

Basketball ends 31-year sectional drought

For the first time since 1989, the boys are sectional champions and have the opportunity to compete at regionals

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With 3:41 left in the fourth quarter, head coach Todd Sturgeon decides that it is time to pull the starters, including seniors Ben Purvis and Grant Gohmann. The seniors made eye contact and throw themselves at each other. But for this group of seniors, a sectional celebration like that has been three years in the making.

“Me and Grant and Ben were looked at as the guys who never got to play varsity ‘til their senior year. So there were a lot of people doubting us,” said Burks.

Many viewed the past two years as the time to end the sectional drought because of talented senior classes. This year’s seniors did not play much for those teams, but they do not regret the time they put in without seeing the court much over their sophomore and junior years.

“There are no regrets. We had a great time and this definitely makes waiting worth it,” said Purvis. “Those were some great teams ahead of us, and we wouldn’t be here without them.”

Sophomore Cole Harritt had a big weekend. But he was not the only sophomore to step up.

“Brady Moore was fantastic coming off the bench. He has always brought activity and effort defending but he scored quite a bit off the bench for us and got boards and was fantastic,” said Sturgeon. “Trip [Max Tripure] and Cole came right off the bench and basically

went from the scorer’s table to knocking in shots.”

But you cannot talk about big players from this weekend without junior Jake Heidbreder, who dropped 17 points against Jeffersonville and 16 points against Jennings County.

“Not all guys can go from being Robin to being Batman, and he was able to do that and be the focus of every team we play throughout the year. He plays every minute; we don’t take him out of the game ever. He’s been a warrior,” said Sturgeon.

The Highlanders are playing in regionals tomorrow. But advancing will be a tough task, FC starts tomorrow off by playing undefeated and number 1 ranked Bloomington South at 12:30. FC lost to South by one on a buzzer beater on Dec. 21. That was the closest a team has come to beating them.

“It’ll be very similar to last time. We’re going to have to put a lid on the defense and try to stop penetration,” said Gohmann.

South also has 4-Star recruit and Indiana commit Anthony Leal on their team.

“We like to take out a team’s best player and make them play left handed, so to speak,” said Sturgeon. But they have three Division 1 players on their team. Obviously we will show him some special attention when he puts the ball on the floor and try to collapse on that, but it is difficult with this team because they have so many shooters.”

Another challenge of regionals is two games in one



Brock Kennedy / The Bagpiper

SENIOR SETH BURKS, JUNIOR JAKE HEIDBREDER, SOPHOMORE KYLE POATES, AND SENIOR BEN PURVIS celebrate their sectional victory for the first time since 1989 last Saturday night.

day. The winners of the morning games face off for the regional championship at 8 p.m.

“Scouting will be hard for the second game because we do not know who will win after we win, but we will try to get rested up and scout the team we play in the second game,” said Harritt.

While those two games will be hard on their bodies, Heidbreder does not see it as too much of an issue.

“We are not used to playing two games and playing in the morning will be different,” said Heidbreder. “But since most of us have played AAU it will be

kind of like that.”

Earlier this year, FC lost to Jeff on a buzzer beater, just like Bloomington South.

“Seymour is a different animal,” said Moore. “It is a bigger crowd and we came ready to play. Hopefully that will happen for us this week too.”

To view a girls’ track preview and to read the scorecard, go to fchsbagpiper.wordpress.com.