

Blackhawk steals stymie Lost Nation

By STEVE SIGAFOOSE
Nonpareil Sports Editor

DES MOINES — The keys to Nishna Valley's 77-69 Class A State quarterfinal win here Monday over Lost Nation was to ignore and concentrate.

First, the Blackhawks had to ignore the setting.

"I was nervous before the game," admitted senior guard Mark Huston. "It was hard to shoot and the floor had some dead spots."

"I didn't know if the kids were coming out of the lockerroom or not for the game," said Coach Doug Deskin. "We told them, it was the same basketball game, there were just a few more people around the court."

Once the Blackhawks reached the floor at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, the club did not give a vintage first-half performance and trailed 43-39 at halftime.

"That's a lot of points to give up," said Huston. "We were

getting killed on the boards and not playing defense. We weren't playing good."

"We've always told the team," said Deskin, "that it's a long game with ups and downs. We had a dry spot, offensively, late in the first quarter and early in the second. Defensively, we were not pleased, that was below average."

"At halftime, we just talked philosophy. We needed to start helping out and playing better defense. We needed to concentrate and pick up the intensity."

THE BLACKHAWKS DID just that. Steals by Andy Straight and Huston started a 17-3 run that lifted Nishna Valley into a 56-46 lead. Straight had another steal and Chad Erickson stole a pass during the run. Straight and Huston had six points each while Erickson and Jason Jahnke added buckets.

"I don't know what loosens them up," said Deskin. "We just wanted

them not to walk out of here without giving their best effort."

To their credit, Lost Nation battled back. Three Toby Mullins buckets and a three-point bomb by Cary Gruenwald sliced the difference to two by quarter's end. Still, "I think our run in the third quarter was a key," suggested Erickson. "We knew then we could take over."

In the opening minute of the final stanza, the Bobcats twice got within one, the second at 59-58 on a Mullins' bucket.

But Huston sank an one-and-one with 6:51 left to start a 10-0 Blackhawk run. Steals again played a role as Jahnke and Straight came up with thefts. Straight had four points with Jahnke added a bucket and Scott Huston two free throws.

The closest Lost Nation could come in the final four minutes was eight.

"WE WERE ALL RIGHT the first half," said Lost Nation Coach Bryce Smeins. "But Nishna Valley played better defense in the second half. They have some of the best athletes we've seen all season."

Part of the defense came from Straight, who "did a good job," said Deskin, "of getting a hand in 25's (Gruenwald) shot."

Gruenwald, who led Lost Nation with 25 points, gave a valiant effort despite re-injuring a separated shoulder. A 42 percent shooter during the season, Gruenwald made just five of 14 in the first half and fell to four of 18 (22 percent) in the second half. But his half-dozen three-point goals stung the Blackhawks.

"We knew 25 was a good shooter," said Erickson. "In practice, we had the JV throwing up those long shots so we could work on those rebounds the long shots create. Then we made sure everyone went to the boards in the second half."

"Gruenwald's a good athlete," added Deskin. "We knew we had to get into his face. But it was obvious he wasn't 100 percent."

Mullins finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds in a good effort. Mark Schmidt came off the bench for the Bobcats and contributed 10 points and three rebounds with some quality playing time.

Lost Nation finished the year 19-5.

DESPIKE A GAME-HIGH 27

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points on 10 of 15 shooting, this was not a vintage Mark Huston performance. Still, the 5-foot-6 guard's quickness bugged the Bobcats.

"Huston was as quick," said Smeins, "as advertised. He's not the best guard I've ever seen, but he's close."

Jahnke played a low-key, steady game. The senior was the most consistent performer, finishing with 19 points and 11 boards.

Straight finished with 16 points and seven rebounds. Erickson and Scott Huston, eaching battling early foul troubles, added the remaining points. Both had seven rebounds while Scott Huston sank six of nine free throws.

"I think the overall key," added Deskin, "was our quickness and jumping ability. But I never felt in total control of the game. I was waiting to see that scoreboard time read 0:00."

