

Posted on Sat, Jan. 14, 2006

## COURTSIDE REPLAY

Game balls

### BOYS

**Blake Cantu, L.D. Bell:** The sophomore guard leads the Blue Raiders with 26 points in a 60-45 loss to District 6-5A leader Coppell.

**Dylan Thompson, Grapevine:** Sixteen players score in Grapevine's 63-48 win over Richland, but none has more than Thompson, whose 23 points help keep the Mustangs (17-7, 5-0) in first place in District 5-5A.

**Tommy Smith, Fort Worth Christian:** The Cardinals' third-leading scorer is tops in the team's 68-49 win over Dallas First Baptist. Smith scores a team-high 20 points, twice his average coming in, for Fort Worth Christian (19-7).

### GIRLS

**Katelyn Kirkpatrick, Colleyville Covenant:** The junior forward is one of 10 Lady Cougars who scores in the team's 87-25 win over Hill School. Kirkpatrick, Colleyville Covenant's leading scorer, had 25 points in the TAPPS 4-2A win.

**Kelsea Lyda, Fort Worth Christian:** The senior guard leads the Lady Cardinals with 26 points in a win over Dallas First Baptist.

**Kendal Ford and Whitney Gipson, Birdville:** The duo combines for 42 points in the Lady Hawks' overtime victory over Azle. Both players double their average output, as Gipson (11 points a game) leads the team with 22 points and Ford (9.5) adds 20.

### Long distance

The Dallas First Baptist girls collapsed on Fort Worth Christian's interior players, at times double- and triple-teaming Rachel Rentschler and Dita Liepkalne under the basket. So how did the Lady Cardinals respond?

Fort Worth Christian (21-7) not only shot from the outside, but shot well, connecting on 13 of 21 3-point attempts in its 90-48 win. Senior guard Kelsea Lyda (26 points) hit all seven on her 3-pointers. Guards Kat Kundmueller and Heather Wright combined for five 3-pointers, while Liepkalne and Rentschler made one each.

As a result of the interior defense, Liepkalne and Rentschler were able to find open shooters along the perimeter. The two combined for 10 assists. Kundmueller led the team with eight assists.

### Balanced scoring

The Nolan Catholic boys beat Weatherford Express 79-51, getting contributions from most of the roster. Eight players scored eight or more points for the Vikings (23-3). Sidney Henggeler, Jacob Strittmatter Brian Chapin and Andrew Robinson each scored nine points.

The Carroll girls were nearly as balanced in their 51-37 District 5-5A win over Keller (13-12, 3-4). Four players reached double figures for the Lady Dragons (16-10, 6-1), as Regan Soldner led the team with 16 points. Rachel Schlosser scored 13 points, while Casey Phillips and Kristi Eveland each had 10.

### By the numbers

62 Points, the margin of victory for the Colleyville Covenant girls over Hill School. The Lady Cougars led 28-2 after one quarter en route to the 87-25 win. Ten Colleyville Covenant players scored; Hill School didn't reach double figures in any period.

40 Points, the Winning margin for the Colleyville Covenant boys over Hill School in a 71-31 win. Fernando Garcia had 18 points as the Cougars outscored Hill School 21-4 in the first quarter.

15 First-half lead changes between the Colleyville Heritage boys and Denton Ryan. The Panthers (9-9, 5-0 District 5-5A) won 54-49.

11 Richland boys who scored in their loss to Grapevine. The Rebels had two players -- Carlos Cooper and Ryan Ray -- reach double figures, while five others had two points each.

6 Missed first-half foul shots for the L.D. Bell girls in their 44-41 loss to Coppell. The teams entered tied in District 6-5A.

1 Third-quarter point scored by St. Paul's in its 86 -12 loss to the Bedford Christian boys (23-1), who had three players score 12 or more points.

## District happenings

The Trinity girls stayed perfect through the first half of District 6-5A, beating South Grand Prairie 52-43. Chantol Drennan led Trinity with 17 points, and Shaunice Orabo added 15. The Lady Trojans (17-8, 7-0) have eclipsed last season's win total (14-17) and could be heading to their second undefeated district title in three seasons.

The Grapevine and Colleyville Heritage boys, who are scheduled to face each other Friday, stayed perfect in District 5-5A. The Mustangs (17-7, 5-0) beat Richland 63-48, while the Panthers (9-9, 5-0) beat Denton Ryan 54-49.

The Birdville girls broke the second-place tie in District 7-4A, beating Azle 73-67 in overtime. Azle jumped out 11 -6 in the first quarter, but Birdville came back to force overtime. Birdville (14 -10) is now 6-1 in district play, one game behind first-place Seguin.

Just as the Keller Central girls were knocked out of a first-place Tuesday, the Lady Chargers returned the favor Friday. The Lady Chargers (17-6, 6-1) beat Frisco (10-10, 6-1) 48-46 on the road to ensure that 9-4A will be tied at the top of the standings going into another week. Sonya Sundberg, who led Keller Central with 17 points, had seven steals and five rebounds.

## On tap

Most area teams begin the second half of district play Tuesday. Here are a few key games to look for:

**Irving girls at Trinity, 6 p.m.:** The first-place Lady Trojans won a close game (42-40) the last time these two met, and Irving could use this game to chip away at Trinity's hold atop District 6-5A.

**Birdville boys at Eastern Hills, 7:30 p.m.:** As District 7-4A takes shape, this game features two of the district's top teams. Birdville is allowing 48 points a game, while Eastern Hills is giving up 60 points.

**Argyle Liberty girls at Fort Worth Christian, 6:30 p.m.:** There isn't much keeping the Lady Cardinals from another TAPPS 1-5A title, but Argyle Liberty is 17 -8.

-- Angel D. Verdejo