

SPORTS



CHECK THIS OUT TOMORROW
Keyser and Frankfort battle for the sectional title and bragging rights at Tornado Alley (7 p.m.).

COACHES: Send your scores and photos to sports@newtribune.info or mminnich@newtribune.info or call (304) 788-3333, Ext. 110. Please leave a message.

SPORTS SHORTS

KEYSER
Little Miss GT pageant March 22

KEYSER—The Keyser High School boys and girls track teams will be hosting the 2nd Annual Little Miss GT Pageant on Saturday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m.
The pageant will be for girls ages 5-13.
Informational papers and applications can be obtained from Keyser High School in the main office or via e-mail at dwise50@hotmail.com.
Any questions should be directed to Scott Furey at Keyser High School from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or any time after 4 p.m. at 304-790-1085.

SOFTBALL
Teams sought for leagues

KEYSER—Teams are being sought for the Mineral County Men's Slow Pitch League.
There are Sunday leagues and weekly leagues both seeking teams.
For more information, contact Chip Mason (304-289-5473), Butch Mason (304-788-0990), or Craig Courtney (304-813-7766).

Witness: Pistorius prayed over his shot girlfriend

PRETORIA, South Africa — As the girlfriend he shot in the head lay dead or dying in his home, a weeping, praying Oscar Pistorius knelt at her side and struggled in vain to help her breathe by holding two fingers in her clenched mouth, a witness testified Thursday at the double-amputee runner's murder trial.
"I shot her. I thought she was a burglar. I shot her," radiologist Johan Stipp, a neighbor, recalled Pistorius saying. The worried neighbor had entered Pistorius' home after hearing screams. By that time, the celebrated athlete had carried Reeva Steenkamp's bloodied body downstairs following the fatal nighttime shooting in his bathroom.

A few minutes after he arrived, Stipp said, Pistorius went back upstairs — the area where he had shot the 29-year-old model — and returned. At that point, Stipp said he was concerned that the gun used in the shooting had not been recovered and that a distraught Pistorius was going to harm himself. The testimony did not address what Pistorius did when he went upstairs.

Stipp's account in a Pretoria court was the first detailed, public description of the immediate aftermath of the shooting in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 14 last year. Pistorius is charged with premeditated murder after shooting Steenkamp three times out of four shots through the toilet door, with prosecutors trying to build a case that the Olympian intentionally killed Steenkamp after a loud argument.
At his bail hearing last year, Pistorius said in a statement read by his lawyer that after he realized he had shot Steenkamp, thinking mistakenly that she was an intruder, he pulled on his prosthetic legs and tried to kick down the toilet door. He said he finally gave up and banged the door in with a cricket bat. Inside, he said he found Steenkamp, slumped over but still alive. He said he lifted her body and carried her downstairs to seek medical help.
—Staff, wire reports

GIRLS BASKETBALL

40 minutes of heaven!



The Keyser Lady Tornado won the program's first regional title last night. Team members are (kneeling, left to right) Khara Teets, Katlynn Tichnell, Brie Kunis, Crystal Kuglar, and Baylee Yaider; (standing, left to right) Grace Burgess, Sydney Lyons, Katie Hoban, Katie Tasker, Brooke Staggers, Lexi Carr, Lexi Taylor, Bethany Jones, and Jayna Wilson.
TRIBUNE PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MINNICH

Hoban's basket at buzzer of 2nd OT sends Keyser to state tournament

By Michael Minnich
Tribune Sports Editor
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KEYSER—The Keyser Lady Tornado had to wait 90 years to make it back to the girls' basketball state tournament, so what's an extra eight minutes between friends?

Katie Hoban's put-back at the buzzer in double overtime gave KHS a thrilling 53-51 win in front of a record crowd at Tornado Alley, delivering the Region II title and a spot in the eight-team Class AA field, which will converge on the Charleston Civic Center beginning Wednesday.

