

Wildcat Echo

Issue 14
January 15, 2016

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Vocalists participate in elite honor choir

by Riley Kay Sternhagen

The last couple of weeks here at Maquoketa Valley have held many exciting events. From FFA meetings to basketball wins and losses, our student body has sure been busy, and the same could be said for four of our choir members and their director.

Junior Lawson Roof and seniors Taylor Guthrie, Riley Sternhagen, and Shaylyn Trenkamp traveled to Decorah, Iowa, with Mrs. Mueller this past weekend to participate in Luther College's Dorian Vocal Festival. The festival began on Saturday, January 9th, and lasted until the final note of the concert on Monday, January 11th. Alongside over 1,100 other singers, our girls spent hours rehearsing for a final concert that would be live streamed and posted all over social media sites.

The Dorian Vocal Festival is the largest in the nation, but it's not simple to be accepted into. The festival coordinators have thousands of submissions every year, and every year, they have to turn away more than 1000 students that apply. To lessen the numbers and the coordinator's workload, the festival only allows juniors and seniors to participate. The festival is not only lim-



Shaylyn Trenkamp, Taylor Guthrie, Lawson Roof and Riley Kay Sternhagen were selected for the Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College.

ited to Iowa's choir students, however, and includes students all the way from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, and even South Dakota.

Before the festival even began, each one of our four attendees took weeks to prepare a memorized solo that he or she would sing in front of one of Luther's vocal music professors. Each Wildcat did extremely well in her lesson and was given personalized, constructive feedback on

how to best improve her solo and her voice.

About the festival, Mrs. Mueller said, "It's wonderful that there are so many people from so many states that travel so far just for this; just to be a part of this choir. It's truly amazing." And when talking to the girls that attended, each one clearly agrees, stating how amazing it was to meet the composers of the songs they were singing, and talking about all the friends they made while at the festival.

Contest speech season starts tomorrow



Student participating in large group speech will attend their first contest tomorrow as they travel to Alburnett for the Tri-Rivers conference speech contest. The students will perform for one judge and receive a rating. Awards are also given for the top three performances in each category. Awards for best actor, best actress, supporting actor and supporting actress are also given. The school with the most points at the end of the day will win the coveted Eagle.

Left: Clint Krapfl, Abby Holtz, Brooke Snyder and Kelsey Snyder rehearse their readers theater.

Sports Connection

Wildcats go 3-2 at home tourney, McDowell gets 100th win

by Emily Krapfl

On Saturday the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team hosted their first tournament of the season. Other teams included Monticello, Beckman, Center Point Urbana, Starmont, and Midland. The Beckman Blazers won the tournament.

The Wildcats wrestled Midland first and won with a final team score of 69-12. Wrestlers who were successful were Jordy Downs (forfeit), Alec McDowell (forfeit), Eric Heims (forfeit), Kaleb Kruse (forfeit), Justin Krapfl (forfeit), Dylan Happel (pin), Mason Hermanson (pin), Robert Hildebrand (6-4 decision), Zach Cornell (pin), Mitch Smith (pin), Cody Gibbs (forfeit), and Dylan Wright (forfeit).

Next the Wildcats dualled the Starmont Stars and defeated them with a team score of 58-15. Wrestlers who won their matches during this dual were Alec McDowell (pin), Eric Heims (forfeit), Kaleb Kruse (forfeit), Canyon Richardson (forfeit), Carson Wright (7-3 decision), Mason Hermanson (11-6 decision), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Mitch Smith (9-1 decision), Cody Gibbs (forfeit), Dylan Wright (pin), and Jordy Downs (forfeit).

The Wildcats then wrestled CPU and lost the dual with a team score of 40-42. Wrestlers who helped to earn team points were Eric Heims (pin), Kaleb Kruse (pin), Canyon Richardson (forfeit), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Mitch Smith (pin), Jordy Downs (14-2 decision), and Alec McDowell (pin).

Next Maquoketa Valley wrestled Beckman and lost with a team score of 33-41. Wrestlers who were successful during this dual were Kaleb Kruse (pin), Justin Krapfl (forfeit), Carson Wright (forfeit), Dylan Wright (pin), Alec McDowell (7-1 decision), and Jordy Downs (forfeit).

