

Lady Pirates open with blowout win

There was a hint of uncertainty in the air when the Platte County girls' basketball team took the floor for the first time Monday night in the opening round of the Winnetonka Tournament.

All-state center Morgan Johnson, nursing an elbow injury, was not in the starting lineup. Neither was junior point guard Ashton Stubbs, who is sidelined indefinitely with a hamstring injury.

Two PC freshmen — Kelsey Knox and Taylor Johnson — were on the floor for the opening tip-off. In the end, everything turned out just fine, though.

Platte County blitzed the host Winnetonka Lady Griffins 25-4 in the first quarter and went on to a 66-21 victory.

“It was a pretty typical first game,” Platte County coach Chris Stubbs said. “We rushed at times, but when we settled down, we played very good defense.”

Platte County seemed a tad jittery at the outset and fell behind 2-0. But Cheyenne Verdoorn then hit a three-pointer from the left wing and the Lady Pirates were off and running — literally. Platte County administered a relentless full-court press that produced numerous turnovers and fast-break opportunities.

“Winnetonka was very big and we took advantage of our speed,” Stubbs said. “We had over 15 steals.”

After its big first quarter, Platte County led 39-8 at halftime and 55-14 after three periods.

Stubbs substituted early and often and 10 Lady Pirates saw significant playing time.

Melissa Breedlove led in scoring with 10 points, followed by Verdoorn with nine, Morgan Johnson, eight, and Lyndsie Sellars, Knox and Molley Cantu, six points apiece.

Platte County was scheduled to play in the semifinals at 8 p.m. tonight (Wednesday) versus Raytown. The tourney title game is set for 8 p.m. Thursday and the third place game is 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Lady Jays rusty in season opener at Cameron

The West Platte girls basketball team was one of the first area teams to kick off the new season with a game at Cameron Nov. 19, and the Lady Jays showed some rust in a 45-27 loss.

West Platte kept it close at the beginning and was down by only one point, 9-8, after the first quarter, but scored only one point in the second period. The Lady Dragons were not much more successful, scoring only four points in the second quarter, but they outscored West Platte 14-5 in the third quarter and 32-18 in the second half.

“We made some good shots in the first quarter but didn't shoot the ball well overall,” West Platte coach Dave Bridger said. “They had more players and wore us down as the game went on. We're disappointed in losing, but there were some positive things to build on and there's a long season ahead.”

Katelyn Keith led the Lady Jays with eight points, while Tessa Gillis added seven points.

West Platte had games scheduled for Nov. 26 at DeKalb, for Nov. 27 against St. Mary's and for Nov. 29 at home against St. Joseph Christian. The Lady Jays will then play North Platte in the opening round of the KCI tourney at 4 p.m. Saturday.