The victory gives Nishna Valley a 25-0 mark to take into Thursday's 12:15 p.m. semifinal against Wellsville-Steamboat Rock (23-0), a 70-41 winner over Boone United.

"It feels good to get the first one out of the way," said Scott Huston. "Now we get two more games. All I want to do is keep playing."

"This just feels great," added Erickson.

NISHNA VALLEY (77)
 Scott Huston 2-6 6-9 10, Andy Straight 8-18 0-0 16, Jason Jahnke 9-15 1-2 19, Chad Erickson 2-6 1-2 5, Mark Huston 10-15 5-7 27, Chad Sowers 0-2 0-0 0, Scott Jones 0-0 0-0 0.
 Totals 31-42 13-20 77.

LOST NATION (49)
 Chad Snyder 2-5 0-0 4, Cary Gruenwald 9-22 1-2 25, Gary Brady 1-3 0-2 2, Monte Kann 1-3 2-3 4, Greg Rickels 3-4 4-4 11, Toby Mullins 5-9 3-5 13, Mark Schmidt 4-6 2-2 10. Totals 25-64 12-46 69.

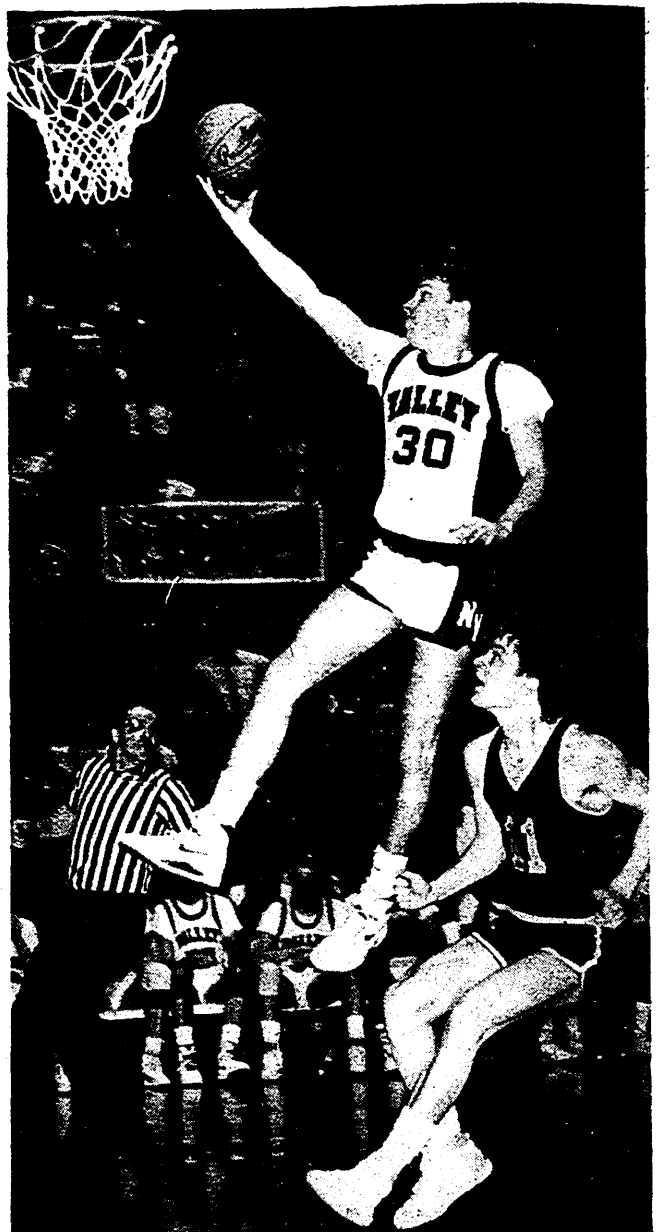
Nishna Valley 19 20 17 21 — 77
Lost Nation 19 24 11 15 — 49

3-point goals—Nishna Valley 2-11 (M. Huston 2-3, S. Huston 0-2, Straight 0-2, Erickson 0-2), Lost Nation 7-26 (Gruenwald 6-23, Rickels 1-2, Mullins 0-1). Fouled out—none. Rebounds—Nishna Valley 41 (Jahnke 11), Lost Nation 40 (Gruenwald 11). Total fouls—Nishna Valley 17, Lost Nation 16.