The Wildcats ended the day by defeating Monticello 60-18. Wrestlers who helped to win this dual were Justin Krapfl (forfeit), Carson Wright (pin), Mason Hermanson (pin), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Zach Cornell (forfeit), Mitch Smith (forfeit), Dylan



Dylan Happel grapples with his Midland opponent Saturday. Happel went on to pin him. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

Wright (pin), Jordy Downs (forfeit), Alec McDowell (pin), and Eric Heims (forfeit).

Coach Andrews had this to say about his team's performance. "I was very proud of the effort the guys put forth Saturday. They fought from whistle to whistle and that's what we ask as coaches. With all the injuries to this team a lot of under classmen stepped up and gave us a chance at winning all 5 duals. We came up a little short but I believe this will make us stronger in the long run. Also want to congratulate junior wrestler Alec McDowell on his 100th victory yesterday with his victory over Monticello."

On Monday night the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Cascade to wrestle Starmont, Bellevue, and Cascade.

The Wildcats started off the night by beating Starmont with a final team score of 53-15. Wrestlers who helped win this dual were Eric Heims (pin), Kaleb Kruse (forfeit), Canyon Richardson (forfeit), Mason Hermanson (9-0 decision), Robert Hildebrand (5-2 decision), Mitch Smith (12-2 decision), Cody Gibbs (forfeit), Dylan Wright (pin), Jordy Downs (forfeit), and Alec McDowell (pin).

Next the wrestlers dualled Bellevue

and defeated them by winning every match, winning the dual 66-0. Wrestlers who helped win were Kaleb Kruse (forfeit), Canyon Richardson (forfeit), Carson Wright (pin), Dylan Happel (forfeit), Tanner Parmely (13-8 decision), Mason Hermanson (9-8 decision), Robert Hildebrand (8-6 decision), Mitch Smith (forfeit), Cody Gibbs (forfeit), Dylan Wright (forfeit), Alec McDowell (9-3 decision), Jordy Downs (forfeit), and Eric Heims (forfeit).

Finally the Wildcats wrestled Cascade and also won with a team score of 43-24. Wrestlers who were successful during this dual were Dylan Happel (forfeit), Tanner Parmely (12-3 decision), Mason Hermanson (pin), Mitch Smith (1-0 decision), Dylan Wright (forfeit), Alec McDowell (forfeit), Jordy Downs (pin), and Eric Heims (pin).

Coach Andrews said it was a great night for the team as they rallied around one another once again. "We did a lot of good things and that shows up in the scores. I want to congratulate Dylan Wright on receiving his 100th win. Dylan has worked very hard to get to where he is right now, and it's good to see his hard work pay off."

Girls basketball, continued

team. With the game tied Megan Mensen got fouled on a offensive rebound and went to the line and hit 1 of 2 free-throws to give us the 'W.' I was very proud of her for stepping up in a tough situation."

Tuesday night the girls hosted the Central City Wildcats in their first home game after Christmas break. With a final score of 72-52, the girls were happy with the emotion that was shown both on and off the court. Erin Digmann led the scoring for the night with 16 points. Payton Ries added 15, Brianna Mensen 14, and Sam Wall had 13. The Wildcats were red hot from 3-point range hitting 7 of 14 for 50%. The girls pulled down 38 rebounds in the game as well as 18 steals.

Last night the girls traveled to Ed-Co to take on the Vikings, and MV won. Stats will be in next week's issue.

Tomorrow night, the girls take on the West Delaware Hawks in the annual Pink Out Game! Come support the Wildcats for a great night of basketball!

Wrestlers defeat North Linn, Midland

by Emily Krapfl

On Thursday night the Maquoketa Valley wrestlers traveled to North Linn. During this meet the Wildcats wrestled Lisbon, North Linn, and Midland. The wrestlers started the night by dualing Lisbon and losing with a team score of 21-57. Wrestlers who were successful during this dual were Dylan Wright (10-8 decision), Alec McDowell (forfeit), Jordy Downs (pin) and Eric Heims (pin).