"The whole game, I was just thinking about it," said Hoban. "You know, what if that happens? You always want to be the hero. What if I do make that shot? And then it got in my hands, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh, it's up to me! I have to put it in!' And I was so far under the basket, I just kind of threw it up. I'm pretty sure my eyes were closed. I don't even know. I started to cry, and nothing was coming out, because, I was like, I really did that."

"I'm thinking, run and find someone to hug," laughed Keyser coach Josh Blowe. "I'm just jumping up and down. I probably looked like an idiot. It's excitement for the program, excitement for the city, excitement for this school."

Keyser's seeding and opponent will be announced today.

"I'd like to sneak into that 4 or 5 seed, but the chances are slim," said Blowe. "We'll give it all we've got."

Lexi Carr, playing her last home game, led Keyser with 16 points:



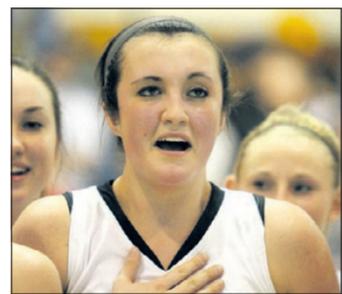
Lexi Carr attacks the basket during the first quarter.

her shot attempt at the end of the second overtime found its way into Hoban's hands on the rebound.

"I didn't care how we won, as long as we did," said Carr. "It feel

great. Unbelievable."

"She's been great all year. I told her, 'Great game. Way to make your free throws.' She set the tempo for us at the end in all the



Katie Hoban sheds some tears of joy after making the game-winning shot in double overtime.

"I'm just jumping up and down. I probably looked like an idiot. It's excitement for the program, excitement for the city, excitement for this school."

Keyser coach Josh Blowe

overtimes," said Blowe.

Lexi Taylor had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Keyser, while Katlynn Tichnell also scored 10; both players dealt with major foul trouble, especially early.

Hoban scored eight points.

Lincoln, who ended Keyser and Frankfort's seasons the last two years in the regional final, were led by 15 points each from freshman Hope Bray and senior Makyla McElwayne.

Emily Knight added 10 for the Lady Cougars.

Keyser, slow starters in their two

SEE KEYSER, B2

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bragging rights, home court on line for KHS, FHS

By Michael Minnich
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KEYSER—Has the sectional final lost its luster since West Virginia changed the state tournament format from eight sectional champions to two co-champions from each of the four regions? Sure.

But there's no doubt that the intensity will be high tonight as the second-seeded Keyser Golden Tornado host the fourth-seeded Frankfort Falcons at 7 p.m. for county bragging rights and

home-court advantage for next week's regional game against either undefeated state No. 1 Robert C. Byrd or perennial tournament contender Bridgeport.

Frankfort is here after stunning top seed Petersburg, 45-43, a season low in points for the Vikings.

"That's what we needed to do," said Frankfort coach Scott Slider. "Obviously, we didn't score as much as we'd like, but defensively we did what we needed to do."

Chase Detrick led all scorers with 15 points for the Falcons, with Nick Smith

and Gavin Mauzy adding nine each.

"I felt like we could beat Petersburg throughout the season. They're a very good team," said Slider. "But we play to the level of our competition. Against a good team, we're going to play well...we stepped it up and did our job."

Keyser took care of Berkeley Springs, 66-60, in their semifinal game.

Josh Hoban led the way with 20 points, while Malik Harper (14), Weston Nelson (12), and Ryan Kunis (10) were also in double figures

for the Tornado.

"The effort's been there all year. Some things, we ran well. Some things, we didn't. They hit some shots. But I was impressed that we were able to get out and run," said Keyser's Johnny Haines, reflecting on his first playoff win as a head coach. "I'm more old-school and like to slow it down, but I've adapted this year and realized that we can get out and run, especially with our big guys."

"Keyser's gotten better throughout the season. They've been getting production from all of their players.

It's not just one or two guys that's doing all the scoring. They're playing well as a team. I think Coach Haines has done a really nice job in his first year," said Slider.

