



ALAH girls win LOVC NW Tournament; will play Tri-County

By KENT A. STOCK
Staff Writer

To say the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond girls' basketball team is on a roll might be an understatement. Their only loss in the last 10 games was to a state-ranked Sullivan squad, and that was only by eight points.

As the top seed in the tourney, ALAH had a bye for the first round of play. The semifinal game was on Tuesday against Blue Ridge who had knocked off Cerro Gordo-Bement in the opening round of the tournament.

It was quite clear to those attending the game played at Okaw

Valley High School in Bethany which Knights team had the upper hand. The red, black, and gold pounced on Blue Ridge and led 13-0 after eight minutes of play. Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond continued with the pressure, and Blue Ridge had no answers as Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond took a 25-6 lead into the locker room at the break.

The second half was a mere formality as ALAH overwhelmed Blue Ridge by a final score of 48-18. This was the third victory of the season for the "red" Knights over the "blue" Knights.

Scoring for ALAH in the game were Makenzi Bowles and

Mallory Nichols with 10 points each; Marissa Herschberger, 8; Jolynn Barbee, 6; Taylor Nichols, 4; and Alexa Miller, Emma Harris, Mackenzie Brown, Marcy Petersheim, and Nisa Asghar, 2 each.

The win put the Knights into the championship game against the No. 2 seed, Arcola. The Purple Riders have been improving of late and were fired up to face the rival Knights for the LOVC NW tournament title.

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond took a small, early lead in the first quarter, but Arcola came back to go in front. That did not last long, and the Knights

found themselves clinging to a two-point lead, 11-9 at the end of the period.

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond turned up the defensive pressure in the second quarter, and they warmed up on the offensive end of the court as well. The red, black, and gold extended their tenuous two-point advantage to double digits, leading 34-23 by halftime.

The second half was basically a stalemate with both teams playing intense, hard fought basketball. Every time the Purple Riders looked to be on the verge of cutting into the deficit, they seemed to miss a shot or turn

over the ball.

The same was true of the Knights as each time they looked prepared to break the game open and put their opponents away they could not finish the job.

However, ALAH had the 11-point advantage and maintained it throughout the second half of play. Fittingly enough, the game ended with an 11-point victory for Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond, 50-39. The win gave them the first-place trophy for the 2019 Little Okaw Valley Conference Northwest Division tournament.

Scoring for the Knights against the Purple Riders were

Herschberger with 22 points; Petersheim and Addi Tinkle, 8 each; Bowles, 7; A. Miller, 4; and Harris, 1.

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond was set to host the All-LOVC finals on Saturday; however, for the second time in a week, the weather proved to be a factor and the games were postponed.

The LOVC NW champion Knights will host LOVC SE champion Tri-County at 7:30 p.m. today (Wednesday, December 23). Arcola will play Villa Grove/Heritage for third place at 6 p.m. All of Wednesday's games will take place at ALAH HS.

Arthur Okaw Christian takes second in Dayspring Classic

Arthur Okaw Christian boys' basketball team finished second in the 27th Annual Dayspring Basketball Classic played Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19, in Lake Zurich, Illinois.

The Conquering Riders lost to Hammond Baptist of Indiana 58-50 in the championship game on Saturday. The Riders went into the tournament as the defending champions who last year defeated Hammond Baptist in the championship game.

Hammond Baptist led 16-8 in the first quarter and 30-20 at the half. The Indiana team led 42-31 at the end of the third period. The Riders outscored Hammond Baptist 19-16 in the final period, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit.

Oliver led AOC with 12 points, all on three-pointers, while Lowry and Trier each added 11 points. Also scoring for AOC were Linville with six points, Mast and M. Miller with

three each, and Lee and Smith with two each. Otto played but did not score.

P. Cowling led Hammond Baptist with 17 points, including four 3-pointers, while Salazar put in 16, and Wilkerson 12. Also scoring for Hammond were Laity with eight points and J. Cowling five. Barrera, Carpenter, Garcia, Harper, and Vidal played but did not score.

This was the 25th consecutive appearance for AOC to ap-

pear in the Dayspring Classic. Arthur Okaw Christian guard Ian Lowry was named to the all-tournament team.

The Conquering Riders reached the championship game by defeating Westlake Christian Academy of Grayslake 50-41 earlier Saturday in a semifinal game, Families of Faith Christian Academy of Channahon 71-64 in a quarterfinal contest on Friday evening, and Academy of Excellence of Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

53-36, in a first round contest on Friday morning.

Arthur Okaw Christian (14-9) was scheduled to return to regular season action hosting the Tuscola Warriors in a non-conference game last night (Tuesday, January 22) at Arthur Christian School.

27th Annual Dayspring Classic At Lake Geneva, Illinois First Round AOC 53, Academy of Excellence 36 Friday, January 18
Ac of Exc (36): Hillard 3-2-1-14, Kennedy 1-5-0-13, Love 0-3-0-6, Blocker 1-0-0-3, Morales 0-0-0-0, Rice 0-0-0-0, Vasquez 0-0-0-0; Totals 5-10-1-36.

