

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The Oakmont boys' basketball team lost only its second game of the season this past Tuesday night, dropping a 67-58 decision to visiting Bromfield.

The Big Green Machine (11-2) had trailed, 38-24, to the Trojans before making a spirited rally in the second half. They would cut the Bromfield lead to four, but foul shooting down the stretch kept the Spartans at bay.

For Oakmont, Kyle Anderson and Blake Sheldon each scored 14 points. Sheldon canned four 3-pointers for the South Ashburnham warriors of Sparta.

The Oakmont girls' basketball team fell to Bromfield, 45-31, in Harvard on Tuesday night. The Trojans jumped out to a 20-point lead early in the second half before ORHS chipped away to cut the lead in half, but it was the closest the Spartans would come. Tracey Letourneau led Oakmont with 12 points.

The varsity team lost to the Trojans, 39-38, after falling behind 20-10 at the half. The L'il Spartans stormed back to tie the score several times.

The North Middlesex girls' basketball team (3-8) ended its losing streak with a 45-41 victory over Gardner in the Chair City on Jan. 19. The Patriots were trailing the Wildcats, 25-16, at the half before they went on a half-opening 13-3 run to take the lead. Cory Connor led the way for NM with 11 points.

The NM boys fell to Milford, 91-52, on Jan. 19 in Townsend, then lost to Division 2 Tournament-bound St. Bernard's, 62-38, this past Tuesday night.

The Monty Tech girls' basketball team defeated Bay Path, 54-25, on Jan. 19. Madeline Merchant led the Bulldogs with 14 points, while Jenna Malo added 10. This past Tuesday, the Bulldogs fell to Assabet Valley, 53-44, to drop to 9-2.

Monty Tech's boys' basketball team was also victorious on Jan. 19, knocking off Bay Path, 68-50, in Charlton. Eric Diaz paced the 'Dogs (5-7 overall, 3-4 CAL) with a double-double (22 points, 10 rebounds), while Robert Crespo added 15. Joe Flanagan added 11 points for Monty Tech.

Diaz had 18 points and 10 rebounds in this past Tuesday night's 75-72 loss to Assabet Valley.

—Roundup compiled by Sean Sweeney

To submit scores to The Community Journal, e-mail your scores/results to sean_sweeney@verizon.net. Scores can be submitted for Friday's paper by Tuesday night at midnight.

Students weighing in to make a wrestling team

By Sean Sweeney
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, student-athletes from Oakmont were able to wrestle with other students from around Central Massachusetts, as they teamed up with fellow grapplers from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical and Fitchburg earlier this week in a "home" match-up against Hudson.

According to Oakmont Athletic Director Dave Laroche, combining athletes from the three schools has been in the works for the past year or so. He said there was quite a bit of interest from Oakmont student-athletes, some who had participated in youth wrestling.

"I called (Monty Tech Athletic Director) Dave Reid," said Laroche. "He didn't have enough kids in the weight

classes there, so we applied for a co-op."

"Over the years, we've averaged between 12-20 kids a year," said Reid. "We've never had a full team before this year."

Laroche said that the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Committee approved a budget for the team last winter.

This is the first time that Oakmont has formed a co-operative team with Monty Tech. The Bulldogs, however, already have a previous co-operative relationship with Fitchburg High, as student-athletes from Monty Tech skate under the Fitchburg ice hockey banner each winter and have done so for nearly a decade. Fitchburg has sent kids to the Monty Tech wrestling team for the past two years.

Reid said four Fitchburg student-athletes make up

the rest of the wrestling team, which has been in place along Westminster Street for the past 20 years. He said he agreed to the co-op team to give the wrestling squad a more competitive advantage in its dual meets than it has seen in recent years.

"When you have 14 weight classes and you have to forfeit three of them before you start, it's hard to back from," he said. "It gives the kids a chance to be competitive."

The Oakmont students on the team include: Dylan Billings, Sean O'Toole, Tim Poissant, Corey Poissant, Nick Bramhall, Sean Lehan, and Luke Schawb.

"I'm thrilled," Laroche added. "These guys have worked very hard."

This past Wednesday's meet was held at Oakmont, but all subsequent meets will be held at Monty Tech.

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