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Cubs outrun Sands to win 68-51

The Brownfield Runnin' Cubs did exactly that Thursday night in Round 2 of the Fibermax Caprock Classic, outrunning state-ranked Sands with a blistering pace to take the convincing win, 68-51, and advance further in the championship bracket of Texas' largest annual basketball tournament.

The Cubs were outsize against Sands, who suited up players measuring 6'7", 6'5" and 6'2", but the opponents quickly ran out of steam against Brownfield's fast, full-court style of play.

The opening quarter of the game was neck and neck with Brownfield jumping out to an early lead, but Sands showed their mettle and hung close. At the end of the first frame, the Cubs led by just two points, 18-16.

The Cubs maintained their smothering full-court press and lightning-fast offense to widen the gap in the second quarter, which frustrated the Sands players, coaches and fans.

Midway through the second, Cub Cole Garcia broke away for a lay-up and was hammered from behind by Sands' Caleb Thomasson, sending him sprawling to the floor.

The shot fell though and the referee called an intentional foul, putting Garcia

on the charity stripe with two shots.

Moments later, Sands head coach Billy Grumbles was assessed a technical foul, setting up another pair of free throws for the Cubs.

With time dwindling in the half, Cub Shaun Paiva went after a loose ball along with Sands guard Monty Timmons.

Timmons threw an aggressive elbow that grazed Paiva and was immediately ejected from the game, putting the Cubs on the free throw line yet again.

At the end of the contentious half, Brownfield was on top, 42-27.

A visibly-winded Sands team came back out after halftime, but the Cubs never let them challenge in the second half.

After three, Brownfield was on top, 56-39.

At the final buzzer, the Cubs had the win, 68-51.

Shacolby Hill led the Cubs' offensive efforts with 22 points and two assists, as well as four rebounds on the night.

Garcia followed up with 11 points and an assist and tallied a game-leading seven rebounds.

Korey Nolan pitched in with 10 points and two assists, followed by

Ricky Rodriguez with eight points and a pair of assists.

Eliseo Salas had five points and five assists on the night.

Jordan Demps and Ryan Caballero both had four points and Demps had two assists in the game.

Shaun Paiva and Malcolm Rainwater both had two points against Sands. Paiva added an assist and five boards, while Rainwater pulled down four rebounds.

The Cubs hit seven of 15 from the free throw line for just shy of 50 percent.

Brownfield had nine steals on the night.

"That was a great effort from start to finish tonight," said Cubs head coach Dustin Faught. "That's what I know we're capable of and that's what I want to see every time we take the court. I'm proud of these guys and we had fun tonight."

The Cubs moved farther right in the championship bracket with the win and were set to take on Panhandle at 3 p.m. Friday in the tournament quarter finals.

More details will be available on the web at brownfieldonline.com and facebook.com/brownfieldnews.



Brownfield Cub Shacolby Hill broke loose for a slam dunk late in the game against Sands in Round 2 of the Fibermax Caprock Classic held this weekend in Lubbock. The Cubs defeated Snyder in Round 1 and Sands in Round 2 to advance further into the championship bracket.

Lady Cubs fight hard in tourney

The Brownfield Lady Cubs were trailing Panhandle by as much as 22 points in the second half of their opening game in the Fibermax Caprock Classic.

But the Lady Cubs turned up the heat and fought back to within two points with a minute remaining in the action-packed game.

They dropped the nailbiter by four points at the final buzzer, but everyone in the gym was impressed with the Lady Cubs' never-say-die attitude in the fourth quarter.

"That last quarter was probably the best this team has ever played and I'm proud of them not only for that, but also for finding that within themselves after being down so far," said head coach Derek Faught. "That's something I hope they realize they can do if they dig down and play hard. It's something we can build on."

In the first quarter, the Lady Cubs got down 9-2, but rallied back to close the frame trailing by only one point, 11-10.

Panhandle widened the gap in the second quarter with an 18-10 scoring run to take a 29-18 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The third quarter saw the score tilt further in Panhandle's favor, up 47-30 heading into the final frame.

But the Lady Cubs fought hard throughout the fourth quarter, outscoring Panhandle 28-15 to claw back into the game, but they ran short on time before they could snatch the win away.

The Lady Cubs were led by Tessa Hope with 22 points on the night, including a trio of three-pointers.

Ashley Zambrano followed up with 14 points, while Mallorie Ellis had six and Gaby Aviles put up five.

Sloane Holt was good for four points, Lexi Cruz had three and Madison Ellis and Tabby Castenada added two each.