Tonight's game will settle the sectional score once and for all: Frankfort won at home, 51-44, on December 23, only for Keyser to return the favor, with the Tornado riding Ryan Streets' nine threes to a 66-56 victory way back on January 17.

"In our win, I think we had confidence going in because

SEE BASKETBALL, B2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Carey named Big 12 Coach of the Year

WVU Release

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — In only his second season in the Big 12 Conference, West Virginia women's basketball coach Mike Carey has been named the Big 12 Coach of the Year.

Carey led the No. 7 West Virginia women's basketball team to the most regular-season wins in program history, including a 16-2 Big 12 record for a share of the regular-season conference title. This season's honor marks the third time coach Carey has been named a conference coach of the year, since earning the Big East coaching recognition in 2003-04 and in 2009-10.

In addition to the coaching honor, five additional honors were given to the West Virginia women's basketball team.

Senior center Asya Bussie was named to the All-Big 12 First Team and the Big 12 All-Defensive Team. Sophomore guard Bria Holmes was a Unanimous All-Big 12 First Team selection. Senior guard Taylor Palmer earned the Big 12's Sixth Man Award, while senior Jess Harlee joined Bussie on the Big 12 All-Defensive Team.

Bussie is now a three-time all-conference selection after earning All-Big East Freshman team in 2010 and All-Big East First Team in 2012. This season was

Bussie's first ever in the Big 12 Conference, and the first time she has earned a defensive award. Bussie, who leads the nation with 133 career and consecutive starts, is the Mountaineers' second-leading scorer with 13.2 points per game and leads WVU's rebounding efforts with 7.7 boards per game.

Her scoring average ranks as the 11th-highest average in the Big 12, while her rebounding is the seventh-best of all league players. The Randallstown, Md., native, leads the Mountaineers with 65 blocked shots this season. Averaging 2.2 blocked shots per game, Bussie ranks No. 36 nationally. She is currently second on WVU's all-time

blocked shots list with 264 blocks.

Holmes, who was named to the Big 12 All-Freshman Team last season, has remained WVU's season-leading scorer with 14.8 points per game, ranking seventh in the Big 12 Conference. She has led the Mountaineers in scoring for 12 times, with six 20-point games and 21 double-figure scoring games to her name this season. Holmes' 15.3 points per league outing ranks as the sixth-highest of all league players. The New Haven, Conn., native continues to lead the Mountaineers in field goals made (157), 3-pointers made (62) and steals (41).

Palmer came off the bench in 27-of-30 games this season to earn the sixth man honor. She led WVU's bench players in 25 games this season, including leading the entire team's scoring in three games. The Mount Vernon, N.Y., native is the Mountaineers' fourth-leading scorer with 10.2 points per game, and is second on the team in 3-pointers made (49). She recorded her 1,000th point off the bench this season. Her 1.6 three-pointers per game rank 10th in the Big 12 and her .778 free-throw percentage is also 10th.

Harlee is named to the All-Big 12 Defensive Team for the second consecutive season. The Bel Air, Md., native, has

recorded 32 steals, third-most for WVU, and was instrumental in blocking the final shot in a pair of conference games to propel WVU to the win in each game.

The Mountaineers earned a bye in the 2014 Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship held at the Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City, Okla. As a No. 2 seed, WVU will face the winner of the first round game, held on Friday at 9:30 p.m. ET, between No. 7 TCU and No. 10 Texas Tech. WVU tips off in the quarterfinal round at 7 p.m. ET, on Saturday, March 8. The game will air live nationally on Fox Sports Net, and locally, on ROOT Sports.

KEYSER

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sectional wins last week, rocketed out of the gates last night.

Tichnell's three 13 seconds in gave them a lead that they didn't relinquish until the third quarter, then, after two Knight free throws, another jumper and a Tichnell three pushed Keyser's advantage to 8-2 with 5:44 left in the first quarter.

"Great start, but I would like to have a little bit better in-between," said Blowe. "We got into some foul trouble issues, and then at the end, we stepped it up and made big plays."