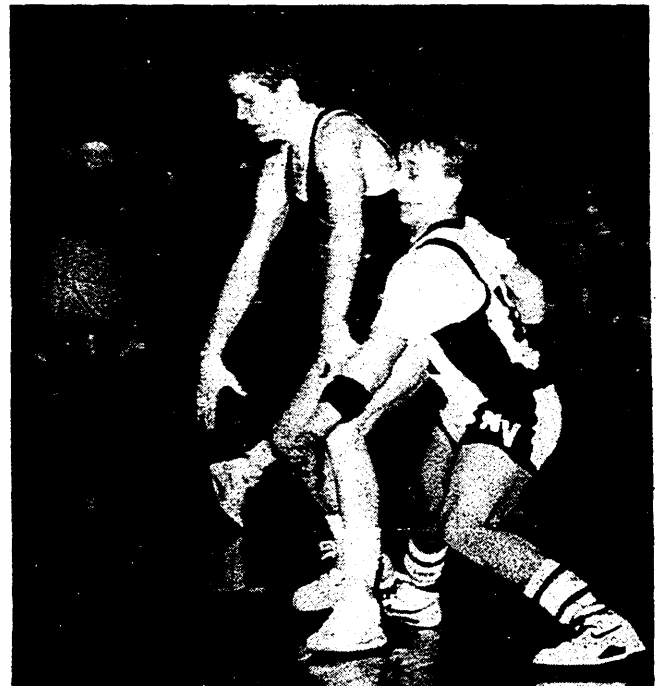
Palmer stays hot

DES MOINES (AP) — Brian Pearson scored 40 points as No. 1-ranked Palmer won its 77th straight game, downing Kalona Iowa Mennonite, 98-80, in Class A quarterfinal play at the Boys State Tournament Monday.

Pearson scored 28 points in the first half and finished 15-for-23 from the field. The 6-foot-1 senior was eight of 12 on 3-pointers. Troy Skinner added 25 points as the Panther moved to 25-0 for the season.



Nishna Valley's Andy Straight glides past Lost Nation's Greg Rickels to make a layup in the Blackhawks' 77-69 victory Monday in the first round of the 1988 Class A state tournament. Straight scored 18 points for Coach Doug Deskin's team. — Nonpareil photo by Mike Condon.



Nishna Valley's Mark Huston (right) pokes the basketball away from Lost Nation's Cary Gruenwald during the Blackhawks' 77-69 win Monday in the first round of the 1988 Class A state tournament in Des Moines. Nishna Valley plays Wellsburg-Steamboat Rock at 12:15 p.m. Thursday in the state semifinals. — Nonpareil photo by Mike Condon.

Balance key to Falcons, Gaels

By TIM WOODS
Nonpareil Sports Writer

Balance has been the name of the game whenever St. Albert or Fort Dodge St. Edmond has taken the court in boys basketball this season.

A look at two vital statistical categories of the two teams is proof enough.

In scoring:

For Falcons are averaging in double figures — Chris Hanafan, with an average of 13.3 points per game; Brian Ratigan, 11.6; Trent Holmberg, 11.3; and Nate Schnitker, 11.0.

As a team, St. Albert (22-1) is averaging 69.8 points an outing.

The Gaels also have a balanced attack.

Joe Huss, a 6-foot-3 senior forward, averages 17.4 points an outing; Mike Lentsch, a 6-3



Mike Kavars

sophomore, is at 15.0; Scott Nevenhoven, a 6-1 senior, averages 10.9; and Dan Fuller, a 5-11 senior, is at 10.5 points.

As a team, St. Edmond (18-5) is averaging 67.7 points per game.