Next the Wildcats wrestled North Linn and won with a final team score of 40-33. Wrestlers who helped win this dual were Robert Hildebrand (pin), Zach Cornell (pin), Mitch Smith (pin), Dylan Wright (11-2 decision), Alec McDowell (forfeit), Jordy Downs (forfeit) and Eric Heims (forfeit).

Maquoketa Valley ended the meet by beating Midland 66-18. Wrestlers to help get this win were Mason Hermanson (pin), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Zach Cornell (pin), Mitch Smith (pin), Cody Gibbs (pin), Dylan Wright (pin), Jordy Downs (forfeit), Alec McDowell (pin), Eric Heims (forfeit), Kaleb Kruse (forfeit) and Canyon Richardson (forfeit).

The team competes at Cascade tomorrow.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Nichole Lucas
Activity: Speech



What event are you in for speech?

One Act

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I enjoy watching people step out of their comfort zones and become their character.

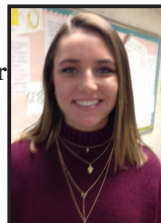
What have you learned through this event? I have learned that every role, no matter how big or small, does affect the performance.

Who is your speech role model? Mr. and Mrs. DeVore because if it wasn't for them I probably wouldn't be where I am now.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?

Improv

Name: Macy Anderegg
Activity: Speech



What event are you in for speech?

One Act and Readers Theater

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I love that with large group there are so many students involved so with each year, you are almost guaranteed new faces in your groups.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned even the expected simple gestures or actions can be quite difficult to maintain throughout a performance. Actions such as posture and facial expressions are aspects you have to focus on maintaining through a performance so you don't break character.

Who is your speech role model? Emily LaGrant. She always goes above and beyond in her character and helping other develop their characters. Also, she could play any character you gave her and that's a talent I would be proud to have.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Group Improvisation. This event is so exciting and fun to watch because of its randomness and creativity involved.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Kristi Goedken
Sport: Basketball



What position do you play?

Post

What do you enjoy most about basketball? I love being able to play with girls who are passionate about basketball just like me.

We all want to achieve the same goal of winning state! Some of us girls have been playing together since fourth grade so it's fun to experience my senior year with them.

How does this year's team differ from past teams? We have a really healthy team compared to the past years I've played. We are starting to play with more emotion and passion which makes watching the game more entertaining! It's fun to play with 16 girls who all contribute to the game in some way.

What's your favorite drill in practice?
Wildcat Transition

What's your least favorite drill?
Kentucky Shooting Drill

How do you mentally prepare for the game? Run through plays in my head while jamming out to music with the team.

What did you eat for breakfast? A bowl of fruit loops with a cup of cran-cherry juice.

What's the best motivational song out right now?

I'm sure what we listen to isn't appropriate for the Echo. We have so many songs that we listen to.

DFS Soup Luncheon
Saturday noon-4:00
HS Cafeteria * \$5
Get some yummy soup and the
fixins and take in some
MV basketball!



Binge Worthy

Rebekah & Amanda:

Les Misérables (movie): Following the life of Valjean this movie takes you on unexpected adventures, and amazing love stories. Music, love, sacrifice, and Eddie Redmayne. What's better than that? The amazing vocals of Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Hugh Jackman, and many others takes this story to another level.

Rebekah:

Friday Night Lights: This cast full of athletes, scholars, and troublemakers makes you feel as if you are truly in Texas. Following the lives of teammates on the Dillon Panthers we get to see struggles and triumphs.

Weight of Silence by Heather Gudenkauf: Taking place in Iowa, this riveting book is full of suspense. When two girls go missing in the middle of the night, nobody knows what to do. Who took them? Did they run away? What will happen next?

Aloha: A movie full of drama, comedy, and thankfully Bradley Cooper. Brian Gilcrest has to choose between what he knows is right and what he is told to do. Aloha keeps you engaged and has twists and turns you would never expect.

Amanda:

Liv and Maddie: This show reminds me of my childhood watching That's so Raven and Hannah Montana. This show has a great blend of family, friends, and that little flare of Disney drama. The Rooneys are a hilarious gang and Diggie is not bad to look at either.

