

Cage Season Opens Here Friday

Backemeyer Hits 26 Points In Elmwood Win

Merle Backemeyer dropped 26 points through the hoop Tuesday night as Elmwood opened its quest for the Cass County Conference Basketball title with a 50-40 win over a stubborn Avoca quintet.

Scoring 13 points in the third period, Backemeyer led the Pirates from a half-time deficit to the ten point margin.

Elmer Mueller, veteran Avoca forward, hit three quick buckets in the initial period as Avoca held the count a 13-13 through one period. Dick Nielsen and Wayne Wessell collaborated in the second period as the Cardinals moved out in front 24-20 before Backemeyer went to work.

Virgil Goracke added six points for Elmwood in that third period as the Pirates moved into a 41-35 lead.

The final period was marked by controlling the ball by both teams.

Wessell was the big gun in Avoca's drive for the loop victory connecting for 16 points, six via the free throw route.

Nielsen had 8 for the Cardinals and other Avoca scorers were Mueller, 6; Fritz Ruge, 4; Bob Noerlinger and Dick Meyer, 3 each.

Back of Backemeyer's 26-point spree, Elmwood counted with Keith Drake getting 14, Virgil Goracke, 6 and Dick Apt and Orville Bogenrief, 2 each. Dale Lannin, Royal Halvorsen and Dick Woods also saw action for the Pirates.

Elmwood easily copped the second team game, rolling up 49 points against 7 for Avoca. The score was 18-5 at halftime.

Thomas, Halvorsen and Bob

Hall each hit 8 points for Elmwood while Johnson, Ehmke and Kleetner had 2 each for Avoca. Avoca Volleyball girls however continued their dominating roll with a 33-13 win. Romona King led the winners with 9 points and Nora McDonald hit 6. Donna Doebele led Elmwood with 5 points.

Defending Kings Meeting Elmwood In Friday Tilt

Defending title holder Alvo opened its quest for the 1953-54 Cass County Conference Crown Friday when the Orioles are host to Elmwood. Coach Bob Ihrig's squad tuned up for the battle with a Tuesday opener by entertaining Walton.

Winner of the district crown and a state entry a year ago, the Orioles have five lettermen to spark the current campaign.

Lettermen include Dick Clark, Jim Hermance, Mickey Lipsky and Jim Morgaridge.

Other promising cagers at Alvo include Bill Schuelke, Bob Garcia, Dale Roelofs, Arlen Neven, Roger Hillmore, Jim Vincent, Noble Fischer and Lee Fischer.

The remaining Alvo schedule: December 4, Elmwood; Dec. 8, open; Dec. 11, Dwight Assumption; Dec. 15, Louisville; Dec. 17, Union.

Jan. 5, at Palmyra; Jan. 8, Greenwood; Jan. 12, at Murdock; Jan. 15, at Avoca; Jan. 19, Panama; Jan. 22, at Yutan; Jan. 26, at Weeping Water; Jan. 29, Nehawka.

Feb. 2, open; Feb. 16, at Pappilon; Feb. 19, Eagle.

A Classified Ad In The Journal costs as little as 35 cents



Lyle Wood

Games This Week

Friday, December 4
Westside at Plattsmouth
Panama at Eagle
Elmwood at Alvo
Millard at Murdock
Union at Nehawka
Avoca at Unadilla

Tuesday, December 8
Dunbar at Avoca
Nehawka at Talmage
Eagle at Walton

Stewart Undecided On Starters Against Westside

Plattsmouth's starting lineup to open the 1953-54 basketball campaign probably won't be known until just before game time Friday night. That's when Coach Merle Stewart's Blue Devils will be host to Omaha Westside in a conference tilt.

The varsity game is set for 8 p. m. with the reserves opening play at 7 p. m.

Stewart will wind up pre-game drills this afternoon still debating the starting five for Friday night's opener. At least eight of the 13 varsity cagers are being considered for the starting assignments.

Virtually sure of an opening game assignment is Jim Jacques, 6-6 inch center, and Jon Schuetz, senior guard. The other three spots are still open.

Drills this week and a full-game scrimmage against Creighton Prep Monday marked the week's chores as Stewart mentally tried to screen the candidates for opening game jobs.

Denny Ptak, Stuart Nielsen, Eugene Dasher and Byron Finnefrock are under consideration for front line starting assignments.

Finnefrock will see action at center but is also being considered for duty at forward.

Nielsen and Ptak, both southpaws, and Dasher have been alternating at forwards. Don Rhoads is another front line candidate.

Battling for the other guard slot, along side Jon Schuetz, are Jim Graves and Lyle Wood, while Grover Cundall, Larry Pierce, Terry Ernst and Don Conyers may also see duty.

Conyers reported for drills this week after a cast was removed from his hand. The hand had been in a cast since the final week of the football campaign.

While Plattsmouth appears stronger than the Omaha quintet, the Westside Warriors hold a slight point advantage in holdovers from last year when the Plattsmouth team won 55-28.

