

Lady Dragons win 5th Region All A Tournament

DALE CURRY
STAFF WRITER

After storming past Washington County and Fort Knox in the first two rounds of the tournament, Green County captured the tourney championship Friday night over tournament host, Bethlehem. Bethlehem entered the championship game sporting a 10-2 record. Green County was 9-6 heading into Friday night's game.

"I'm super proud of our effort and excited for the girls because of the hard work they have put into the season," said Head Coach Chris Blaydes.

This marks the

ninth time that a team coached by Blaydes has advanced to the All A State Tournament. The first time the Lady Dragons went to the All A State under Blaydes was 2009 when Micah Jones Spears, an assistant coach on this year's team, was a freshman at GCHS. That year, the team finished as runner-up in the All A State Tournament.

The other years the Lady Dragons have won the 5th Region All A Tournament are 2010, 2012-2014, and 2016-2018.

"We got off to a slow start," Blaydes said, "and trailed by 11 midways through

the second quarter, but we made some huge three-pointers late in the quarter to cut the lead to one by halftime."

The Lady Dragons trailed 25-14 before they went on a 15-5 run to end the first half. The last nine points came on a three-point basket by Isabella Clopton and two long-range bombs by Kylee Hargan.

Green County did not lead in the game until Scout Brockman put the Lady Dragons up 38-36 with 1:31 remaining in the third period. Molly Dixon's free throw ended the quarter, giving Green County a three-point lead over the Banshees.

"I thought we played excellent man to man defense in the second half and were able to limit our turnovers," Blaydes added.

Bethlehem scored just two buckets in the third quarter as the GC defense stymied Bethlehem's plans. Both of those shots were three-point shots as the Banshees were persistent with their three-point attempts. During the game, Bethlehem connected on 11 of 29 three-point attempts. They attempted more threes than two-point shots as they made eight of 18 two-point shots.

With just 1:12 left

in the game, Green County was up 51-41 and the Dragon fans began to celebrate.

"Bethlehem made some late threes to make it interesting," Blaydes said. "Scout Brockman and Chloe Fortner made some huge free throws to allow us to pull out the victory."

Brockman connected on six of eight free throws in the fourth quarter. Fortner was two of two in the closing seconds to put the game out of reach. On the other hand, Bethlehem missed five of seven free throws in the last period before making a two-point basket as time ran out.

Scoring by quarters:

GC 9 20 10 17 56

B 14 16 6 18 54

Individual scoring:

Brockman 18, Hargan 11, Fortner 10, Clopton 8, Dixon 6, Brooklyn Jewell 3.

Rebounds:

Brockman 10, Dixon 7, Fortner 6, Hargan 1, Jewell 1, Bailee Willis 1.

Green County plays the winner of the 10th Region Tournament on Wednesday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Owensboro Sportscenter in the All A State Tournament. The 10th Region tournament does not end until tomorrow night.



Chloe Fortner, Isabella Clopton and Scout Brockman were named to the 5th Region All Tournament Team Friday night. Brockman and Fortner are sophomores while Clopton is a Freshman.



Parker Hodges fires off a shot against Washington County in last week's 5th Region All A Tournament.



Scout Brockman had a field day on offense against Washington County. She scored 30 points in the first-round win of the tournament.



Isabella Clopton waits for the offense to get set during Friday night's game. Despite being down by 11 in the second period, the Lady Dragons rallied to take the win.



The Lady Dragons celebrate their win over Bethlehem in the 5th Region All A Tournament. The win broke an eight-game losing streak to the Banshees.

Photos by Dale Curry

The road to the championship

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The Lady Dragons entered the 5th Region Tournament on a bit of a sour note. After winning their first two games of the Lady Invitational of the South Tournament, they lost their next two games in the tournament and followed that up with a home double overtime loss to Adair County.

Green County put all that behind them, however, as they raced past Washington County and Fort Knox to gain a spot in the championship against Bethlehem.

Green County 80 Washington Co. 36

The Lady Dragons put this first-round game away early, never trailing in the game. They raced out to a 15-1

lead, holding the Commanderettes to only one field goal and four free throws in the first quarter.

The Green County defense created a lot of deflections and pass interceptions, especially during the second quarter as their defense led to some easy baskets. They increased their lead to 35 on a three point shot by Kylee Hargan as the buzzer went off to end the half.

Despite everyone on the roster getting significant playing time, the Lady Dragons continued to show their strength as the second half went by quickly because of the so-called mercy rule.

Scoring by quarters:

GC 23 27 18 12 80

WC 6 9 6 15 36

Individual scoring:

Scout Brockman 30,

Hargan 14, Chloe Fortner 11, Isabella Clopton 6, Brooklyn Jewell 6, Jaidyn Darnell 5, Molly Dixon 4, Baylee Bishop 4.

Rebounds:

Brockman 10, Fortner 8, Jewell 5, Dixon 3, Bishop 2, Hargan 2, Rebekaha Pruitt 2, Darnell 1, Parker Hodges.

Green County 60 Fort Knox 17

Following their victory in the first round of all 5th Region All A Tournament over Washington County, the Lady Dragons completely overwhelmed Fort Knox in the semi-final round.

Again in this game, the Lady Dragons never trailed. The Green County defense was stingy again, giving up just three field goals in the entire first half and with just about a

minute remaining in the half, they led by 35 which meant the clock would run the second half.

Fort Knox finally reached double figures in the fourth quarter but by that time Head Coach Chris Blaydes had emptied his bench, giving everyone playing time.

Scoring by quarters:

GC 28 16 10 6 60

FK 4 3 1 9 17

Individual scoring:

Dixon 14, Willis 12, Brockman 9, Hargan 9, Fortner 7, Clopton 6, Jewell 3.

Rebounds:

Brockman 6, Dixon 5, Fortner 5, Hargan 4, Jewell 1, Willis 1.

The Lady Dragons play at LaRue County Friday night in a district matchup with the Lady Hawks.



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