright (LPGE) in the second round 6-4.

Butler went on to defeat Gunner Flynn (NYM) by technical foul 17-2 and Warren Oberg (WCA) in a 6-4 decision.

Also receiving a bye in the first round was Avery Kuhnau, 170 lbs. Kuhnau won his first match against Colton Moyer (BHV) in a 1:46 fall, before being pinned by Brandon Spanswich (OS) in the time of 2:55. Kuhnau pinned his way through the wrestlebacks to finish in 3rd place by defeating Mike Kaplin (PP) in 1:16 and Aaron Burton (OTC) in 2:27.

Andrew Espree at 182 lbs. lost his first match against Quentin Uran (PP) by a fall of 2:29, before receiving a bye in the first round of wrestlebacks. In the second round, Espree took on UNC's Tanner Bacon where he was pinned in 3:18. The next match was against Jordan Bruns (WCA), where he won by a fall in 1:29, earning him a fifth place finish on the day.

Jake Gaida was the last wrestler for the Broncos at 195 lbs. as the next two weight classes were left open. Gaida was pinned in the opening round by Aaron Bengston (OTC) in 1:30 and then lost his next match to Ben Frierer (LPGE) by a 1:45 fall.

The Broncos finished the day in 8th place with a score of 95.5.

- New York Mills 186
- Osakis 152.5
- Otertail Central 147
- United North Central 136.5
- Royalton/Upsala 121
- Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 110
- West Central Area 109
- Browerville-Eagle Valley 95.5
- Parkers Prairie 94
- Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale 80

# Tigers add two more to win column

by Jim Roberts

**Browerville 75—WCA 53**

The West Central Area Knights traveled to Browerville to take on the Tigers last Tuesday in a Prairie Conference boy's basketball game. What started out as a tight game, ended with the Tigers pulling away for a 22 point victory.

Both teams were shooting the ball very well in this one. The first half was full of offense as each team only turned the ball over three times. The Tigers went to their inside game early where they had an advantage over the smaller Knights team. Seth Christensen scored three of the Tigers first four baskets; the other basket was a layup by Seth Kellen after a steal by Mitch Heid when the Tigers were pressing.

Browerville's offense continued to produce good shots with crisp passing and movement within the offense. Of the 13 baskets scored in the first half, the Tigers had assists on 10 of them. Petermeier had the hot hand and finished the half with back-to-back 3's, giving him three long-range shots in the half. The Tigers had a 34-27 advantage going into the locker room.

Heid helped Browerville strike first in the second half with a 3-pointer which gave the Tigers a ten point lead. Petermeier continued shooting the ball well. In a four minute stretch, he would hit his fourth 3-pointer of the game, followed by another one from Heid, two free throws, and then back-to-back shots from behind the arc to give him six from downtown for the game.

It was now time for Browerville to continue finding good shots and finish this one out. Heid would make another 3-point basket, but the Tigers went back inside to Christensen and Burns for four baskets. Alex Host finished the scoring with two free throws as the Tigers went on to win with a final score of 75 to 53.

Browerville finished the game with 25 team assists; out rebounded the Knights 26-15, and forced the Knights into 16 turnovers, while getting 9 second half steals.

Christensen led all scorers with 24 points, while grabbing 9 rebounds and blocking 5 shots. Petermeier finished with 20 points, 5 assists and 2 steals. Heid scored 15, had 6 rebounds, 4 steals and 10 assists. Kellen scored 10, dished out 5 assists and had 2 steals.

**Browerville 65—Upsala 60**

The last time these two teams met, the Upsala Cardinals did not have their full team and struggled to get their offense going and Browerville went on to win 64-35. Since then, Upsala had won 11 of 14 games, including 9 in a row before losing to the top two teams in the Prairie Conference, Long Prairie and Browerville.

"We knew it would be a dif-

ferent type of game this time around. Upsala has been playing very well and continues to get better," is what Coach Schueller had to say about the game.

Browerville did a nice job of controlling the boards and the tempo early on. Heid opened the scoring with a 3-pointer on an inside/out assist from Christensen. Browerville would not surrender the lead at any point in this game.

