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## Lady 'Cats Blast Kennett For LRCC Crown

DECEMBER 23RD 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Lady 'Cats Blast Kennett For LRCC Crown

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

BROSELEY - The stage was set for what hoped to be a close contest between two of the best girls basketball programs in the area in the finals of the Lady Royals Christmas Classic. The Lady 'Cats, who had won their previous three games in the tournament by an average of 56 points, looked to hand the Kennett Lady Indians their first loss of the season. After four quarters of play, the Lady Bearcats took home first place with a 69-45 victory over the Tribe.

"I was really proud of our girls. They were ready for this game tonight, and really got off to a great start. We got that 28-10 lead during the first quarter, and that really set the tone," LBB head coach Chad Allen said. "Kennett is well-coached, and I thought they did a great job in the second quarter of making their run. Good teams will eventually make a run as well, and that's what they did. We tried to get our girls to keep pressuring the ball, and sooner or later they would wear down, and that's what we did in the second half."

The 'Cats jumped out to a 28-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, but the Indians held the 'Cats to only 10 points in the second quarter to bring the score to 38-23 at the half.

"[Kennett] ended up playing their game and slowing it down [in the second quarter]," Allen said of the Tribe. "We were taking too many perimeter shots and not hitting. I think we shot close to 90% in the first quarter, but we couldn't get any in during the second."

“You’ve gotta make shots to get in your press, and I think that was the difference in the game. They slowed things down in the second and worked the ball inside to Wynne - she’s really tough inside, and she had a big night for them.”

The Indians came out in the second half and battled back within 11 points midway through the third quarter, and the two squads traded buckets until the 1:00 mark of the third, when the ‘Cats quickly rattled off six points to take a 51-35 lead after the third.

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“We just told the girls to keep on pressuring and that sooner or later they would break down, and then we would make our run,” Allen said. “I knew we would eventually make a run, and around the middle of the third you could tell [Kennett was] getting pretty tired.”

The Lady ‘Cats outscored Kennett in the fourth - 18-10 - to seal the 69-45 victory and the first-place trophy in the tournament. Allen noted the pressure his team faced as the number one seed in the tournament, but said he was proud of their consistent effort throughout their games.

“There’s always pressure involved, especially when you get to the championship game. I thought our girls handed that pressure extremely well, coming out with our great start, and I really think that made a difference tonight,” he said. “The girls are definitely excited to get this tournament win; I know they didn’t show a whole lot of emotion, but I’m proud of how they played and competed this week. I hope they have a good break and get rested and ready to get back in the gym and start working hard again.”

The Lady ‘Cats were well-represented on the All-Tournament team, with Brittany Harris, Paige Patterson, and Hannah Noe all earning slots on the squad. Audrey Wynne and Darby Sparks of Kennett, Kasuela Cooper of Charleston, Lexi Morris of Clearwater, Kayla Maupin and Brooke Sheppard of Neelyville, Benesha Childress of New Madrid, and Tori Cole and Lexi Stockton of Twin Rivers also made the team.

The Lady Bearcats will be back in action again on Monday, January 2, when they travel north to face off against Farmington.

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## Noe Drops 30, Leads Lady 'Cats To LRCC Finals

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Noe Drops 30, Leads Lady 'Cats To LRCC Finals

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

**BROSELEY** - It was a tale of two halves in the semifinal matchup of the Lady Royals Christmas Classic between the Lady Bearcats and Neelyville Lady Tigers. The Lady 'Cats struggled shooting the ball early - they flirted with 25% from the floor in the first half - but an offensive explosion in the second half was enough to lift the No. 1 Lady 'Cats to a 78-47 win over No. 4 Neelyville.

“We didn’t shoot the ball very well in the first half. I don’t know what our percentage was, but it definitely wasn’t the best shooting game we’ve had in the first half,” LBB head coach Chad Allen said after the game. “In the second half, I thought we came out and shot

the ball a lot better - it picked our overall percentage up quite a bit. I thought our girls basically wore down Neelyville. You could tell in the second half when we jumped on them early that they were definitely tired.”

The Bearcats’ offensive surge in the early second half was aided by a 14 point effort in the third quarter from Hannah Noe, who knocked down six trey’s and had 30 points in the contest. It was the Lady ‘Cats’ third game without the services of Alison Jarrell, who is still dealing with bruised ribs from the Dec. 15 contest against Sikeston.

“With having Alison out right now, in a way, it may help us because some girls will have to step up,” Allen said of the Bearcats’ three-point ace. “Hannah Noe did that tonight - I believe she had 30 points.”