THERE IS BALANCE in both teams' rebounding as well.

For St. Albert, Ratigan averages 6.0; Holmberg is at 5.6; Hanafan, 5.5; and Schnitker, 4.1.

For St. Edmond, Lentsch has a 7.4 average; Huss is at 7.2; and Nevenhoven has a 4.3 norm.

"I guess we are pretty similar," Falcons Coach Mike Kavars said. "We sound pretty much alike, at least."

Gaels Coach Dave Collison added, "I do know that St. Albert's got a great basketball team, and I like to think we're pretty good too. It sounds like we do a lot of the same things well."

The two teams square off Wednesday at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines in the first round of the 1988 state tournament. Tipoff time is set for

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Cinderella Lynx face Kennedy

By TIM WOODS
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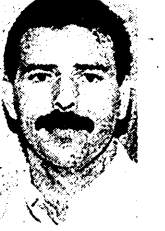
A week or so ago, Abraham Lincoln boys basketball Coach Dan Koch was talking about his team's chances in the upcoming 1988 Iowa Class 3A state tournament.

"I wouldn't mind finishing under .500 and being state champion," the first-year Lynx coach said, smiling.

A.L. will bring an 8-14 record into its first-round game Wednesday against Cedar Rapids Kennedy, which was rated No. 2 in the final Associated Press poll and is 21-1.

Koch knows that, as much as the Lynx have relished playing the role of Cinderella, their continuing in the part will depend on beating one of the best teams in Iowa.

"OBVIOUSLY, Kennedy looms as a very big hurdle for us to clear. They're a very good



Dan Koch

basketball team," Koch said. "We feel like they're standing in our way. I don't know how far we're going to go at state, but they do stand in our way."

All five of the Cougars' probable starters Wednesday — seniors Randy Johnson, Doug Simpson, Dave Unkrich and Ben Pierson, and junior Jason Laube — average in double figures.

"Kennedy is very experienced, and very balanced. They've got a lot of weapons," Koch said. "There's no question that they're going to be very difficult for us to beat. But we're going to do our best to try. Not one of our kids are going to get on those vans or buses not wanting to win."

Cougars Coach Arnie Zediker said, "A.L.'s one of the biggest stories of the tournament so far. They may have struggled during the regular season, but you only have to put things together at Tournament Time, and they've done that."

"It doesn't matter what A.L.'s record is. All that matters is that they've made it to state," Zediker added. "We're expecting a very tough game from them."

Tipoff time at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines is scheduled for 1:45 p.m.

St. Albert statistics

Name	fg	fga	pct	ft	fta	pct	tp	avg	reb	f	st	ast	to
Aaron Walter	69	144	47.9	41	69	59.4	179	7.8	67	52	43	66	58
Brian O'Connor	40	95	46.3	23	36	62.9	111	5.6	33	38	11	36	32
Chris Hanafan	122	192	66.5	61	97	62.9	306	13.3	127	50	38	39	40
Trent Holmberg	101	178	56.7	47	64	73.4	249	11.3	124	41	32	39	43
Nate Schnitker	91	205	44.4	47	73	64.4	253	11.0	95	49	81	64	41
Brian Ratigan	86	144	59.7	36	52	69.2	208	11.6	108	36	25	20	21
Chad Kavars	59	139	42.4	33	47	70.2	173	7.5	43	41	29	30	48
Doug Rew	31	67	46.3	8	17	47.1	77	3.3	21	26	21	41	32
Mike Honaker	15	42	35.7	14	21	66.7	44	2.0	27	17	15	6	15
Tony Kruse	4	8	50.0	3	4	75.0	11	1.0	2	4	1	3	2
Dale Scott	0	3	00.0	3	6	50.0	3	0.2	11	2	0	0	2
Matt Witzke	5	7	71.4	3	4	75.0	13	0.6	7	3	1	0	0
Andy Gilbranson	0	0	00.0	0	0	00.0	0	0.0	1	2	0	1	1

Three-point goals: Schnitker 24-60; Kavars 22-44; Rew 7-21; Hanafan 1-2.
Totals: 54-127, 42.5 percent.