Browerville and Upsala exchanged baskets over the next six minutes. During this time, the Tigers would gain a nine point lead.

Some costly turnovers allowed for Upsala to get some quick baskets and work their way back into the game. With 1:29 to go, Upsala's Nick Frierer pulled the Cardinals within one point, after scoring a 3-point shot. Petermeier scored the last basket of the half, and the Tigers led 27-24 at the half.

Upsala was allowed only one offensive rebound in the first half compared to five for Browerville. Upsala struck first in the second half to pull within one point. But Browerville gained a little breathing room by going on a 9-0 run to open their lead to 12 points. The Tigers kept their lead for the next five minutes.

With just over five minutes to play, the score was 55-46, Tigers. The Cardinals then went on a 7-0 run of their own capped off by another Nick Frierer 3-pointer. Christensen put it back to four points with two free throws, 57-53. After an Upsala basket by Avery Smieja, Christensen again had the ball in his hands to score and was fouled. The big 3-point play put the Tigers up five. Browerville would make 5 of their last 6 free throws with Upsala being forced to foul.

Browerville was 15 of 25 from the line for the game, and made 9 of their last 11, with Seth Christensen going 7 of 8. The final score was 65-60, Tigers.

The Tigers were led by Petermeier's 19 points, 10 rebounds and 3 assists. Christensen scored 18. Kellen finished with 15 points, and Heid scored 10 points, pulled down 6 rebounds and had 3 steals and 3 assists.

Next up for the Tigers are the Swanville Bulldogs on Thursday, February 9, at home.

During the week of February 13-18, the basketball teams will be running their Coaches vs. Cancer Week. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the following businesses: Browerville Liquor Store, Steve's Country Foods, and Knotty Pine Embroidery. Also check the school web page for t-shirt order forms or stop in at Knotty Pine Embroidery.

If anyone would like to make donations directly to the American Cancer Society, please contact Coach Bob Schueller at the high school, 594-2272.

# Tigers fall to Braves, Cardinals

by Coach Matt Middendorf

**Menahga 56—Browerville 43**

Crystal Pearson scored all 12 of her points in a very impressive Tigers first half, but it wasn't enough as the Braves combined their experience and hot shooting in the second half to down Browerville by a score of 56-43 on Monday night in Browerville.

The Tigers jumped out to another early lead, but foul trouble forced the orange and black to go to their bench early. Sophomore

stayed with striking distance until the final minute of the game. The Tigers struggled to connect at the free-throw line as they shot 10 for 24, while the Braves made 14 of 19.

Tara Cleveland led Menahga with 24 points.

**Upsala 86—Browerville 47**

The Tigers received a 13 point, 10 rebound performance from eighth grader Kendra Buchta, but it wasn't enough as the Cardinals explosive offense crushed Browerville 86-47 on Thursday night in Browerville.

The Cardinals poured in 33 field goals on the evening and lived up to their #6 ranking in Class A. Upsala ran the floor well as all state guard Aimee Pelzer shredded the Tigers defense with precision passing and amazing court presence.

Browerville scored 22 points in the first half as they looked for Buchta in the middle and she cashed in six field goals.

Piotrowski played well in the second half for the orange and black as the young sophomore made a number of nice drives to the basket to finish with 7 points. MaKenna Hegseth chipped in 6 points, while Kate Kellen and Callahan each tallied 5 points.

Upsala forward Kimmy Mrozek led all scorers with 25 points.

Browerville is now 3-8 in the Prairie Conference and 5-14 overall. The Tigers return to action on Monday, February 13 when they travel to Royalton.



Andi Buhl and Haley Piotrowski worked together to try to provide some much needed offense for the Tigers.

—photo by Blake Borst

Haley Piotrowski came off the bench to spark the Tigers in the first half with 6 points as Browerville went into the break trailing by three.

Paige Callahan and Kendra Buchta combined for 13 points in the second half as the Tigers

**Check us out on Facebook!**  
When you are on Facebook just type **Independent News Herald** in the Search box. You can also order photos from our website @ [www.inhnews.com](http://www.inhnews.com)