

Tigers Outlast Jeffries and Alton, 58-54

By DON PLASKI
Telegraph Sports Editor
WOOD RIVER — "He deserves to be seen. Now people around the state won't get to see him play. He's something to see." — Ralph Sterrett, Alton High School coach.

"If he doesn't make all-state I'll certainly be surprised. He's a wonderful player. I haven't seen many players any better. I'm just glad he wasn't in there at the finish." — Bob Gregor, Edwardsville coach.

The player they were talking about? Mike Jeffries, a 6-3, 215-pound brute of a lad who played his heart out Friday night in the championship game of the Wood River Regional Basketball Tournament.

Jeffries finished on the losing side. Yes, Edwardsville, the tourney favorite, rated seventh in the state and now owner of a 24-3 record, won the big game, staving off Alton, 58-54, in a thriller that left all of the 3600 people who crammed into Memorial Gymnasium limp or hoarse.

Victors for the second straight year in the Regional, the Tigers now advance to their own Sectional next Thursday night where they'll take on Belleville East, surprise winner of the Cahokia Regional.

It was Jeffries who almost single handedly brought the Redbirds back from near extinction in the last quarter. Alton trailed by 10 points, 52-42, with six minutes left.

The lead looked like money in the bank with Edwardsville's tenacious defense and deliberate offense.

Jon Harris had just tipped in a shot for Edwardsville when Jeffries began his assault on Edwardsville. He picked the defensive 'backboards clean. When Alton went on offense, he shook off three defenders clustered around him.

His layup made it 52-44. Jerry Schwear of the Tigers was fouled and hit.

Jeffries missed in close but got his own rebound and showed it back in. Terry Middleton stole a stray Tiger pass and went in for a layup. Jeffries pulled down another rebound and when center Stan Burton missed underneath, Jeffries leaped over two Tigers, grabbed the ball and jumped in the basket. It was 53-50 with over four minutes left. Alton was back in contention and had the momentum.

Middleton fouled out and was replaced by Don Koppenhaver. Harris missed his shot and this time it was Burton who got the rebound.

A bad pass gave the ball back to Edwardsville and Harris was fouled. This time he was true with both for a 55-50 lead and 3:58 remaining.

The Redbirds looked to Jeffries. He had the answer. Another jumper made it 55-52. Edwardsville tried to put the ball in the freezer but threw it away. The ball went to Jeffries, he drove and hit and Alton was down by a point, 55-54, with 1:54 remaining.

With 1:32 left, Harris was fouled. He hit one, missed the second and, yep, Jeffries got the rebound. Hardimon, who was far off shooting form after hitting 27 and 26 in two previous tourney games, missed a long one handed. Harris got the rebound.

Edwardsville lost possession, the Redbirds hurried down the floor and Burton missed a shot one. Then it happened! Jeffries was called for a foul as he went up for a rebound with Harris. It was his fifth. He looked at the official, Ted Search, in disbelief as he reluctantly raised his hand and trotted off the floor.

The Redbirds were without their leader, but they fought back. Harris missed the free throw, and Alton got the rebound. Hardimon charged and the ball went over to Edwardsville.

The Tigers stalled until Schwear was fouled by Hardimon, his fifth foul.

Schwear missed. Alton rebounded and called time. Eight seconds were left. With time back in, Koppenhaver took an inbounds pass, dribbled to the free throw lane and fired a pass to Burton, who had a step on the Tiger defenders. The ball bounced off Burton's knee out of bounds. Bedlam on the Edwardsville side.

With a second to go, Burton fouled Harris and he dropped in both shots.

"That play with Koppenhaver driving and passing off to Burton was a gamble," said Sterrett. "But, Don released the ball too late, too hard and too low. Just one of those things. You can't blame him. He did what he was told. It's just unfortunate the pass got away."

Sterrett was, quite naturally, dejected after the game.