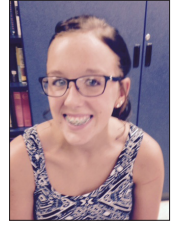
Winger by Andrew A. Smith: Ryan Dean, an awkward, funny, and relatable character, takes us on an adventure through the life of a teenage boy. This book made me laugh, smile, and yes it made me cry.... a lot.

Galavant: Talk about a dumb show. This show has a terrible plot, annoying songs, and really bad puns. But this is what makes this show so great. The characters are original and the singing makes me want to dance every single time. This show however "bad" always bring a smile to my face.

Do's and Don'ts of Negative Weather

by Shaylyn Trenkamp

The weather outside may be frightful -- I, for one, despise the cold -- but our attitudes do not need to match the negatives! Cuddle up and grab some hot cocoa because these tips are all you need to survive the bitter cold.



Do keep a warm, positive attitude. You can not control the weather, and neither can I so there is no use in complaining about it! Keep a smile on your face to complement your rosy cheeks and spread love to your favorite people while Mother Nature does her thing. In other words, enjoy yourself, and let it be.

Don't forget the hot beverages -- hot cocoa, tea, apple cider, you name it! Your insides will rejoice for the warmth and the rest of you will be happy for the wintry treat!

Do BUNDLE UP. Every time your mother has told you this, she's meant it with all of her heart! Keep warm out there or conditions can get pretty harsh. Remember to be especially prepared with extra layers when driving somewhere and be safe!

Don't neglect yourself. Sickness spreads like crazy this season, so do your body a favor and combat it before it hits! Eat some soup, get some sleep, drink lots of water, and get your vitamin C!

Do take in the beauty of winter (maybe from indoors, though!). Although the cold might get ugly, the snow can often create beautiful scenery we barely spend enough time admiring.

Don't miss out on supporting your friends, family, and school. Get to those basketball games, wrestling meets, speech competitions, and more! Show your support through this entire season!

Do take advantage of snow days or delays if they happen. Be productive, snooze your alarm, or spend quality time with family. Whatever you do, though, the most important part is to be grateful. Happy winter!

Cutie

by Kristin Lucas

This cutie is a freshman with brown hair and hazel eyes. She loves to play volleyball and softball. She lives outside of Earlville and loves bulldogs.

Last week's Cutie was Kristin Brehm.



Best Buds



Jillian Thompson & Rylee Davis
by Nichole Winter

What is your favorite memory of each other?

Jillian- When we had a get together with a torch and a pallet.

What nicknames do you have for each other?

Rylee- Jillybean

Jillian- Not appropriate

What do you like to do together?

Rylee- Yell at Jillian for her music choices

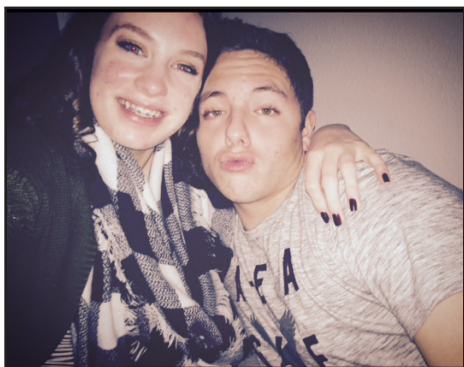
Jillian- Uh, I don't know

What is your favorite thing about each other?

Rylee- It's a forced friendship.

Jillian- I like her car and the fact that it has a radio.

Cutest Couple



Brody Severt and Kara Leibold
by Nichole Lucas

How long have you two been dating?

2 months

Who asked whom out?

Brody asked Kara

Any nicknames?

Brody- Karl

Kara- I don't have any.

What is your favorite thing about each other?

Brody- she's funny

Kara- he is weird like me

McDowell, Wright hit 100 mark

Within the last week, senior Dylan Wright and junior Alec McDowell hit a milestone in their wrestling careers: their 100th win.

You recently earned your 100th win.

What have been the keys to your wrestling success?

Dylan: There are many keys to my wrestling success. One of the main keys is my work out partners and how they push me during practice. Another big key in my success is my coaches and how they know what's best for me and show me what I do wrong so I can fix it for future matches.

Alec: Hard work and never being satisfied.