AOC (53): Trier 3-1-2-13, Oliver 1-4-1-12, Lowry 3-1-0-11, Smith 0-5-1-11, Mast 0-2-0-4, Linville 0-1-0-2, Lee 0-0-0-0, I. Miller 0-0-0-0, M. Miller 0-0-0-0, Otto 0-0-0-0; Totals 7-14-4-53.

Ac of Exc 8 9 13 6—36
AOC 11 25 8 9—53
Three-point goals: Ac of Exc (5) Hillard 3, Blocker, Kennedy; AOC (7) Lowry 3, Trier 3, Oliver.

Quarterfinal Round AOC 71, Families of Faith 64 Friday, January 18
AOC (71): Lowry 2-6-12-30, Oliver 2-1-3-11, Smith 0-4-1-9, Trier 1-2-5-12, Linville 1-0-1-4, Mast 1-0-0-3, Lee 0-1-0-2, M. Miller 0-0-0-0, Otto 0-0-0-0; Totals 7-14-22-71.

FOF (64): Blan 5-4-0-23, Johnson 4-0-3-15, Larson 2-2-0-10, Bestler 1-3-0-9, Waliczek 0-3-1-7, Greven 0-0-0-0, Kripple 0-0-0-0, Rodriguez 0-0-0-0; Totals 12-12-4-64.

AOC 13 13 29 16—71
FOF 19 8 24 13—64
Three-point goals: AOC (7) Lowry 2, Oliver 2, Linville,

Mast, Trier; Families of Faith Christian Academy of Channahon (12) Blan 5, Johnson 4, Larson 2, Bestler.

Semifinal Round AOC 50, Westlake Christian 41 (Overtime) Saturday, January 19
AOC (50): Lowry 1-4-7-18, Oliver 5-1-0-17, Smith 0-2-2-6, Trier 1-1-0-5, Linville 0-2-0-4, Lee 0-0-0-0, Mast 0-0-0-0, Otto 0-0-0-0; Totals 7-10-9-50.

WCA (41): Sensenig 0-8-2-18, Hatch 3-0-1-10, N. Ignacio 2-0-0-6, Snetsinger 1-0-0-3, Pontarelli 0-1-0-2, Lesniewski 0-1-0-2, Herndon 0-0-0-0, Z. Ignacio 0-0-0-0, Smith 0-0-0-0; Totals 6-10-3-41.

AOC 9 2 16 14 9—50
WCA 11 10 7 13 0—41
Three-point goals: AOC (7) Oliver 5, Lowry, Trier; Westlake Christian Academy of Grayslake (6) Hatch 3, N. Ignacio 2, Snetsinger.

Championship Game Hammond Baptist 58, AOC 50 Saturday, January 19
AOC (50): Oliver 4-0-0-12, Lowry 1-3-2-11, Trier 3-1-0-11, Linville 1-0-3-6, Mast 1-0-0-3, M. Miller 1-0-0-3, Lee 0-1-0-2, Smith 0-1-0-2, Otto 0-0-0-0; Totals 11-6-5-50.

HB (58): P. Cowling 4-2-1-17, Salazar 3-3-1-16, Wilkerson 0-5-2-12, Laity 2-0-2-8, J. Cowling 1-0-2-5, Barrera 0-0-0-0, Carpenter 0-0-0-0, Garcia 0-0-0-0, Harper 0-0-0-0, Vidal 0-0-0-0; Totals 10-10-8-58.

AOC 8 12 11 19—50
Ham 16 14 12 16—58

Three-point goals: AOC (11) Oliver 4, Trier 3, Linville, Lowry, Mast, M. Miller; Hammond Baptist of Indiana (10) P. Cowling 4, Salazar 3, Laity 2, J. Cowling.

Bombers drop Knights in quarterfinals of boys' LOVC NW Division Tourney

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The week was supposed to end with the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond boys' basketball team playing Decatur Lutheran School Association in the quarterfinals of the Little Okaw Valley Conference Northwest Division tournament.

However, Mother Nature had other plans, forcing the games to be postponed to Monday, January 21, at Arcola High School. The Knights were scheduled to take on the LSA Lions be-

fore playing in either the consolation or winner's bracket semifinals on Tuesday.

The LOVC NW will finish the tournament on Friday evening while the LOVC SE Division, hosted by Cumberland, will finish up on Friday as well. The All-LOVC finals night will be held at Saturday, January 26, at Arcola.

On Tuesday night, January 15, the Knights had a regular season conference game at Argenta-Oreana High School. In their second close contest in a

row, the Knights had opportunities to secure their second win of the 2018-19 season, but came up short. The Bombers managed to elude defeat and won the game 51-44.

Austin Romine scored 13 points for the Knights, and teammate Adam Day was right behind in the scoring column with 12 tallies. No other ALAH player scored in double figures. Austin Plank had 7 points; Domonick Baker had 6 points; and Adam Hingson had 4 while Cody Miller chimed in with 2 points.