"You hate to finish a game like this with your best player on the bench," he muttered in obvious reference to the fourth and fifth fouls called on Jeffries. "Jeffries pumped in 14 baskets and didn't shoot a free throw. He didn't shoot a free throw. Sterrett expressed surprise.

"I can't believe he wasn't fouled," he said. "As many times as he went inside and not getting a foul! I'd like to have counted the times he was fouled when he was going to the basket. That's ridiculous."

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rebounded, 28-17, the Tigers had a better shooting night than Alton — 21 baskets in 40 tries for 53 per cent to the Redbirds' 23 of 49 for 47 per cent.

Alton did a creditable job on Marlin Guswelle, the Tigers' high scorer with an 18-point average. He managed nine against the 2-1-2 zone of Alton, a defense "we have been working on for a week prior to the tourney," according to Sterrett.

Gregor confirmed Sterrett's statement. "Yes, they did a heck of a job defending against us on the inside," he said. "But, our defense was adequate. Anytime you hold Alton to 54 points, you're doing a pretty good job."

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A rharubg got the second half off to a start. Ahart, who had left in at the start of the third quarter. When the tip went up and four seconds had elapsed, the buzzer blew and the official scorekeeper, Fred Scharf, motioned for the officials.

Scharf told Search that Ahart had not reported.

"It doesn't matter now," said Search. "The second half has started and no technical foul can be called once the clock has run. It had to be called to our attention before the tip when the officials give the signal for the half to be started."

Sterrett was at the scorer's table wanting a technical foul to be called on Ahart for not reporting. Gregor joined in, wanting to know what the trouble was.

When the storm subsided, no technical foul was enforced and Edwardsville, which had won the tip, got the ball out of bounds.

"That's the second time it happened to us in the tourney," said an irked Sterrett. "It happened Thursday night against Granite City. Instead of us getting a technical shot, the ball out of bounds and maybe a basket, they score. That's like a five-point play, only we come out on the short end."

The third quarter was a poor one for Alton. It managed just eight points as Edwardsville forged to a seven-point lead at 32-25 and was content to play control ball.

Seven seconds before the end of the quarter, Schmidt hit a layup to give the Tigers an eight-point bulge, 46-38.

Ahart wound up Edwardsville's top scorer with 15 points. It had 13 points from Schwear, who played well against Alton in all three victories this season over the Redbirds. Schmidt finished with 10 points.

Both teams finished with 16 turnovers, Edwardsville getting 11 of its mistakes in the second half.

Alton, which loses four of its five starters, finished with an 18-10 record. Only returning regular next season will be Caldwell, who will be a junior.

TOURNEY NOTES: Jeffries hit five of six shots in the second quarter and in that last period before he left, he hit six of eight shots.

Jeffries, whose older brother, Larry, was named All-America at Trinity (Texas) College earlier in the day, led all rebounders with 12.

There was standing room only for the game. Five hundred tickets that went on sale an hour before the game were quickly gobbled up.

Among the college scouts watching the game was one from the Naval Academy.

It was the second straight year Edwardsville has beaten Alton in a Regional thriller. Last year, Tom Dezori's last-second basket sent the game into overtime with the Tigers emerging victorious.

East Lancers Win Cahokia Regional, Face Edwardsville

By BOB HERTZ
Telegraph Sports Writer
CAHOKIA — The Belleville East Lancers won the IHSA Regional Tournament held here Friday night as they whipped the Crusaders of Belleville Altoff, 69-56, before a packed house.

The Lancers, who finished the regular season of play with a 17-8 record, won three games in the eight-team regional. In the first round they beat Venice and in the second round beat favored Assumption.

The Lancers now progress to the Sectional to be held in Edwardsville.

Althoff gained its seat in the

finals last night by beating East St. Louis in the first round and Belleville West in the second round. It went into tournament play posting a respectable 15-10 ledger for the season.

The Crusaders went down honorably, though, and gave East a run for its money in the contest. Although the spread of the final score was 13 points, Althoff really didn't play up to par.

