

# Sports Connection

## Rough and Tough Wildcats

by Miranda Knake

The Wildcats are rockin' on through some rough and tough games. The Cats took on teams like Monticello, Ed-Co, Beckman, and Anamosa last week.

February 1st the Panthers from Monticello paid a visit to the varsity girls basketball team. The Wildcats pounced on the Panthers with a final score of 55-40.

"In this game we had a good fourth quarter on defense and offense," stated Coach Pestka.

Kelli Dabroski led in scoring with 19 points from seven shots and five free throws. Amy Conrad added 14 points to the score with seven shots and two free throws. Michelle Tumey made eight points at the game and Megan Kramer put in six points. Krista Steger and Melissa Wegmann each earned four points for the Cats. The Wildcats had a free throw percentage of 65 at the game against Monticello.

February 4th the girls took on Ed-Co. The Cats had a total of 10 turnovers at the game and 14 rebounds. It was a very close game, as Ed-Co came out on top by one point. The final score: 51-50.

"We had a very slow game on offense and we were really out played until the fourth quarter," commented Coach Pestka. "We just couldn't defend tonight."

Kramer was the lead scorer with 16 points from seven shots and two free throws. Conrad followed her with 14 points from seven shots. Dabroski added 11 points and Tumey added seven from two shots and three free throws. Wegmann made two free throws at the game for two points.

After the girls' close game with Ed-Co, the varsity boys took the court. The Wildcats attacked with an impressive final score of 83-45.

"Ed-Co attempted to control the tempo of the game and had early success," remarked Coach Rundquist. "A good defensive effort by the Cats eventually forced turnovers which created the final point

spread."

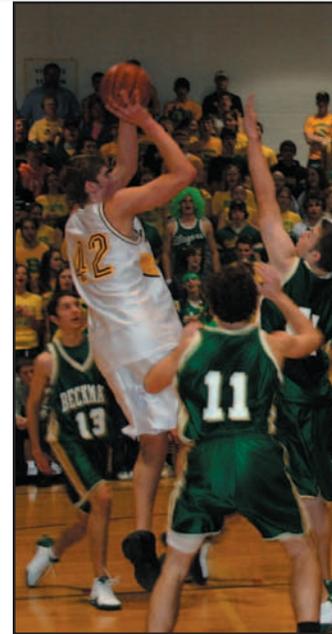
Jonny Thomas earned 20 points for the Cats from five shots including one three point shot and three free throws. Blake Humpal and Robbie Mohr each added 16 points to the score against Ed-Co. Making nine points was Donny Nordmann from three shots and three free throws. Chris Klaren added seven points from three shots which included a three point shot and Philip Roling added five points. Jake Norlin made three free throws for three points and Tony Ries made one three point shot for three points. Brett Huber and Jeremy Dircks each earned two points for the Cats. The Wildcats had a free throw percentage of 80 and a goal percentage of 51.9.

Saturday, February 5th, both varsity teams took on the Beckman Blazers at home. The final score of the girls' game was 39-36, Wildcats, and the final score of the boys' game was 66-60, Wildcats!

Concerning the boys' game, Coach Rundquist stated, "This is the first time all season we trailed after the first quarter. We made some defensive adjustments which allowed us control in the second and third quarters. This was a great game with a tournament style atmosphere!"

The Wildcats had a free throw percentage of 82.8 at the game. They had a total of 13 turnovers and 27 rebounds. Thomas led the team once again earning the Cats 22 points. Nordmann made four shots, including two three point shots, and three free throws for 13 points. Humpal added 12 points to the score and Mohr added 10 points. Jake Norlin made two shots and two free throws for six points and Philip Roling added three points.

The varsity girls fought for a victory against Beckman last Saturday night. Notice earlier the three point gap in their final score, Dabroski made the game winning three point shot at the buzzer! The Wildcats had an impressive free throw percentage of 100 percent, but a lower 40 percent goal percentage.



**Jonny Thomas puts up two against Beckman last Saturday night. (photo by Kristen Evers)**

"We had great defense in the last four minutes," commented Coach Pestka. "This gave us a chance to win at the end. We must improve our overall team offense, but this was a great team effort after a tough loss the night before."

Dabroski led in scoring with 15 points from six shots and two free throws. Conrad added 11 points to the score from five shots and one free throw. Tumey put in six points and Kramer added five points. Steger made one shot for two points.

February 8th the boys made a trip to Anamosa. With a total of seven turnovers and 30 rebounds at the game, the Cats came out on top, 64-60.

Thomas again led in scoring with 20 points. Mohr made four shots, including one three point shot and six free throws for 15 points. Humpal and Nordmann each put in 11 points against Anamosa. Jake Norlin added seven points to the overall score.

"The key in this game was the aggressive defense in the fourth quarter," stated Coach Rundquist. "That is the key to win over a very good opponent."

Tonight the junior varsity and varsity boys make a trip to take on Center Point-Urbana. Make a trip to watch the Cats!