The Tigers did a good job of slowing down Dexter’s one-two punch of Paige Patterson and Brittany Harris. The duo combined for just 19 points in the contest.

“Neelyville did a really good job in their inside defense in the first half. They really bumped Paige and Brittany around in there, and made it tough for us to get any inside position at all,” Allen continued. “Hannah stepped up and knocked down a lot of shots for us and it made the difference in the game.”

Neelyville did a good job of breaking up the the Lady Bearcats’ press early, but Allen’s squad made some adjustments at halftime and eventually won the turnover battle by a 21-6 margin.

“That’s what we want to try to do with teams this year; we want to pressure full court, wear them down, and make conditioning a factor. It definitely paid off tonight,” Allen said. “I didn’t feel like we were pressuring the ball very well in the first half, and they were throwing it over the top. I thought we did a much better job of pressuring the ball up front in our full-court press in the second half, and we ended up getting some steals and converting those steals into points.”

[/images/Sports/2011/LBB/LRCC/2011.12.21 - Neelyville/20111221\\_IMG\\_7236.jpg](/images/Sports/2011/LBB/LRCC/2011.12.21 - Neelyville/20111221_IMG_7236.jpg)

The Lady ‘Cats have been able to keep on the winner’s side of the bracket for the second straight year, and again have done it with an extremely young team.

Last year, the Lady ‘Cats took home third place with a team that started three freshman and two sophomores, and had just one senior on the bench. This year, Dexter’s roster

consists of six sophomores and two juniors, but the team is playing like a squad chock-full of veteran leadership.

“Our girls were definitely extremely young last year, and got a lot of varsity experience,” Allen said. “You could tell that, with a little age, an extra year, and more experience, that these girls are really starting to go to the next level. Hopefully we’ll keep getting better as this year goes.”

The No. 1 Lady Bearcats will face off against the No. 2 Kennett Indians in the tournament finals. The Tribe advanced to their second-straight championship game with a 53-34 win over the No. 6 NMCC Eagles, who the Lady ‘Cats beat 94-20 when they met earlier in the season.

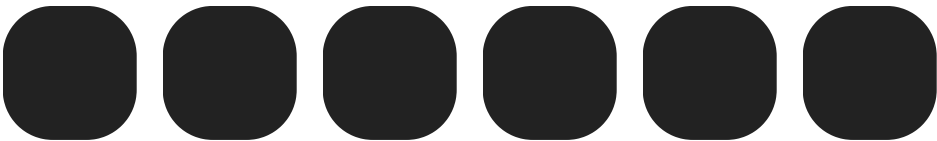
Tipoff for the championship game of the Lady Royals Christmas Classic is set for tonight at 7:30 p.m.

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# Flannigan, Leopards Fall To Vanderbilt

DECEMBER 22ND 2011 BY UNKNOWN

## Flannigan, Leopards Fall To Vanderbilt

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Vanderbilt controlled the action from the opening tip, cruising to an 89-58 win on Tuesday evening at Memorial Gym. The Commodores, who led Lafayette wire to wire in the contest, were paced by John Jenkins' 27-point effort.

Vanderbilt (8-4) opened with a 17-6 run on 7-of-9 shooting and never really looked back, pulling away for a 29-point victory.

With 6:19 showing on the clock, Lafayette put together a 7-0 spurt, capped by Les Smith's pull-up trey, cutting the deficit to 26-15. Lafayette held the home side without a bucket for a little more than nine minutes of game action, before Jenkins connected on one of his game-high seven three-pointers at the 3:05 mark.

Lafayette (4-7) cut Vanderbilt's lead to eight points on a jumper from Rob Delaney, just before the Jenkins' triple, but the Commodores scored five straight to take a 39-24 lead into the break.

Five minutes into the second half, Ryan Willen's three-point play pulled Lafayette within 14 points, but Vanderbilt responded with a 17-5 run, pushing the lead to 26 points with 10:46 to play. Willen hit two three's surrounding Lance Goulbourne's layup to make it a 20-point game. Lafayette didn't get any closer.

Seth Hinrichs, three-time Patriot League Rookie of the Week, contributed a team-high 16 points and has scored in double figures in three straight games.

Dexter native Alan Flannigan was able to haul in a defensive rebound during his seven minutes of play in the contest.

Lafayette returns to action on Dec. 28, hosting Monmouth at 7 p.m. The Hawks are currently 2-9 (0-2 NEC) on the season.