Hingson was big on the boards, grabbing 10 rebounds. Austin Plank led the team in assists with four.

After the tournament, the Knights boys will have three more weeks of regular season play.

The post-season assignment for the Knights will be in the Tolono Unity Class 2A Sectional complex. Regional hosts on their side of the bracket will be Oakwood and Villa Grove/Heritage with games being played at Broadlands.

Prospective students invited to Laker Visit Day at Lake Land College

Prospective college students and their parents are invited to learn more about Lake Land College at Laker Visit Day on February 8.

Beginning at 9 a.m. in the Field House Lobby and running until noon, Laker Visit Day provides an opportunity for students to tour campus, visit a class, meet current students, and talk with faculty. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend and learn more about the college during a parent session.

This event will feature informational sessions by current Lake Land College Student Ambassadors and college staff. Representatives from Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, Counseling Services, Career Services, Student Life, and other departments will provide information and be available to answer questions. Participants will also meet with faculty members in their academic area of interest.

"Laker Visit Day is a great way for prospective students and parents to talk to faculty and staff about academic options and majors, to talk to current students about their experiences at the college, and to learn about various services and opportunities we offer," said Michelle Zumbahlen, coordinator for strategic student communication and initiatives.

Guests should be prepared to walk the beautiful campus. To get to the Field House, take Entrance 1 from Route 45, proceed straight after the curve and park in Lot A. The Field House will be on west side of Parking Lot A and has a white, circular roof. Enter the lobby from the south side of the building.

Student Ambassadors will

greet guests and help with directions. In case of inclement weather on the day of the event, please check the college's homepage at lakelandcollege.edu for closures.

For more information, or to reserve a space for Laker Visit Day, register online at lakelandcollege.edu/visit or call (217) 234-5377.

Parkland Pathway to Illinois Program open house February 10

High school students can learn more about a Parkland College program guaranteeing them admission in selected colleges at the University of Illinois while saving money on tuition.

The Parkland Pathway to Illinois Program Information Open House will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, February 10,

in the Parkland College Student Union. Prospective students and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Representatives from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Parkland will answer questions about the Parkland Pathway to Illinois Program, including eligibility, housing options, financial aid, admissions, and other topics.

For qualifying Illinois high school graduates who begin college at Parkland and are interested in transferring to the University of Illinois, the program is an opportunity to gain

guaranteed admission to certain University of Illinois programs.

While preparing to transfer, participating students will be able to integrate their time as full-time Parkland students with resources and classes at Illinois. Pathway students typically complete the program in two years, but AP credit and college credit earned in high school may affect program length.

For questions about the program, please go to parkland.edu/UIUCpathway, call Mary Kay Smith at (217) 351-2509, or email admissions@parkland.edu.

Macon County Conservation District invites homeschoolers for 'Animals in Winter'

Macon County Conservation District invites homeschoolers to join a naturalist for an "Animals in Winter" program from 10 to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 30, at Rock Springs Nature Center.

The naturalist will talk about what animals do in winter and will take a hike outside to look for wildlife in their natural habitat. The program is free and open to all ages; however, participants must pre-register online at MaconCountyConservation.org by noon on Tuesday, January 29.

Rock Springs Nature Center is located on the southwestern edge of Decatur. To get to Rock

Springs from Decatur, go south on Route 48 and turn west onto Rock Springs Road or go south on Wyckles Road and turn east onto Rock Springs Road. Watch for signs. Plenty of free parking is available.

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AREA TEAMS SPORTS SCHEDULES**
HS BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, January 25 – Urbana Uni High at AOC 6:00 pm
Saturday, January 26 – LOVC Finals SE vs. NW at Arcola High School
Monday, January 28 – AOC at Springfield Christian 7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 29 – AOC at Decatur Christian 7:30 pm
HS GIRLS BASKETBALL
Thursday, January 24 – Urbana Uni High at AOC 6:00 pm (Senior Night)
Saturday, January 26 – AOC at Maroa-Forsyth 11:30 am
Tuesday, January 29 – AOC at Decatur Christian 6:00 pm
JR. HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL
Friday, January 25 and Saturday, January 26 - AOC at ACSI Tournament
Saturday, January 26 to Thursday, January 31 - ALAH at IESA Class 3A 8th Grade Regional Tournament - Hosted by ALAH at Atwood-Hammond GS
JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL
Wednesday, January 23 – AOC at Mattoon St. Johns 6:00 pm
Thursday, January 24 – Central A&M vs. ALAH at Lovington 6:00 pm
Saturday, January 26 – Vision Way at AOC 11:00 am
Monday, January 28 – ALAH at Tri-County 6:00 pm
Mattoon St. Johns at AOC 6:00 pm
Tuesday, January 29 – ALAH at Tuscola 6:00 pm
****Schedules subject to change**

****ALAH HS girls and boys basketball schedules can be found on sponsors page**