THE COUGARS HAVE one of the most successful records in recent state-tournament history.

The 1983-84 team, paced by all-state and future University of Iowa standout Al Lorenzen richest, won the state crown.

Before that, Kennedy won the title in 1972, placed third in 1973 and qualified for state in 1971, 1975 and 1979.

"The Cedar Rapids area has had an outstanding tradition over the last 10 years, and Kennedy has had a lot to do with that," Koch said. "They've won a pair of state championships, and generally have been very competitive year after year."

There have been seasons in which an outstanding individual — for example, Lorenzen in 1983-84 — has paced the Cougars.

This has not been one of those campaigns.

Johnson, a 6-foot guard, averages 16.7 points a game. Also, Laube, a 6-3 forward, is at 12.6; Simpson, a 6-1 guard, averages 12.4; and Unkrich, a 6-2 forward, and Pierson, a 6-3 center, both have 10.4 norms.

"This is one of the more balanced basketball teams I've ever coached," said Zediker, who guided Ames to an unbeaten

record and the Class 3A state crown in 1975-76. "Obviously, that's what you'd like. We feel like we've got a lot of options when we have the basketball."

"We're short in comparison to A.L., but we've got some awfully good athletes who really get after it," he said.

THE LYNX, meanwhile, may have the state tournament's outstanding individual player in 6-8 senior Kevin Nixon, who averages 28.1 points and 10.4 rebounds an outing.

Zediker said the Cougars simply must make Nixon work for his points, and not let the other A.L. players rise above their normal contributions.

"You know you're never going to stop a great player like Nixon completely," he said. "But you don't want him to score 42, either."

"The thing is, you need more than one good player to make it to state," Zediker added. "You beat two rated teams like (No. 5) Harlan and (No. 7) Ames, and you've got a lot of kids playing well."

KOCH SAID that regardless of what happens Wednesday, he

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Laurels for Grayer; Iowa's Armstrong

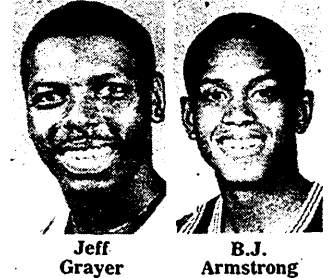
NEW YORK (AP) — Seniors Gary Grant of Michigan, Hershey Hawkins of Bradley and Danny Manning of Kansas top the 1987-88 Associated Press All-America basketball team.

The team:
 First Team: Sean Elliott (6-8, Jr.) Arizona; Gary Grant (6-3, Sr.) Michigan; Hershey Hawkins (6-3, Sr.) Bradley; Danny Manning (6-10, Sr.) Kansas; J.R. Reid (6-9, Soph) North Carolina.

Second Team: Danny Ferry (6-10, Jr.) Duke; Jeff Grayer (6-5, Sr.) Iowa State; Steve Kerr (6-2, Sr.) Arizona; Jerome Lane (6-6, Jr.) Pittsburgh; Mark Macon (6-5, Jr.) Temple.

Third Team: Fennis Dembo (6-5, Sr.) Wyoming; Sherman Douglas (6-0, Jr.) Syracuse; Byron Larkin (6-3, Sr.) Xavier, Ohio; Will Perdue (7-0, Sr.) Vanderbilt; Michael Smith (6-7, Sr.) Brigham Young.

Honorable Mentions: Dana Barros, Boston College; Ricky Berry, San Jose State; Rex Chapman, Kentucky; Derrick Chievous, Missouri; Derrick Coleman, Syracuse; Hank Gathers, Loyola, Calif.; Harvey Grant, Oklahoma; Skip Henderson, Marshall; Troy Lewis, Purdue; Don Majerle, Central Michigan; Vernon Maxwell, Florida; Darryl Middleton, Baylor; Todd Mitchell, Purdue; Dyron Nix, Tennessee; Darren Queenan, Lehigh; Mitch Richmond, Kansas State; David Rivers, Notre Dame; Lionel Simmons, La Salle; Charles Smith, Pittsburgh; Rik Smits, Marist.



