

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

When I'm covering a game, I am typically too wrapped up in the action on the court, field or diamond to notice much else. This past week however, I was afforded an opportunity to take in everything around me as I watched teams I wasn't covering as they played in tournaments.

Frankly, some of the behavior on display in the stands was appalling. I know a certain tall security providing beast who might be shocked to hear me, given some of the sideline antics I displayed over the years while coaching the little guys with him, but when one isn't emotionally invested, the actions of the fans really tend to stand out.

The game in question was the third place contest of the BSN tournament, featuring the Judah Christian Tribe and the North Vermillion Falcons, and the contrast between the two sides couldn't have stood in more stark contrast. In a taut, overtime contest that saw dozens of ebbs and flows and many, many close officiating calls, one side repeatedly responded with insults and questionable language, while the other side chose to continue to cheer on their side in a positive manner. I honestly couldn't believe how differently the two fan bases reacted, especially in the heat of a big comeback by one of

the two squads. The same fan base had shown a rather coarse side earlier in the day, when their girls' team played VGH in the third place game of the Bismarck girls' tournament when they handily defeated VGH.

Of course, unruly behavior is nothing new at sporting events, and I have to admit that I let loose with a lusty boo or two or twenty in my misspent youth. I've already chronicled my issues with yelling at the TV while watching the beloved. Maybe that's it? My new year's resolution has opened my eyes to how crude and rude it is?

While I saw nothing that resembled soccer hooliganism, where bloodshed and broken bones are the norm, I can't help but feel that it might not be that far out of bounds to be concerned. In August, a student was stabbed at a soccer game in Virginia by a twenty year old. There have been numerous reports of parents rushing the field and attacking those who they rightly or wrongly thought had assaulted their child. How crazy is that? A grown man suplexing some unsuspecting teen, right on the field of play. Unbelievable.

With regard to the Judah Christian and North Vermillion fans, the Tribe should be

proud of such polite, enthusiastic support from their fans. NV fans, on the other hand, might want to re-evaluate their priorities and comportment.

As for The VGH fan base, other than the high school kids who comprise the red zone at boys' games, those cheering for the home team are almost too quiet at times. The worst I've heard recently is fans offering "help" to officials who might have interpreted a situation differently that the parents in the stands. I guess I can live with that since I'm constantly "officiating" from my couch, even though Mrs. Hook, Line and Sinker has been assuring me for at least twenty-five years that the refs on my TV screen can't hear me. In fact, rumor has it that my oldest son's first words weren't mama or papa, but "That's a foul," along with the corresponding alliterative curse word. Not my proudest moment, to be sure, but I'll continue to work on it. If only the zebras saw things my way....

Villa Grove Heritage Boys' Basketball Cage 'cats, win BSN tourney title

If they're unable to adequately prepare, or not consistently strong with the ball, the VGH pressure defense can wreak havoc on an opponent. That was exactly the case in their 67-48 win over Milford in the championship game of the BSN Classic basketball tournament on December 29, as the Hawks used their defense to power their offense to leads of 19-11 after one quarter and 36-24 at the half. Villa Grove Heritage kept up the defensive intensity in the second half, extending their lead to 55-40 after three periods before cruising to the win. Will Wilson, playing perhaps his finest all-around game, scored a team high 20 points and hauled down 12 rebounds. Jared Stevens tallied 17 points and Jake Eversole continued his fine all-around play, netting 13 points, dishing out 5 assists and pilfering 3 steals for the Hawks, who moved

to 13-3 on the season. Mauled by Lions

Sometimes, shots simply won't fall, and that was the case on January 4th as VGH fell to Decatur LSA 64-62. The Lions were able to handle the VGH press, which led to fewer run outs and more half court sets e for the Hawks. Even still, VGH was able to get numerous open looks in close and on drives to the basket, but the rock simply refused to fall through the rim on too many occasions. Even with the missed opportunities, Villa Grove Heritage was able to take a late lead before two turnovers in the final minute, coupled with a loss of composure on an LSA breakaway turned the game in the Lions favor. Jared Stevens had 16 points, Will Wilson added 14, and Bryce Dalle helped out with 11. The Hawks return to action this week with a trio of games vs. SJO, CGB and Judah Christian.