Hoban hit one of two at the line and Carr made both—aberrations in a half where Keyser made just 3 of 10 from the stripe—to extend the lead to 11-2 at the 4:33 mark.

"We missed 14, 15 free throws. If we make half of those, it's a more comfortable game," said Blowe.

Carr made a layup with 2:43 left in the quarter, then it was like an iron curtain of defense was draped over the court on both ends: neither team scored for the next four minutes.

Bray's three-point play and a Hayley Haning free throw halved the Keyser lead to 13-9 with 6:08 left in the half, then Sydney Lyons' stick-back at the 5:16 mark ended Keyser's drought.

A Madison Jefferies free throw and a Bray three pulled Lincoln within a point, then Carr scored the hoop with harm at the 1:32 mark for Keyser.

A free throw with 1:26 left in the half from McElwayne made it a 17-14 game at the break.

Knight hit a jumper with 5:50 left in the third quarter to trim the gap to one point, but Tichnell answered with a three.

Lincoln chipped away at the line and tied the score at 24 on a Knight layup at the 4:24 mark.

Taylor answered with her first points, a runner from five feet, but Lincoln tied the score on a McElwayne layup and took their first lead, 28-26, on a Alysse Parsons basket with 2:53 to go in the third quarter.

Katie Tasker, one of two seniors along with Carr on the varsity roster, hit a mid-range jumper to tie the score again, then Lincoln received baskets from Josie Payton and Bray to lead by four, 32-28, with 1:11 to go in the quarter.

Taylor beat the buzzer with a jumper to cut Keyser's deficit to two points.

Then, with Keyser searching for a second wind, Lincoln opened the fourth quarter on a 6-0 run, with McElwayne scoring the first four and Bray laying in two to lead by eight.

"I knew whenever we got down, whenever we weren't played as well as we can as a team, I was thinking, we have this," said Hoban. "We hung in



A packed house led by the Keyser Krazies, who stormed the court after the game, rooted Keyser on to victory. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY MICHAEL MINNICH

there for a reason."

It was Hoban, too, that started the climb back, scoring two points inside with 5:30 left and drawing the foul.

A small moment on the next play turned out to be pretty big: a lane violation on Lincoln wiped away Hoban's missed free throw, and she completed the and-one on try two: 38-33.

Tichnell then took a charge on the near sideline on the ensuing possession, and Lincoln coach Rob Hawkins, with the Keyser crowd coming to life, took a timeout.

That crowd got even louder when freshman Brie Kunis banged in a three with 5:07 to go: 38-36, Lincoln.

McElwayne stuck back a miss to give Lincoln some footing, but Hoban answered with a layup.

Keyser had two possessions to tie the score, but Carr missed a layup and Tichnell misfired on the front end of a 1-and-1 to keep Lincoln in front by two points.

Bray made it five with a three at the 3:17 mark, then Carr was fouled on the next trip and hit both tries.

After a Haning jumper, Carr was again true on two free throws.

Lincoln was whistled for an offensive foul on their next trip, and Taylor's turnaround with 1:53 left was good: one-point game.

Both teams were unable to score on their next trips, and Keyser had a two-one break off of a steal with less than a minute to go.

Tichnell was fouled going up for the layup.

She missed the first free throw, but bore down to hit her second: tie game, 48-2 seconds to go.

McElwayne missed on Lincoln's possession and Keyser took a timeout with 9.9 seconds left to set something up.

It was something good, too: Carr got a decent look going to the basket, and Brooke Staggers' put-back rimmed out, sending the game to overtime.

Turnovers ruled the first part of the 4-minute period, but Lincoln finally broke the ice on Haning's put-back with 2:09 to go.

Taylor got the ball inside the other way, went up for the shot, and was fouled.

The junior made both attempts with 1:43 left to even the score again.

McElwayne's layup with 1:23 left was answered by

an attacking Carr, who drew the foul and hit both freebies: 49-49.

A traveling violation on Lincoln gave Keyser the last possession, and Lincoln defended Carr tremendously, forcing an off-balance shot that was well off of the mark: double OT.

