

CLASS 3A SUBSTATE BASKETBALL

Wildcats capture substate championship

For the first time since 2017, the Burlington Wildcats are substate champions. The Wildcats and Lady Wildcats hosted the Class 3A Substate tournament in which they competed. The Wildcats finished their run 3-0, while the Lady Wildcats dropped a quarterfinal heartbreaker and finished 0-1.

Wildcats' Victory

BURLINGTON — The Wildcats faced off against rival Wellsville in the championship game Saturday, March 7. Wellsville's Eagles scored the first points of the game, but Burlington had the lead by the end of the first quarter, going up 14-9. That lead expanded by only one point by halftime, when the Wildcats took a 29-23 lead into the locker room. In the third quarter, much of Burlington's lead evaporated as Wellsville made a run at them, but the Wildcats found momentum and were up 42-34 going into the final quarter. Though Wellsville continued to try to fight their way out of the deficit, the Wildcats were in it to win it and topped the Eagles 21-16 in the highest-scoring quarter of the game to emerge victorious and capture the substate championship, 63-50.

"Playing any team three times in one year and winning all three is quite a feat," Burlington coach Matt Barrett said. "When it is your rival, Wellsville, for a chance to go to the state tournament, it makes it that much tougher. I am so proud of our guys for gutting out a third win against

a very good Wellsville team. We have kind of flown under the radar and been the underdog all season long. It has been something our guys have really taken and used as motivation. We have not been ranked all year; no one gave us much of a chance to win the Pioneer League after losing the majority of our scoring from last season. I am almost positive that no one ever expected us, before the season started, to make it to the state tournament."

Brian Payer scored a game-high 18 points for the Wildcats. Andrew Haselhuhn, Parker Meats and Braden Sloyer finished with nine points each, and Carter Hegwald chipped in six.

On the boards, Meats Sloyer and Brennan Brown led with seven rebounds each. Hegwald grabbed five rebounds and Haselhuhn caught four. Brown made three steals, Sloyer and Trevr Bahr each made two and Haselhuhn, Payer, Noah Smith and Max Kuhlmann each made one. Haselhuhn led in assists with four, while Bahr had three and Smith and Sloyer each had two.

"These guys relished the role of being the underdog all year long," Barrett said. "I have never had more fun coaching a group as I have had with these guys. They truly don't care who scores or fills up the stat sheet. They just want to win. They are a tight knit group on and off the court. They truly root for each other, and I have had hardly any issues with kids not dealing well



Katie McMurray/The Republican
The Burlington Wildcats hoist high in celebration the plaque they received as substate champions after defeating rival Wellsville 63-50 in the championship game Saturday, March 7.



Katie McMurray/The Republican
Burlington's Easton Burns shoots for two late in the fourth quarter of the semifinal game between the Wildcats and Osage City Thursday, March 5.

with their playing time. These guys know and accepted their role. They are a very coachable group, but above all, they play with 110 percent effort every time they hit the floor."

The Wildcats will travel to Hutchinson for the Class 3A State tournament. They have earned the No. 5 seed with an 18-5 record and played No. 4-seeded Galena (18-5) in the quarterfinal round Wednesday, March 11. The winner will play the winner of a game between No. 1-seeded Haven (21-2) and No. 8-seeded St. Marys (13-10) in the semifinal round 8:15 p.m. Friday, March 13. Games for the championship and third place will be held Saturday, March 14, at 6:15 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively.

"We hope that Burlington will continue to rally along the side of these guys and have a good showing at Hutch," Barrett said. "They have earned everything that has come their way, the outright Pioneer League title and the Substate Championship. We honestly don't feel we are done. We are ready to go out and make some noise at the state tournament."

In the semifinal round, the Wildcats took on Osage City. They led by seven points going into the second quarter and expanded that lead to double digits by halftime, when they held a 41-29 lead. In a close third quarter, Osage City



Katie McMurray/The Republican
Wildcat Max Kuhlmann guards Osage City's Gunner Fort during semifinal play.



Katie McMurray/The Republican
Braden Sloyer shoots against defense from Wellsville's Jackson Showalter in the championship game.

edged Burlington 22-21, but the Wildcats topped them by eight points in the final quarter to come away with the 76-57 win.

"This game was definitely closer than the final score indicates," Barrett said. "Early on, Osage City was getting the ball inside with ease, because we got away from our game plan. They also were pretty

hot from the three-point line. After some adjustments, we did a much better job of limiting their second chances and making the post entry passes for them a bit tougher, but the biggest factor in this game is we were able to establish our temp and one of our biggest strengths of the season really paid off, that being our depth. We were able to run some fresh legs at them in the second half at a point in time when both teams were pretty tired."

Haselhuhn put up 17 points for Burlington. Brown tal-

lied 14 and Bahr and Payer each scored 12. Sloyer led in rebounding, hauling in seven rebounds. Meats grabbed five and Brown took four. Bahr and Haselhuhn each had six assists, while Meats and Hegwald each had two and Brown, Sloyer and Payer each had one. Haselhuhn made five steals, Bahr made four and Brown made three.