*For a full breakdown of the game's stats, click here.*

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## ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.21.2011

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ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.21.2011

**ShowMe Scoreboard, 12.21.2011**

*games planed Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2011*

**High School Girls**

*Lady Royals Classic*

- Dexter 78, Neelyville 47
- Twin Rivers 48, Sikeston 43
- Doniphan 55, Naylor 41
- Greenwater 49, Senath 20
- Clearwater 66, Charleston 65

### *Kelso Supply Holiday Classic*

- Jackson 48, Farmington 26
- Notre Dame 64, Meadow Heights 59
- Cape Central 47, Saxony Lutheran 29
- Perryville 35, Scott City 29
- Greenwater 49, Senath 20
- Clearwater 66, Charleston 65

### **NCAA Men**

- Vanderbilt 89, Lafayette 58
- Murray State 78, Tennessee-Martin 54
- North Carolina 82, Texas 63
- Wake Forest 87, UNC-Wilmington 78
- South Carolina 62, Se Louisiana 43
- Oklahoma 83, S Carolina State 48

### **NCAA Women**

- Gonzonga 82, Dayton 76
- Georgetown 72, Miama (FL) 46
- Penn State 78, Bucknell 54
- Kentucky 90, Samford 61

***Photo Above: Brittany Harris wins the opening tip of the LRCC Semifinal contest between the Lady Bearcats and the Neelyville Lady Tigers.***



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## 'Cats Drop Close Contest At Scott City

DECEMBER 21ST 2011 BY UNKNOWN

'Cats Drop Close Contest At Scott City

*By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor*

SCOTT CITY - Poor free throw shooting has been the deciding factor in basketball games throughout the sport's history. One of the newest addition to the list can be the Bearcats' performance against the Scott City Rams on Tuesday (Dec. 21) night, where the 'Cats were an abysmal 8 for 23 (0 for 6 in the fourth quarter alone) from the charity stripe in a 65-62 loss.

"We got in a free throw shooting contest with them, and we aren't going to win many of those at this point," head coach Rob Nichols said after the game. "Did we play well? No. Were we ready to play? No. Mentally, I don't think we were. We got beat by the better team tonight."

The 'Cats jumped out to a quick 12-6 lead midway through the first quarter before the Rams clawed back within three at the end of the frame. The game was closely officiated, with each team having players in foul trouble and being in double-bonus at the end of the first quarter.

Brad Potts hit a quick jumper to open the second quarter, but Ryan Brock completed an old-fashioned three point play at the 5:30 mark to give the Rams their first lead of the contest.

The Rams went on to score 14 unanswered points until Tyler Miller dropped in a layup at the 1:40 mark. Miller went on to hit a three in the last minute of the quarter to bring the score to 39-30 in favor of the Rams heading into halftime.

The Bearcats' outside shooting picked up during the third quarter, with Chase Young and Cody Neldon knocking down threes to pull Dexter within six at the 2:00 mark. Miller picked up his fourth foul early in the frame, and didn't play for the majority of the third. The Rams were able to hold on to a six point, 52-46 lead after the third quarter.

/images/Sports/2011/Basketball/DHS/2011.12.20 - Scott City/2011.12.20\_IMG\_6874.jpg

3:00 mark. Jake Lee drew a charge to help the Bearcats chip the Rams' lead down to 60-57 with 2:00 left in the game.

Miller hit another trey at the 1:20 mark, followed quickly by a 10-footer from Jordan Fitts to bring the score to 64-62. Nichols called a timeout with :15 left in the contest to draw up the Bearcats' last play.

Lee was fouled on the next play to send him to the line for a pair of free throws. After missing the first, Lee rebounded his own miss on the second shot and was fouled for two more free throws. After missing both shots, the 'Cats quickly had to foul Zach Cotner to stop the clock with two seconds left. Cotner knocked down one of his two free throws to seal the 65-62 win for the Rams.

"At this point, I'm not even worried about [the loss]; I'm more disappointed in our lack of composure, and I want to apologize for some of the things I saw out on the court," Nichols said of his squad. "I don't know if everyone else saw it, but that's not the way we need to act out on the court. Win or lose, that's the biggest thing I'm disappointed in."

The JV squad was able to pick up their first regulation win of the season with a 47-26 victory. Stevie Payne paced the young 'Cats with 19 points, while Jacob Murdock finished with six and Blake Horton with five.

The 'Cats won't be in action again until the 55th annual Bloomfield Christmas Tournament, where they earned the No. 5 seed, when they take on No. 12 South Pemiscot

on Monday (Dec. 26).

“Right now I just hope we can go out and be positive people on the floor; play hard, not show negative emotion,” Nichols said of the upcoming matchup. “If we can do that, maybe wins and losses can start to take care of itself, but at this point, I’m more worried about that.”

Tip is set for 2:30 p.m. from Bloomfield High School.

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