Who has been your toughest opponent, and what made him so tough?

Dylan: The toughest opponent I've had to face during my high school wrestling career has been myself. Wrestling is all about learning your limits and being able to exceed them and if you can't do that, you don't have a chance.

Alec: Coach Andrews. He's big.

How has wrestling affected your life off the mat?

Dylan: With me wrestling, I feel like it has influenced some of my younger cousins to wrestle and try it for themselves. Wrestling has also made me better known in my community and has given me more opportunities to meet new people from the area and beyond.

Alec: It has made me work harder at everything and be a better person.

How long have you been wrestling?

How did you get started?

Dylan: My dad signed me up for wrestling when I was in kindergarten. Throughout elementary, it wasn't serious for me and I thought it was all fun and games. Once you hit middle school and high school, that is where the real competition starts.

Alec: 9 years. My dad, uncle, and grandpa wrestled so I wanted to also.



Alec McDowell (left) and Dylan Wright pose with family and coaches after earning their 100th win. (photos courtesy of MV Athletic Boosters)



The Cat Box Hall Smarts

opinions, ideas and random thoughts from the staff of The Wildcat Echo



A good luck meow to the speech team as the students begin contest season.



A meow to everyone who comes out and supports the Pink Out game tomorrow (and the DFS soup luncheon)!

A furball to procrastination...again!



A meow to students who are planning on attending the college planning meeting tonight.



A huge meow to Dylan Wright and Alec McDowell for their 100th wrestling win.



A thankful meow to the custodians for doing such a good job of getting de-icer on the sidewalks.

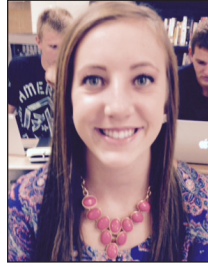
what's up?

by McKenzie Lansing

If you could live in a different country, where would you want to live?

Brooklyn Sands- England
Norman Wilson- Uganda
Mitchell Smith- Iceland
Justin Krapfl- Canada
Tyson Tucker- Bahamas
Ty Domeyer- Mexico
Caitlyn Gibbs- Italy
Cassandra Ingles- Spain
Dustin Heims- New Zealand
Megan Wulfekuhle- France
Carson Wright- Australia
Mitchell Neuzil- Netherlands
Josie Young- Spain
Heath Gibbs- Texas
Mr. Osterhaus- Germany
Macy Anderegg- Australia or Spain

by Shawnae Hoeger



Since last week was a little hard, I made the questions a little easier this week. This week's questions deal with animals. The contestants are Kelsey Snyder, Tyler Britcher, Mitchell Neuzil and Olivia Hoeger.

How many legs does a spider have?

Kelsey: 6

Tyler: 8

Mitchell: 8

Olivia: 8

Answer: 8

What is a female deer called?

Kelsey: doe

Tyler: doe

Mitchell: doe

Olivia: doe

Answer: doe

How many stomachs does a sheep have?

Kelsey: 1

Tyler: 1

Mitchell: 4

Olivia: 1

Answer: 4

What is a female horse called?

Kelsey: mare

Tyler: horse

Mitchell: mare

Olivia: lady horse

Answer: mare

How many hearts does an octopus have?

Kelsey: 2

Tyler: 2

Mitchell: 7

Olivia: 2

Answer: 3

Well, it looks like this week was still a bit tricky. Mitchell came in first place with four points. Olivia, Tyler, and Kelsey trailed with two points each. Great job this week!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of January 18, 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

1. Mini-WR Practice - HS WR Room - PreK to 4th 4-5 PM / 5th-8th 5-6 PM

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016

1. Tri-Rivers Conference HS Band Festival at Alburnett (Bus & Van Leave @ 8:45 AM) - Concert at 7:00 PM

2. Jr. High Boys Basketball - HOME (MS Multipurpose Rm) - Cascade - 4:00 PM

3. Mini-WR Practice - HS WR Room - PreK to 4th 6-7 PM / 5th-8th 7-8:15 PM

4. MV School Board Meeting - MS Conference Room - 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016

1. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - After School until 4:00 PM - Mrs. Bush's Room

