



SPORTS

Boys basketball continues to pull ahead

BY MOLLY ZANLEY

The Bears beat Redford Union 28-25 on Friday January 9, bringing them to a 5-2 record.

Going into the Redford Union game on January 9, the boys basketball team was very confident. But, that confidence soon faded after a slow start, ending the first half tied, 11-11.

"I think we will do very well and we should win," junior forward Ryan Zimmers said before the game.

Senior center Mickey Bozymowski agreed that they thought the game was going to go well.

"I feel good. It's at home and it's a league game," Bozymowski said.

With their normal large and enthused crowd in absence, the Bears were feeling the heat, as Redford Union's score kept moving up, as the Bears struggled. By the end of the third quarter, the score was 22-16, Redford Union.

"It was a really boring game and so no one was making their shots," senior point guard Andrew VanDierenDonck said.

But early in the fourth quarter, the Bears went on a run, restoring their confidence. This was made clear when VanDierenDonck missed a dunk, but senior power forward Andrew Matt was there to put back the miss, and boost the Bears, putting them down two with seven minutes to play.

"I think Andrew V is our leader pretty much and he's doing good and being a good example for everyone else on the team," sophomore small forward Mitchell Kell said. "We've been practicing hard and working together as a team and we've just been improving on the little things."

The little things are what made this team come back and really push themselves for this win. With several lead changes throughout the fourth quarter,

the Bears were finally able to pull, winning the game, 28-25.

"We played pretty good defense but offensively, we were terrible," VanDierenDonck said.

Over the break, the team had a tournament at Carlson where they played against Southgate on December 22 and then against Carlson on December 23.

The team beat Southgate, 55-43, but had a close loss to Carlson 69-64.

"We did good in our first game against Southgate but I think we could of done better in our loss to Carlson... we did not really do what we hoped to do," Kell said.

Zimmers agrees about how the Carlson Tournament turned out.

"We performed well the first game [Southgate] and the second game [Carlson] we kind of just beat ourselves. We got out rebounded and just didn't play as well as we wanted to," Zimmers said.

Zimmers thinks that Southgate was their best game yet.

"It's always good beating Southgate because they're our rival," Zimmers said.

Bozymowski thought differently on whom the team's best game so far was against.

"Highland Park [was the best] because it was our first league win and got league play started off right," Bozymowski said.

The team feels it is on track with their hard earned wins against teams like Highland Park, Southgate, and Redford Union. They will face Dearborn Fordson on January 20 at 7:00.

"It should be a good game," VanDierenDonck said about Fordson.



Crowds like at the Riverview game in the picture shown above, were not as plentiful at the Redford Union game because of the snow. But, sophomore guard Mitchell Kell still played hard and the team earned a win. Photos: Molly Zanley



Rough start poses challenge for girls basketball

BY EMILY NOBLE

The girls varsity basketball team lost to Southgate 63-35 and Carlson 55-39 over break, and fell again to Ypsilanti, 45-40, on January 6, bringing their record to 3-5. But Coach Dean Creech maintains a positive outlook on the remaining season.

"The season has had its growing pains and we are struggling to play consistently well," said Creech. "We are getting ready for the bulk of our league games and I look forward to making progress in the areas we are working on."

Senior center Rebecca Taylor believes the team is going to do well despite their losses.

"[The season has] been going good. We've had some struggles as a team because we lost a lot of positive players from last year, but I think we'll be okay," said Taylor.

Creech thinks that the team has made a fair amount of progress since December.

"I think some of the girls as individuals have progressed and improved, I think as the team matures, more progress will be made," said Creech.

Junior forward Catherine Laboe believes that even with the progress the team has made, there is room for development.

"As a team, I think we've come pretty far, but we also need improvement," said Laboe.

Creech feels that there is definitely room for improvement within the team.

"We are trying to improve our shooting percentage and become more consistent," Creech said.

Taylor keeps the team's goals in mind when thinking of ways for progress.

"[We need to work on] rebounding and we still want to win districts," said Taylor.

Creech acknowledges the players that have been playing well, trying to lead the team.

"Katrina Johnson and Kayla Creech have been very consistent for us and sophomore Becca Carley has been playing very well," said Creech.

The girls continue their season against Romulus on January 19, Dearborn on January 22, Lincoln Park on January 27, and Truman on January 30.



Junior center Courtney Thorington defends the key with the help of her teammates as Ypsilanti prepares to inbound the ball under their net. Photo: Emily Noble