The Lady Cubs were back on the court at 10:30 Friday morning against Midland Christian in Game 1 of the consolation bracket.

Details will be available on the web at brownfieldonline.com and facebook.com/brownfieldnews.



Lady Cub Gaby Aviles fought for a loose ball in Game 1 of the Fibermax Caprock Classic held this weekend in Lubbock. The Brownfield girls dropped the nail biter of a game to Panhandle and were set to advance in the consolation bracket Friday and Saturday.

STAAR standards coming in January

By JOSIE MUSICO
Staff Writer

Passing standards for the new STAAR exams should be released by late January, and in August Brownfield Independent School District will have a new accountability rating.

Results for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) standardized tests were released near the beginning of the school year, but could only be described as raw numbers of how many questions students answered correctly on each exam. Until the Texas Education Agency determines passing standards, it's probably still too early to know much about what those numbers mean.

Because the new process for issuing accountability ratings - which are based largely on a school district's percentage

of students who pass the state standardized tests - has not yet been announced, schools will be issued the same accountability ratings for the current school year as they were for 2011-12. Therefore, Brownfield district-wide will remain Academically Acceptable. Schools and campuses that were named Academically Unacceptable - as were Brownfield High School and Oak Grove Elementary School - will not be further penalized when they receive the same negative rating again.

TEA media spokeswoman DeEtta Culbertson told the *Brownfield News* her agency was still considering options for the accountability ratings, from whether to continue rating school districts from Academically Unacceptable through Exemplary to creating a new system of terminology such as "Passing" and "Not

Passing." The rating system will be approved in March, Culbertson said.

This year's junior class will still take the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests in the spring, after which those exams will be completely phased out.

STAAR is considered more challenging than TAKS, with emphasis on the Texas Education Agency's college-readiness standards. And unlike TAKS, STAAR exams have a time limit of four hours each.

Texas students will take 12 end-of-course STAAR exams throughout their high school careers, each in one of four core areas - English, social studies, math and science. As opposed to TAKS, which focuses mainly on material covered during that particular school year, STAAR exams tend to be more cumulative. The fifth-grade science test, for example, contains material students might have been introduced to years earlier.

And while high school-level TAKS tests were administered by grade level and in generalized subjects such as "Freshman Math" and "Junior English/Language Arts," the end-of-course STAAR exams tend to be more concentrated within their subject areas. Students will take the STAAR tests that pertain to the courses they took that year, regardless of their grade level.

For instance, a student enrolled in Algebra I, English I, Biology and World Geography his or her freshman year will

take those particular STAAR tests that spring. And if a student takes a course before or after the majority of his or her class is likely to take it - such as an exceptionally bright freshman who is able to take Physics, for example - he or she will take that STAAR science exam rather than the Biology exam most of the other freshmen are taking.

Sophomore and junior TAKS-takers must pass those tests their junior year to meet state graduation requirements. Under STAAR, however, a student's eligibility to graduate will depend on a not-yet-determined standard reached from the scores from those 12 high school end-of-course exams averaged together.

The STAAR will also count toward 15 percent of students' final grade in each course in which they are tested, although Brownfield's school board recently approved a state-allowed waiver to delay that 15-percent grading requirement until next year.

As with TAKS, students who do not pass STAAR will have retesting opportunities.

School administrators have been preparing for STAAR by toughening-up their curriculums and focusing on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills educational guidelines. To meet their goals of parental involvement, they have hosted special events such as Family Math Night last March at Oak Grove Elementary School.

Broncos open tourney with loss

Meadow suffered a 57-66 Floydada loss Thursday afternoon in their opening round of the Caprock Tournament, and unfortunately didn't anticipate any easier games through the rest of the competition.

The Broncos traded leads with the Whirlwinds early in the game Thursday in Frenship's Tiger Gym, but turnovers

and missed shots from both the field and the free-throw line kept them down between three and 10 points the last full three quarters.

"We didn't rebound very well, and not being able to make free throws got us again," said head coach Kyle Johnson. "(But) overall I thought we thought we played a lot better than we did the

week before Christmas, and we're going to spend all of next week on fundamentals, trying to get better."

Scorers included Christian Herrera 5-0 3-4 13, Zach England 6-0 1-4 13, Brandon Flores 2-0 5-9 9, Tyler Harrison 3-0 1-4 7, Ralph Urias 3-0 6, Trey Herrera 2-1 7 and Adrian Flores 1-0 1-1 3.



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