2. HS JV/V G & B BB at Springville - JV 4:45 PM / V 6:15 PM (JV Bus @ 3:15 PM / V Bus @ 4:10 PM)

3. Mini-WR Practice - HS WR Room - PreK to 4th 6-7 PM / 5th-8th 7-8:15 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016

9th (or 10th) Grade Class Ring Presentation - Auditorium - During WIN (11:00 AM)

2. Jr. High Boys Basketball at Ed/Co (in Colesburg) - 4:00 PM (Bus Leaves at 3:10 PM)

3. HS JV/V G & B BB at Starmont - JV 4:45 PM / V 6:15 PM (JV Bus @ 3:15 PM / V Bus @ 4:10 PM)

4. HS JV/V Wrestling - HOME (PINK OUT Night) - Lisbon & East Buchanan - 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016

1. HS JV/V G & B BB at Cal/Wheat - JV 4:00 PM / V 6:15 PM (JV Bus @ 2:00 PM / V Bus @ 3:10 PM)

2. Mini-WR All Grades Practice - HS Gym - 6 PM (Wrestlers Signed Up for Mini-Wildcat MUST attend)

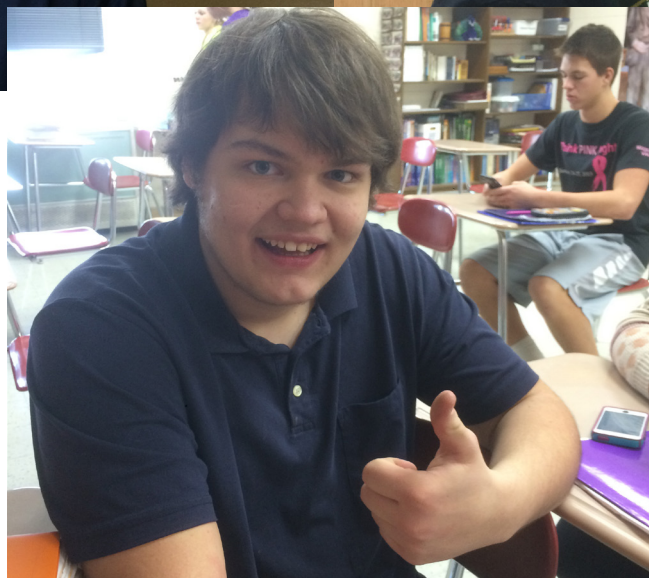
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016

1. MV Athletic Boosters Mini-Wildcat Wrestling Tournament - MS & HS Gyms - 8:00 AM

2. HS Speech to Lrg Grp District Contest at Cascade - 8 AM (Buses, Suburban & Trailer Leave at 6:15 AM)

THIS is MV

*photos by
Flavia Xavier*



Boys face tough conference teams on the court

by McKenzie Lansing

The boys basketball team has faced three tough conference teams recently and are looking to rally.

Last Tuesday, the boys travelled to North Linn to face the Lynxes. They fought hard, but the Lynxes walked away with a win, the final score being 84- 40.

"I thought our guys struggled a bit early with their press and that hurt us. We also didn't shoot real well and got in foul trouble. North Linn got off to a big lead in the first quarter and never looked back," stated Coach Dunlap.

The top three scorers at North Linn were Kyle Wilson, Brock Hillers, and Jacob Bonert. Kyle scored a total of 13 points, Brock scored 6 points, and Jacob scored a total of 5 points for the team. "Kyle Wilson had a good game scoring 13 points and hit some nice three pointers," says Dunlap.

The team as a whole had 40 rebounds. Jacob Bonert and Ryan Goedken each with 5 rebounds.

There were a few good things that happened on court. Brock Hillers made 60% of this two-point field goals and Calvin Orcutt made 50% of his. Brock Hillers also had 6 turnovers throughout the game. Kyle Wilson also had a shooting efficiency of 67%. Dunlap states, "I thought our effort is always there and we are steadily improving. I think the next game against North Linn will be closer."

The Wildcats then travelled to Alburnett on Friday. They had a tough fight against the Pirates but lost with a final score of 72-58, a win for Alburnett.