Girls' basketball Hooded by Falcons Made baskets were tough

to come by as the Blue Devils fell to North Vermillion 56-29 in the 3rd place contest of the Bismarck tournament on December 29. Aliyah Holloman tallied 12 points, and all-tourney selection Kyleigh Block added 10 for the Blue Devils, who were outscored 20-9 in the decisive 3rd quarter.

Unsaddle Riders Aliyah Holloman tallied 26 points, including the 1000th of her career, to lead VGH to a 56-29 win over the Arcola Purple Riders on January 3rd. Kyleigh Block added 18 for the Blue Devils, who will hit the road for contests versus Chrisman and Pal-Hut before beginning LOVC tourney play at Martinsville on January 12.

Dance The Junior Devilettes took first, and the Devilettes finished second in IDTA at the Charleston competition on January 5. Mackenzie Ewing was named a Rising Star of the Competition.



Photo Above: The 2018 BSN tourney champions and cheerleaders are joined in celebrating by supefans Shorty Lewis and Keith Melton. Photo courtesy of Shawn White. Photos Below : (Left) Junior Devilettes placed 1st and HS Devilettes placed 2nd at the Charleston competition on Saturday, January 5. Photos courtesy Facebook.



Senior Spotlight



Kaylee Knell: Girls Basketball and Volleyball

1. Who is your dream date? Where are the two of you going?

Alex Kompothecras. We would go deep sea fishing, of course. Then we would watch the sunset over the beach from his hot tub.

2. Who is your favorite teacher? Why?

Mrs. Roth, my CNA clinical instructor, because she's teaching me the things I actually need to know how to do in my career.

3. What is your favorite food? Who's cooking it?

Steak. Hopefully my dad's cooking it because his is the best.

4. What are you driving these days?

I drive a 2008 Ford F150.

5. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I'll be married, starting my family, working as a pediatric nurse.



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2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE HAWKS BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Record
Nov 19-24	@CGB tourney (3rd)	3-1
Nov 27	@ Uni High	W 70-32 4-1
Nov 30	@ Schlarman	W 62-38 5-1
Dec 04	Westville	W 67-37 6-1
Dec 08	@ Sullivan OV	W 67-30 7-1
Dec 11	Tuscola	L 48-52 7-2
Dec 14	@ Arthur OC	W 74-60 8-2
Dec 18	@ STM	L 55-76 8-3
Dec 27-29	BSN Tourney CHAMPS	13-3
Jan 04	LSA	(L 62-64 13-4)
Jan 08	@ SJO	
Jan 11	Cerro Gordo (in VG)	
Jan 12	@ Judah Christian	
Jan 15	Chrisman	
Jan 19-26	@ LOVC Tourney (Cumberland)	
Feb 01	@ Oblong	
Feb 05	Tri-County	
Feb 08	Hut-Pal	
Feb 09	Arcola	
Feb 12	@ Cumberland	
Feb 15	Martinsville	
Feb 18-22	@ IHSA regionals	

HEAD COACH Corey White

2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE Blue Devils GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Record
Nov 11-16	@Falcon/Bunny Classic (2nd)	3-1
Nov 20	Tuscola	L 35-39 3-2
Nov 26	@ Westville	W 62-36 4-2
Nov 27	Salt Fork	W 55-49 5-2
Nov 29	Uni High	W 60-32 6-2
Dec 03	@ Judah	W 59-45 7-2
Dec 05	ALAH	W 58-47 8-2
Dec 11	@ Unity	W 47-39 9-2
Dec 13	Cerro Gordo	W 65-41 10-2
Dec 27-29	@ Bismrk trny 4th Place	12-5
Jan 03	Arcola	W 56-29 13-
Jan 08	@ Chrisman	
Jan 10	@ Hut-Pal	
Jan 12-19	@ LOVC tourney (Martinsville)	
Jan 21	@ Cumberland	
Jan 22	@ GRF	
Jan 24	Oblong	
Jan 28	Tri County (sr night)	
Jan 31	@ Martinsville	
Feb 04-08	@ IHSA Regional	

HEAD COACH Dan Sappenfield

2018-19 Villa Grove Devilettes Schedule

Dec 15	Villa Grove Competition	1st in IDTA
Jan 05	Charleston Competition	
Jan 12	Clinton Competition	
Jan 19	IHSA Sectionals TBD	
Jan 25-26	IHSA State Finals	(must qualify)
Feb 02	Tuscola Competition	
Feb 09	IDTA State Finals	(must qualify)

HEAD COACH Sarah Bouton



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