

Basketball fans get their money's worth at Centerville Junior High Tournament

Centerville was THE place to be this weekend as local junior high schools basketball team competed for area braggin' rights. Both gyms at CHS were filled throughout the three-day tournament, and many fans ran back and forth in order to catch both the boys and girls in action.

7TH GRADE BOYS
Buffalo's seventh grade boys dominated their bracket. A forty-point win over Teague and another big victory over Franklin (44-16) put the Bison into Saturday evening's championship game with the youngest Leon Cougars. Both teams were talented and skilled beyond their years, so fans enjoyed a high-scoring finale. Buffalo led by five at halftime, 25-20, but in the second half the Bison, sparked by Tyler Adams, Brendon Smith and Logan Jones, pulled away for a de-



Bison 7th graders Brendon Smith (#33) and Bobby Dorman battle the Leon Cougars for possession. Van 'Go' photo

cisive 61-32 victory and the tournament championship.

8TH GRADE BOYS
Buffalo drew a tough spot in the bracket in their opening game on Thursday afternoon, and the eighth grade Bison suffered their first loss of the year as they bowed to Teague in a low-scoring defensive battle. The Lions and Bison were tied after one quarter. Teague pulled ahead by five at halftime and stretched their advantage to nine after three quarters. The Bison fought back to within 5, but Teague finished on top, 29-24. The Bison were led by Travis Cunningham's ten points which included a trio of three-pointers.

In their second game, the Bison faced Leon. Buffalo dominated the Cougars, leading 19-2 at halftime and going on to take the win 33-16. Cunningham, with 20 points,

again led all scorers.

In their final game on Saturday afternoon, BJHS and Franklin faced off to battle for the 3rd place trophy. The Bison jumped out early and led 12-6 after one quarter and a comfortable 29-17 at halftime. The third quarter belonged to the Lions, however, and they clawed their way back into the game and had pulled to within one point, 30-29, going into the final period. The score was tied up several times in the fourth quarter, but in the final minute Cain Hayes had a bucket, a quick steal and



Bison 8th graders bring home 3rd place trophy

a free throw that gave the Bison the momentum they needed to clinch the win, 39-38. Hayes led his teammates with 12 points, followed by Ty Tollett with 10 points. The team from Teague won the 8th grade division and the Centerville Tigers took second place.

Jr High Bison face toughest district foe

by Vanessa Goodwyn

The undefeated junior high boys faced their strongest district opponents on Thursday night at the BJHS gym when the New Waverly Bulldogs came to town.

THE EIGHTH GRADE
Bison were playing their first game without injured point guard Tate Hartley, and they had their work cut out for them from the beginning whistle.

Travis Cunningham and Cain Hays both knocked down three-pointers in the opening period, but the 'Dogs were still right on their heels at the end of the quarter, 13-10. Cunningham had a huge second quarter and by halftime BJHS had stretched their lead to a more comfortable twelve-point advantage, 29-17.

In the third quarter, however, the Bulldogs lived up to their name and tenaciously fought their way back into the game, outscoring the Bison 19 to 8. Their momentum carried into the final quarter as well, and New Waverly took the lead. With only seconds left in the contest, BJHS trailed

by three points. Cunningham launched a long shot and the home crowd went wild when it drained the net to send the game into overtime.

BJHS owned the extra three minutes and managed to keep their perfect season alive with a 49-47 win.

Cunningham led all scorers with 23 points. Jose Dominguez scored 8, Trent Little added 7, Hays contributed 6 and Dominic Jackson had 5 to complete the scoring for the Bison.

THE SEVENTH GRADE
game was a good one, as well. Balanced scoring by four Bison gave BJHS a solid first quarter, but the Bulldogs proved to be equally talented and answered them bucket for bucket, to knot the score at 16-16 after one period of play. Logan Jones sparked the Bison into the lead in the second, however, and BJHS was up 26-20 at the halftime break.

Tyler Adams had the hot hand for BJHS in the third and the Bison had stretched their lead to twelve going into the final quarter. There it was Brendon Smith who anchored

the attack and BJHS chained up the Bulldogs, 50-35.

Smith led all scorers with 19 points. Adams and Jones followed with 15 and 12, respectively. Bobby Dorman contributed 8 and Trent Martin tacked on a bucket for BJHS.

The Bison travel to Centerville for their next district game on Thursday, 1-22.



Van 'Go' photo

Travis Cunningham led the 8th grader Bison to a come-from-behind victory over New Waverly.

Gaskin. Katie Glick and Shelby Ballard provided a strong inside presence for the Lady Bison. Scoring leader Hannah Lanningham drew a special defensive alignment throughout the night after her exhibition in their previous encounter.

The eighth grade contest promised to be quite a ballgame after the two teams' first meeting earlier in the year. Buffalo took an early lead, edging ahead 12-10 after the first six minutes. New Waverly exploded for fifteen second quarter points to lead 25-18 at the half. Not ready to give up, Buffalo climbed back into the contest with a twelve-five third quarter run to tie up the game at 30. The Lady Bulldogs scored another thirteen in the final minutes for the 43-36 win.

Raven Lott and Kylan Ferguson both reached double figures for the Lady Bison. Lott ripped the nets for sixteen points while Ferguson bucketed ten. Ana Lopez and Zelnisha Lockett each added four. Tara Reeder tacked on two. Shelby Reeder provided exceptional defense prior to being whistled for her final foul.

The 7th grade Lady Bison are 6-1 on the season while the 8th grader boasts a 6-2 slate.

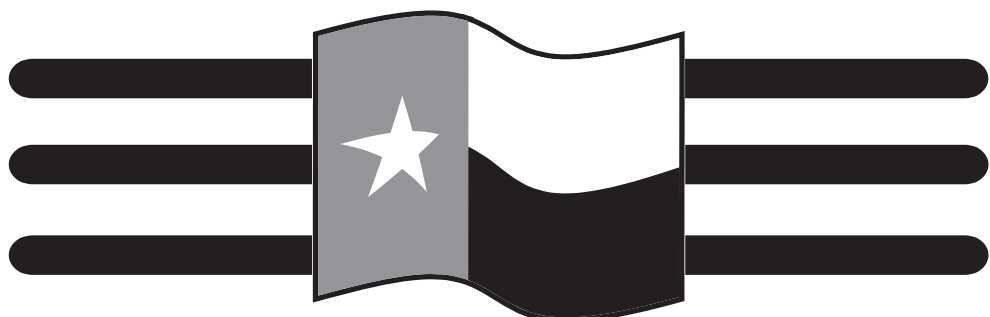


Hannah Lanningham launches a jump shot for the 7th grade Lady Bison.

See next week's Press for coverage of the Junior High girls' tournament action!

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