"Sometimes it's hard to stay positive with multiple losses, but these guys are still fighting hard and improving. I am impressed by their attitudes and proud of their character," stated Coach Dunlap.

The top three scorers of this game were Jacob Bonert, scoring a total of 11 points and Brock Hillers and Kyle Wilson each scoring 10 points for the Wildcats.

The team had a total of 32 rebounds. The top rebounder was Brock Hillers with a total of 9 rebounds. Kyle Wilson had 6 rebounds, and Jacob Bonert had 5.



Jacob Bonert was the leading scorer against Alburnett.

"I thought Brock Hillers had a nice game against Alburnett. He scored 10 points and nine rebounds. We had eight different guys score and 32 rebounds. That's due to hustle and effort," Coach Dunlap states.

We had two players who made 67% of the field goals. Those players are Travis Knipper and Clint Krapfl. Jacob Bonert had 4 steals. Garrett Hogan made 100% of his free throws. "Although we lost by 12 points the game was closer than the score," were Dunlap's final words.

Next, they played on the Wildcats' home court against Central City. They fought very hard but lost in the final minutes with a final score of 47-45.

"Our defensive intensity was great in the second half forcing some nice turnovers that helped us chip our way back into the game and even take the lead in the fourth quarter," Coach Dunlap stated.

The top scorers of this game were Brock Hillers with a total of 15 points, Kyle Wilson scoring 9 points and Clint Krapfl with a total of 8 points.

The boys had a total of 21 rebounds. The top rebounders were Clint Krapfl with 5 rebounds, Brock Hillers with 4, and Jacob Bonert, Kyle Wilson, and Garrett Hogan each with 3 rebounds.

"Brock Hillers, Kyle Wilson and Clint Krapfl had good nights shooting, especially Brock with 15 point. The entire team played well getting ten 10 assists and 8 steals," said Coach Dunlap.

"We had a chance for the win after being down by 12 points early. I am proud of the effort but we have to be tough and start finishing those tight games," Coach Dunlap says.

In the first half, the boys made 33% of their 3-pointers. They also did a very nice job on the free throw line, making 62% of them.

The boys played at Ed-Co on Thursday and stats for that game will be in the next Echo. Their next game will be tomorrow at home, so come support your Wildcats!

Wildcats continue to improve their game

by Kristi Goedken

After Christmas break, the Wildcats are getting back into the swing of their season. Although they lost to North Linn, the girls played a hard fought battle. Leading the way for the Wildcats was Freshman Sam Wall with 13 points. The Mensen duo followed with Megan contributing 12 points while Brianna had 9 points. Payton Ries was able to tally 8 boards while Megan Mensen had 5. Coming back after a 1 point deficit at half time, free throws were crucial. The Wildcats shot 71% from the free throw line ending the night 12 of 17. Brianna Mensen was able to add 6 assists.

"We got off to a great start in this game but kind of let our guard down a little bit when N. Linn made a run at us. We have to do a better job of taking care of the basketball. 25 turnovers is way too many against a good team on the road. A lot of our mistakes are just mental. We can get better at the things we're struggling at but we have to commit ourselves. We were really playing good basketball right before christmas break."

This past Saturday, the Wildcats faced off at the US Cellular Center in a Tri-Rivers Conference match up against the Alburnett Pirates. After a long, hard fought battle, the game came down to the winning shot. After Megan Mensen made 1 of 2 free throws with 4 seconds left, the game was over. The Wildcats won the game with a score of 45 to 44.

Brianna Mensen led the Wildcats with 9 points followed by Megan with 7 and Payton with 8. Six girls were able to pull down valuable rebounds that would turn into points. Payton had 8 boards while the Mensen sisters pulled down 5 apiece. A trio of Goedken, Wall, and Digmann pulled down 4 boards. Kristi Goedken was able to shoot 100% from the free throw line going 4 of 4. The Wildcats were able to tally 8 steals.

"Again, we got off to a good start in this game. Then let our guard down when they made a little run at us. I really thought we played hard and we were really tough on the offensive glass but again we turned the ball over way too many times and missed too many point-blank shots. We left a lot of points on the floor in this game. We have a ways to go but I am very confident in this

continued on next page