

The Sports Page

Lady Cavs Victorious in First Round of Playoffs

By Christian Malone

Tuesday night, the Lady Cavalier basketball team advanced into the TVAC playoffs with a 73-70 victory over Bluefield in the first-ever playoff game at McAlister Gymnasium.

The first half was a close contest throughout. The Lady Cavs played the first ten minutes without center Amy Harkleroad and the entire first half without guard Erin Broome, their leading scorers, who were benched for disciplinary reasons. But nevertheless, Montreat led for most of the half, and went into the locker room with a 36-30 lead.

Montreat scored seven of the first ten points of the second half to extend

its lead to 43-33. But midway through the half, the Lady Rams began to chip away at the lead.

With 3:22 left, Bluefield's Kelly Karnes converted a three-point play to give Bluefield its first lead of the half, 68-67. Bluefield temporarily had the momentum, but Montreat gained it right back.

Michelle Moore's three-pointer with 59.4 seconds left gave Montreat the lead again, 71-68. With :25.2 left, Crystal Lingerfelt hit a free throw to make it 72-68. Later, a Broome free throw made it 73-70 with seven seconds to go.

With two seconds left, Bluefield's Melissa Cantrell missed a three-pointer,

and Tanya Rowe grabbed the rebound to seal the victory.

Both Broome and Harkleroad made up for lost time in a big way. Harkleroad led the Lady Cavs with 19 points, while Broome added 17 (including four three-pointers) and Lingerfelt 15.

It was a good end to great careers for Broome and Harkleroad, who will retire 1-3 on the school's all-time scoring list (Harkleroad scored her 1000th point last weekend at Bryan).

The Lady Cavaliers traveled to Milligan Thursday to take on the top-seeded Lady Buffaloes (results were not available yet).

Men Prepare for Tournament

By Christian Malone

The men's basketball team, in its final games before the tournament, split a two-game road trip.

Thursday night, the Cavaliers rallied to defeat Bryan 77-73. The Lions scored the game's first ten points, as the Cavaliers struggled on both ends of the floor. But then, Coach Steve McNamara pulled his starters, and the reserves started clicking. The Cavaliers came back to grab the lead, and took a 37-31 lead into the half.

The Lions battled the Cavaliers throughout the second half. But when the buzzer sounded, Montreat had the victory. Tim Hulse led Montreat with 20 points, while Jeff Long added 17.

In the victory, though, the Cavs suffered what could be a huge loss, losing forward Bo Manis to a foot injury in the second half. With Aaron Gilchrist still injured and Long having left the team

to be with his sick brother, Manis' injury further weakens Montreat's already-thin supply of forwards.

Friday, the banged-up Cavaliers fell to a hot-shooting Covenant ballclub 73-58. Covenant led 31-25 at the half, then heated up in the second half, hitting almost everything that left their hand. The Cavs managed to keep Covenant's Jeremy Luther, perhaps the best player in the conference, from having a huge game, but weren't able to stop guard Brian Giroux and forward Jake Walls, who combined for 31 points. Luke Tatum led Montreat with 17, while Will Mangum added 11.

The loss means that the Cavaliers traveled to Bluefield Wednesday for the first round of the playoffs, not an easy test. Captain Jeff Sheets expressed, "Bluefield's a tough team. I know we can beat them, but we'll have to play extremely well.

Upcoming Sports Events

Saturday

1:00 Baseball at V.A. Intermont

1:00 pm Men's / Women's

Tennis at Clinch Valley

Softball at Lander - time TBA

Sunday

1:00 pm Baseball at

VA. Intermont

1:00 pm Paintball

Monday

1:00 pm JV Baseball vs.

Frederick - Home

2:30 pm Men's Tennis at

VA. Intermont

Tuesday

1:00 pm Baseball at N.

Greenville

3:00 pm Softball vs.

VA. Intermont

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