Dave Henkelively led the Warriors a year ago with 11 1/2; Feb. 9-13, Cass county tournament at Murdock; Feb. 16, open; Feb. 1, at Walton; Feb. 22-27, district Class D tournament.

Plattsmouth meanwhile graduated 34 of its 55 points. Of the returning vets, Jacques hit 9 against Westside a year ago while Schuetz added seven. Lyle Wood hit 4 in the game last year.

The Westside varsity roster lists five seniors, six juniors, and a sophomore, with four candidates standing six feet or better.

The Plattsmouth roster lists 5 seniors and 7 juniors with 7 over the six foot mark.

The game marks the opening of a three-game home series for Plattsmouth. All are conference encounters, will Valley and College View following.

Avoca Seeking Two Home Games In Basketball

Avoca Coach Don Yocum is seeking two games to fill in the 1953-54 Avoca high school basketball schedule. He is seeking games to be played at Avoca.

Seventeen cagers have reported for the team, which has played two games thus far this season. Avoca opened against Otoe on November 24 and met Elmwood in a conference game on Tuesday.

The remainder of the Avoca schedule includes: Dec. 4, at Unadilla; December 8, Dunbar; Dec. 11, at Murdock; Dec. 15, and 18, open; Dec. 22, Otoe.

Jan. 8, St. Bernards of Nebraska City; Jan. 12, at Eagle; Jan. 15, Alvo; Jan. 19, at Greenwood; Jan. 22, open; Jan. 26, at Nehawka; Jan. 29, Brock.

Feb. 2, Union; Feb. 5, at Loupville; Feb. 9-13, Cass county tournament at Murdock; Feb. 16, open; Feb. 1, at Walton; Feb. 22-27, district Class D tournament.

Murdock Blasts Greenwood 61-31 In Loop Battle

Murdock and Greenwood opened battles for the Cass County loop cage title Tuesday night with Murdock getting the early jump and a 61-31 victory.

Ron Peters, lanky Murdock center potted 24 points in pacing the Murdock win as Marvin Oehlerking contributed 12.

Peters hit 8 points in the initial period as Murdock went out front 19-2. He added 6 more as the count moved to 37-8 at halftime. The score was 53-19 going in to the final period.

Bob Buckingham and Dick Buckingham led the Greenwood assault with 12 and 6 points respectively. Jerry Leadbrand, Lyle Comstock and Warren each contributed 3, and Hergenrader and Bob Twentyn added 2 each.

Murdock tallied with Elmer Miller getting 8, Frank Zoz hit 7, Duane Wilkne added 6, and Dick Reuter and Chuck Kruse each hit 2. Mike Mumston, Reuben Luetchem and Lyle Wendt also saw action for Murdock as they won their third straight of the season.

High Schoolers Entertain Lions

The Lions Club on Thursday evening was pleased to have Mrs. Graham Jones and about 20 of the boys in the high school glee club on the program for the meeting. Marilyn Koop accompanied the group at the piano and Mrs. Jones directed the singers in two lovely numbers, which were greatly appreciated. The singing groups are doing very fine work under the direction of Mrs. Jones.

Journal Want Ads Pay

Keith Drake, Ray Mayfield Earn All-State Honors



Keith Drake



Ray Mayfield

Keith Drake, dynamic Elmwood back leads a host of Cass county sixman gridlers who earned all-state recognition according to selections of the Lincoln newspapers.

Drake, who exhibited his offensive and defensive ability in a mid-season game here was selected by the Lincoln sport writers. The 5-7, 185 pound back led Elmwood to an 8-1 season record including an Apple Bowl win over Sterling and the win over Nehawka at Plattsmouth.

A Nehawka standout, Ray Mayfield, senior end, also rated high in the sixman sport. Mayfield was picked at end on the second team. He was a strong defensive end and excelled as a pass grabber.

Rating honorable mention were Dick Abt of Elmwood, end; Joe Ayers of Eagle, center; Dick Clark of Alvo, Tom Johnson of Nehawka and Larry Hathaway of Union, backs.

Drake's selection was hardly a surprise to followers of the six man sport in Cass county. He was terrific defensively and performed all the offensive chores with equal ability.

Mayfield and Johnson teamed

in Nehawka's aerial game during the season while Clark was a standout offensively for the Alvo Orioles.

Larry Hathaway's selection from a winless Union team speaks well for his play throughout the season.

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Local Hunters Bag 210-Pound Deer at Crawford

Two hunters from the Plattsmouth area have bagged the largest deer of the Nebraska deer hunting season, at least up till Wednesday.

They are Eugene Nolte, of Plattsmouth and John Dietl of Murray, who returned from the successful hunting trip to Crawford where they bagged two fine deer including the 210 pounder, hog dressed. The five-point deer was the first and largest reported at the time they left Crawford for home.

The deer had been checked in at the Crawford checking station at 7:30 opening morning.

Joe Richter, also of Murray, made the deer hunting trip with Nolte and Dietl.

Enters Hospital
Mrs. William Paben of Plattsmouth was admitted to St. Mary's hospital at Nebraska City for treatment and observation.

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