Prior to the substate semifinal game, the Wildcats faced West Franklin in the

See **Cats**, Page 16



Gary Lowman/The Republican
Grace Hess puts up a shot from between Osage City's Sara Davis and Jordan Sage (20) during the quarterfinal game between Burlington and Osage City Monday, March 2. Burlington fell, 36-30.



Katie McMurray/The Republican
The combined BHS basketball and wrestling spirit squads perform a dance at halftime of the semifinal game between Burlington and Osage City.



Katie McMurray/The Republican
The BHS Band plays "Wildcat Victory" following Burlington's big win in the substate championship game.



Gary Lowman/The Republican
Harlee Young tries for a two-point basket as Osage City's Hayden Serna defends during the quarterfinal game between Burlington and Osage City.



Katie McMurray/The Republican
Above, the BHS student section cheers after a basket was scored by the Wildcats during the championship game Saturday. At right, after the game and after the presentation of the plaque, they celebrated with Wildcats. At left, many students and other fans brought posters they made to show their support for the Wildcats to both the semifinal game and the championship game.



PUBLIC AUCTION

10 A.M. • SATURDAY, MARCH 14
3820 Nebraska Dr. • Ottawa
 From Ottawa, North 1 mile on Old Hwy. 59 to Sand Creek Rd. then 3 miles East to Nevada Rd. then 1-1/2 miles North to Nebraska Drive then West 1/2 mile. Watch for signs.

TOOLS – SHOP EQUIPMENT – H.H. ITEMS
PARTIAL LISTING – MANY ITEMS NOT LISTED
CONCESSIONS BY COUNTRY FIXINS

- A.C. 6070 Diesel, W.F., 3pt. W/ Bush Hog
- 2400 QT Loader
- I.H. 666 Hydro, gas, W.F., 2pt.
- 2000 Ford Excursion, 5.4L, V-8, 4x4
- Portable Grain Auger, 3" x 12"
- A.C. 82R Sickle Mower, 3pt., 9' - 7'
- Priefert Squeeze Chute
- 30 Hog Panels
- 15 Cattle Panels
- 6 Pipe Frame Cattle Panels
- Various Size Gates
- 4 Hay Elevator Feed Bunks
- 6' x 6' Square Hay Feeder
- 2 Country Line Gates, 12' - 14'
- 12 Country Line Panels, 12'
- 1 Country Line Walk Thru
- Sucker Rod
- Priefert Head Gate
- Misc. Pipe
- High Tensile Wire Tighteners & Wire
- Livestock Supplies
- Manual Tire Machine & Spreader
- Electric Fence Supplies
- Antique Red Star Brass FireEx
- Shelves
- ATV Seeder, 12V
- John Deere Umbrella
- Charcoal Grill
- Hot Point Electric Range
- Kingsford Charcoal Grill
- Murray Yard Tractor, 14.5 HP, 42", Auto
- 3 Vintage Wood Benches, 8' & 10'
- Garden Table & Chairs
- Craftsman Radial Arm Saw
- Delta Band Saw
- Homeco Figurines
- Woman's Golf Club
- GE Side-By-Side Ref. W/ice maker
- 2 Folding Wood Tables, 12'
- Antique Coal Bucket
- 3-Gal. Crock Butter Churn
- Cook Books
- Coca Cola Pop Crates
- Kitchen Plates & Supplies
- Antique New Home Trindle Sewing Machine
- 4-Wheel Wagon
- 4 Pride of the Farm Hole Hog Feeders
- Kory Gravity Wagon w/J.D. Gears
- Pride of the Farm Bulk Bin
- Knoedler Auger Wagon
- Grain Wagon w/Hoist
- N.H. 254 Hay Tedder, 3pt. PTO
- M&W Hay Clipper, HC7 Disc Mower, 3pt., 9'
- I.H. #37 Wheel Disc, 9'
- Cultipacker, Pull Type, 3 Sections, 12'
- Farm Star Grass Seeder, 3pt., PTO
- Farm Star Post Auger, 3 pt., 12' Auger
- King Kutter Blade, 3pt., 7'
- King Kutter Landscaping Rake, 3pt., 7'
- B.J. Creep Feeder, 1500# Capacity
- 2 Pipe Frame Hay Saver Bale Feeders
- 2 Round Bale Hay Savers
- Oval Stock Tank, 3' x 10'
- Poly Water Tank
- 3 Mineral Feeders
- 80 Used T Posts, 5-1/2'
- 200 Electric Fence Posts
- 2 Rolls Woven Hog Wire, 30"

Sellers: Marshall & Kathy Wootten
 For complete listing and pictures see
www.kansasauctions.net

SALE CONDUCTED BY:
HAMILTON AUCTIONS
 Mark Hamilton • Buddy Griffin, Williamsburg
 (785) 214-0560 • C • (785) 759-9805 • H