Jeff Grayer B.J. Armstrong

B.J. second team

IOWA CITY (AP) — Iowa's B.J. Armstrong headed the All-Big Ten second team named by the Associated Press Monday, while Roy Marble and Kent Hill were given honorable mention.

The first team was topped by Michigan guard Gary Grant, a repeater from last year. Teammate Glen Rice, Indiana's Dean Garrett and Purdue's duo of Troy Lewis and Todd Mitchell completed the first team.

Joining Armstrong on the second team were Shon Morris of Northwestern, Everett Stephens of Purdue, Nick Anderson of Illinois and Jay Burson of Ohio State.

Grayer All-Big 8

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Iowa State's Jeff Grayer was a first-team pick on The Associated Press All-Big Eight basketball team. Former Harlan High School star Scott Wilke, now at Colorado, was a second team choice.

The 1987-88 squad:
 First Team: Danny Manning, Kansas, Sr., 6-10; Mitch Richmond, Kansas State, Sr., 6-5; Jeff Grayer, Iowa State, Sr., 6-5; Harvey Grant, Oklahoma, Sr., 6-8; Derrick Chievous, Missouri, Sr., 6-7.

Second Team: Stacey King, Oklahoma, Jr., 6-10; Mookie Blaylock, Oklahoma, Jr., 6-0; Ricky Grace, Oklahoma, Sr., 6-1; Scott Wilke, Colorado, Sr., 6-9; Lafeister Rhodes, Iowa State, Sr., 6-8, 200.

Honorable Mentions: Lee Coward, Missouri; Doug Smith, Missouri; Steve Henson, Kansas State; Richard Dumas, Oklahoma State; John Starks, Oklahoma State; Mill Newton, Kansas; Henry T. Buchanan, Nebraska.

Deadlock in NHL

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota and Montreal tied 2-2 in the only NHL game Monday. Montreal defenseman Chris Chelios scored 2:22 into the third period while the Canadiens had a two-man advantage to tie the game at 2-2.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hawk trio champs

INDIANOLA — The Council Bluffs Hawks youth wrestling team had three champions among the 11 qualifiers for the USA State Folkstyle youth tournament over the weekend.

9-10 year olds: Qualifiers: Shawn Wallis (60 pounds); Eric Wallis (70).
 11-12: First: Jeff Bellows (70); Brian Wallis (75). Sixth: Jason Wold (65). Qualifier: Steve Deakins (85).
 13-14: First: Shannon Barrier (Hwl). Second: Jason Putnum (120). Fifth: Wade Bell (155). Sixth: Scott Peck (165). Qualifier: Danny Foote (110).

Lynx place in track

Abraham Lincoln had four girls place in the state indoor track meet over the weekend at the Drake Fieldhouse in Des Moines.

Bab Roth was seventh in the high jump at 4-foot-10. Erka Ulmer was ninth in the shot put at 32-11. Suzette Nunez was 12th in the 1,500 yards in 5:40.3 and Abby Wilmoth was 14th in the 3,000 in 12:43.8.

Tourney on tap

A men's slowpitch eight-team tournament is slated for March 19-20 with a \$65 entry fee. To register, call 322-5884 after 5 p.m.

Rams post win

The Council Bluffs Rams youth girls basketball team defeated a team of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson frosh, 45-37, Sunday at A.L. Cathy Mauer led the Rams with nine points while Jill Hovinger, Jacque Hughes and Susan Wells had six points each.

Tiffany Barents had 12 points and Molly Spann 10 for the T.J./A.L. team.

Wilson drops finale

DES MOINES — Wilson's seventh-grade girls basketball team lost its final game of the season, falling to Marshalltown 40-29 in a weekend AAU Tournament. Angie Koch led Wilson with 10 points and Nicole Farrack added eight.