

The Sports Page

Cavs Lose In Overtime

Covenant Giant Proves to be Dangerous Foe

By Joshua D. Schatzle

For the second straight year, the Montreat-Covenant game at McAlister Gymnasium went down to the wire as Covenant walked away winner of a 78-77 battle that lasted 45 minutes.

Montreat was off to a quick start leading for all but a few seconds of the first 10:30, thanks to some hot shooting and solid defense. But Covenant came back to take the lead, and held until Will Mangum's jumper tied the score at 29 with 3:02 remaining in the first half.

Forty-two seconds later, Tim Hulse's basket gave Montreat the lead at 31-29. After Covenant tied the score at 31 on the Scot's superstar forward, Jeremy Luther's, free throw, Aaron Gilchrist hit a jumper with four seconds left on the clock, sending Montreat into the locker room with a 33-31 half-time lead.

The Cavs returned to the floor and took early control of the second half. Maintaining a 40-39 lead, the Cavs sparked a 9-0 run that extended the

margin to 49-39 with 11:59 remaining. The game was far from over.

With just over seven minutes left, Covenant began their comeback. With 1:52 left, Luther drove in for a lay-up, cutting the Cavs lead to 63-61.

Montreat's offense was unable to score on their next two possessions, and with twenty seconds left, Brian Girout sank a jumper tying the game at 63. For the first time in more than 22 minutes, the Cavs found themselves without the lead.

The Cavaliers still had a chance to win in regulation, but were unable to get off a shot before the buzzer sounded. The game went into overtime tied at 63.

Montreat struck first, as Tatum hit a 10-footer to make it 65-63. That was the last lead that Montreat would hold during the game, as Covenant's sleeping giant awoke.

Luther had been held in check all day by a tough Montreat defense, led by Gilchrist. But in overtime, he made up

for his lackluster showing in regulation by draining two three pointers, giving Covenant a 75-71 lead. Then, with less than a minute to go, he sank two clutch free throws, extending the lead to 77-71.

The Cavs refused to give up. Hulse hit a three, making it 77-74, then Covenant's Jake Walls missed the first of two free throws with only five ticks left on the clock. Another miss, and Montreat would be in a position to tie. But Walls hit the second throw to ice the game.

"The loss was tough", said center Jeff Sheets, citing that the loss was the third tough one in their last five games. "We're still fighting. This team has yet to throw in the towel, and we're playing with intensity. There is still the tourney to come, and we're looking forward to that."

The Cavs next home game is against Bryan College on Saturday at 4pm.

Lady Cavaliers Continue to Struggle

By Shellie Bowser

The Lady Cavalier basketball team fell upon hard times Saturday afternoon, falling to Covenant 103-65 at McAlister Gymnasium. The loss dropped the Lady Cavs' record to 3-15 (1-7 in the TVAC).

Covenant dominated from the beginning. The Lady Scots scored 19 of the game's first 24 points, and 29 of the first 38.

Defensively, the Lady Scots' full court press gave Montreat fits, and forced a number of turnovers. Montreat was unable to start converting consistently on offense until Covenant relaxed their use of the press.

Down 29-9, the Lady Cavaliers mounted an 8-0 run, which cut the lead

to 29-17, a 12-point deficit they felt they could overcome. Forward Gina Granger said, "We played more as a team [during the 8-0 run] and were together more than ever then."

But the relentless Lady Scots shot back with their own 7-0 run, which took some of the air out of the Cavalier attack. The lead never dropped below 13 again.

At halftime, the Lady Scots held a 54-34 lead. Sophomore forward Tanya Rowe, who played in her first game since coming back from a knee injury earlier this season, commented, "I thought we played good, but the other team was just hitting everything."

When the game continued in the

second half, the outcome was more of the same for Covenant. Only once in the second half did their lead drop below 20. With 5:17 left, the Lady Scots extended their lead to 30, 87-57. With 1:59 left in the game, Covenant center Angela Heisig hit a free throw to put the Lady Scots in triple digits.

When the final buzzer sounded, Covenant had its biggest lead of the game, 38 points, and Montreat had what amounted to one of their most disappointing losses of the season.

Senior center Amy Harkleroad looked ahead, stating, "We played better as a team and had more confidence and enthusiasm. So it all should come together around the play-offs."