The story of the game through out most of the contest, was a duel of ball control and taking the sure shot. As the score would indicate, the Lancers played a better game with 6-3 Junior forward Ken Swenson scoring 24 points. Most of Swenson's points were scored underneath.

The Lancers passed until Swenson would break clear of his defender under the basket.

The Crusaders had the lead in the game only once. They scored the first point of the contest on a free throw by Jack Voss. Voss finished the game with 12 points.

From there it was Harold Brewer scoring a bucket to make it 2-1 favor of the Lancers and Althoff never caught up with East.

The Lancers finished the opening period with only 11 points. Brewer did the most damage to the Crusaders in the period with five points.

East blew its top in the second quarter. It amassed the highest quarter point total of the evening with 24 points. The Crusaders scored 12 points in the second period. Althoff really told the story.

Swenson scored 11 of his 24 in the period. East hit 14 of 24 field goals in the first half for 58 per cent.

The Crusaders hit seven of 26 from the field for 27 per cent.

In the first half it was evident that Althoff wasn't playing a good defensive game, especially in close where Swenson scored all his points.

The Crusaders sent out a team that averaged 6-2 against a team that averaged an even six feet. Rebounds for the first half had the losers only ahead by one.

At halftime the score was 35-21, East's favor.

The Lancers slowed down and the Crusaders picked up a little momentum in the second half. Althoff scored 35 points to 34 for the victors.

East sank an amazing 11 out of 18 for 61 per cent.

The Lancers, for the game, hit 25 of 42 field goals for 59 per cent!

The only department the Crusaders beat the Lancers was in rebounds. Height told the story in this category with Althoff pulling down 27, the Lancers 17.

Sectional Pairings

- SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)** — Sectional pairings and records in the Illinois State High School Basketball Tournament:
- At Arlington Heights**
Maine South (18-5) vs. Wheeling (19-5)
Waukegan (20-5) vs. New Trier East (19-6)
 - At Aurora East**
Elgin (22-4) vs. St. Charles (20-6)
Aurora East (22-5) vs. Wheaton Central (9-15)
 - At Carbondale**
Carbondale (23-3) vs. Meridian (26-2)
Centralia (22-6) vs. Sparta (22-5)
 - At Decatur**
Taylorville (19-8) vs. Lincoln (21-5)
Decatur Eisenhower (26-3) vs. Lanphier (21-7)
 - At Dixon**
Rockford West (22-2) vs. Fulton (21-3)
Freeport (11-12) vs. Dixon (13-13)
 - At Edwardsville**
Hillsboro (19-7) vs. Triad (18-9)
Belleville East (20-8) vs. Edwardsville (24-3)
 - At Eldorado**
Metropolis (19-7) vs. Eldorado (19-6)
Mount Vernon (20-4) vs. Benton (18-10)
 - At Harvey**
Thornton (23-3) vs. Bloom (23-4)
 - At LaGrange**
LaGrange Lyons (20-5) vs. Timothy Christian (25-3)
Proviso East (24-1) vs. Glenbard East (19-2)
 - At Moline**
Kewanee (19-15) vs. Galva (18-6)
Galesburg (22-2) vs. Alleman Rock Island (24-2)
 - At Normal**
Pontiac (16-11) vs. Streator (15-11)
Normal Community (24-2) vs. Mendota (23-4)
 - At Olney**
Paris (24-3) vs. Lawrenceville (22-5)
Mattoon (13-13) vs. St. Anthony Effingham (20-7)
 - At Peoria**
Forman (24-2) vs. Lewistown (18-8)
San Jose (28-0) vs. Peoria Spading (23-2)
 - At Quincy**
Jacksonville (18-8) vs. Warsaw (12-14)
Jerseyville (21-6) vs. Quincy (23-5)
 - At Urbana**
Clifton Central (25-2) vs. Danville (15-11)
Champaign Central (25-2) vs. Rossville (26-2)

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The Lancers finished