

Sports WEDNESDAY • DECEMBER 20, 2017

Inside:

Bertie basketball

News

Academia



David Friedman

Which Kobe was better?

The Los Angeles Lakers honored Kobe Bryant on Monday by retiring his jersey numbers.

Havingyournumber retired by your high school team would be a big deal for almost anybody. Having your number retired by the same franchise that had "The Logo" Jerry West, Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, James Worthy and Shaquille O'Neal is a massive deal.

It is only after realizing this that you can appreciate just tell how big a deal it is that the Lakers retired both the numbers 8 and 24.

I understand why the organization retired both numbers. Bryant was one of the greatest players to ever play the game and, in his 20 years with the organization. He spent half of it wearing the number 8 and half of it wearing the number 24.

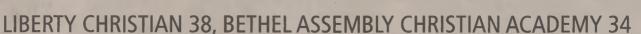
It does bring up the inevitable question though, which Kobe was better?

Number 8 Kobe is the baller that took Brandy to the high school prom. He's the one that came straight to the league out of high school, won the NBA Slam Dunk competition in his rookie year, went on to win three NBA titles and dropped 81 points on the Toronto Raptors. He was first team All-NBA three times and four times was named to the leagues first All-Defensive team squad.

Number 8 Kobe Focked a small afro, Fried to start a rap career and wore Adidas for awhile. He was young, brash and unafraid of anyone. Number 8 Kobe birthed the Black

Mamba. As good as numero ocho was, he was also the rookie that rode the bench behind Eddie Jones and he had the benefit of playing alongside one of the most dominant big

See FOURTH, B4





Bethel Assembly Christian Academy guard Maddie Knowles (in white) tries to maintain her balance as she passes against a double-team from Liberty Christian's Hannah Grayson (No. 3) and Shameya Watson (No. 21) during Friday's game in Askewville.

Eagles go cold against Heat

BY JIM GREEN Bertie Ledger-Advance

ASKEWVILLE - The Heat got hot, and the Lady Eagles went cold.

quarter - including 8-3 5:46 remaining. in the final 4:46 - to de-34 Friday night.

18-all at halftime as the

scoring battle between 28-27 lead, and Gray- away, missing on four Hannah Grayson.

The teams were tied as the Heat rallied. contest turned into a bucket gave Liberty a couldn't put the Heat to play.

made it 30-27, prompt- sion.

free throws, and Maddie left. But Grayson - who Knowles stole a pass ing.

Bethel's Kayley Minton son's basket off a pass straight shot attempts two-shot free throw opand Liberty Christian's from Ashley Denning on their next posses- portunity pulled Bethel

Minton's basket off a ing Eagles' coach Ash- Liberty took a 33-31 with 1:07 left, but Denpass from Lindsey Todd ley Byrum to call tim- lead on an old-fash- ning's basket just seven Liberty Christian used put the Eagles (8-3 over- eout with 5:05 left. ioned three-point play seconds later pushed a 16-9 run in the fourth all) ahead 27-26 with Minton converted two by Grayson with 4:07 the lead back to five,

feat Bethel Assembly scored 16 of her team- and went the distance game from Deja James free throw with 37.8 Christian Academy 38- high 23 points in the for the go-ahead basket, made it 35-31. Bethel accounted for the final first half-had some help 31-30, with 4:46 remainthen missed three more point for the Heat. attempts to pull closer Shameya Watson's The Eagles, however, with under two minutes

Minton's front end of a within three (35-32) and the Eagles turned it The only basket of the over at 48.1. Denning's

Bethel just couldn't

See EAGLES, B4

LIBERTY CHRISTIAN 78, BETHEL ASSEMBLY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 65

Big deficit too much for BACA boys



Bethel Assembly Christian Academy's Caleb Simmons (No. 15) and Mason Dunlow try to defend Liberty Christian's Joseph Magollon (No. 20) during Friday's game against the Heat.

BY JIM GREEN Bertie Ledger-Advance

Oliver combined for 3-pointers. 63 points and 10 of the

all) had plenty of bal- sive rebounds. ance on offense as 22-point deficit in the vantage. third quarter proved its final game before the Christmas holidays.

Beckwith led the Heat with 25 points including a pair of 3s, while **ASKEWVILLE** - Liberty Conner added 21 points Christian's 'big three' of and three triples. Oliver Damon Beckwith, Isaiah tallied 17 points - 15 of Conner and Cameron them coming on five

Liberty started hot team's 11 three-point- and stayed hot most of ers in a 78-65 victory the first half. In addition over Bethel Assembly to six triples, the Heat Christian Academy Fri- were able to score several times in transition The Eagles (7-4 over- and as a result of offen-

A 12-2 run in the final four players scored in 2:06 of the first quarter double figures, but a gave Liberty a 26-11 ad-

A basket from Caleb too much to overcome Simmons off a turnover for the home team in cut the deficit to 14 (29-

See BOYS, B4

Bertie Ledger-Advance congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.



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Athlete of the week

> BHS Basketball Alden Cottle