This period was even more deliberate than the first: both teams missed shots on their opening possessions, then Keyser seemed content to hold for the final three minutes and get the last shot again, but a travel derailed that.

McElwayne hit a jumper with 2:14 to go to again put Lincoln in front, but Taylor scored right back: 51-51.

Lincoln missed their shot attempt, and, after Carr held, Keyser took a timeout.

"We told Lexi to get a shot with about three or four seconds to go, told the girls to crash to the glass. We really hadn't been good on the glass all night, gave up so many cheap ones on the defensive. Katie Hoban has been working hard all year. Right place, right time, great finish," said Blowe.

And Carr tried again: the second try from Hoban on the third time was the charm.

"I just went crazy," said Carr. "Words can't describe what I was thinking."

"When she made that shot, she came to me and said, 'See, all those listening skills are paying off', or something like that," said Blowe.

Keyser extends their school record for wins to 23, against just two losses.

They're the only team in Class AA that hasn't lost in the state of West Virginia: keep that streak going next Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and they'll be champions.

"It takes all of us to play a game well for it to work. We're truly, truly a team," said Hoban. "At the beginning of the year, everyone said, 'Hey, you guys going to states?' It was always there in my mind. But you never really realize that it can happen. And it just happened."

"I'm blessed to be a part of this team," said Blowe. "This is going to be so good for our program and looking forward to the future."

"I never want this season to end, but it's going to end sometime this week. Hopefully on Saturday," said Blowe.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Clark, Hield lead No. 23 Oklahoma past WVU

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Bob Huggins fielded several questions about why his team fell apart late in a loss to Oklahoma.

West Virginia's moody, normally talkative coach deflected many of them and summed it up rather quickly.

"We just didn't do a very good job," he said.

Cameron Clark had 19 points and 10 rebounds in his final home game to help No. 23 Oklahoma defeat West Virginia 72-62 on Wednesday night. Buddy Hield scored 12 of his 13 points in the second half

and Je'lon Hornbeak added 11 points for the Sooners (22-8, 11-6 Big 12), who split the season series with the Mountaineers.

Hield hit four 3-pointers during a torrid stretch of 3 minutes, 38 seconds to put the Sooners up 59-50 with six minutes to play, and Oklahoma cruised from there. Huggins said his players ignored the scouting report.

"I thought we knew who he was," Huggins said. "Some of our guys must not have known who he was."

Juwan Staten scored 23 points, Devin Williams had 14 points and 12 rebounds

and Gary Browne added 12 points for the Mountaineers. Eron Harris, who averages 18 points for West Virginia (16-14, 8-9), finished with five on 2-for-9 shooting.

Oklahoma outscored West Virginia 15-4 from the free-throw line. The Mountaineers missed their first six free throws before making a pair with four minutes remaining in the game.

Hield, Oklahoma's leading scorer for the season, scored one point on 0-for-4 shooting in the first half.

Staten scored 10 points on 5-for-5 shooting in the first eight minutes to give the Mountaineers a 12-10 lead.

BASKETBALL

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we'd won the game before. Jake was starting to become a huge part of our varsity team," said Slider. "The second game, playing down there, we didn't have Chase Detrick or Gage Shaffer on the floor as well as Matt Goldsworthy. So we had three guys that had started for us at some point during the season that weren't there on the floor. We lost by 10. I still felt like we competed well. That's where Keyser started to pick up their stride."

"That's why we play basketball: to go into the playoffs and get wins," said Haines. "Now we're hosting a sectional against our arch-rival."

"We played zone against them here, which forced them to shoot from outside. As much as it took them out of their offense, it also took us out of ours because it slowed our game down. We weren't as aggressive," said Slider. "Down there, we played zone and man. There were a lot more points put on the board."

The Falcons got a big boost in their final regular season game, returning center Gage Shaffer to the fold.

And although Shaffer only scored three points against Petersburg, he made a big impact.

"Offensively, he could put 20 or 30 points on the board any night," said Slider. "But, defensively, he helps a lot too. It's hard to shoot over top of him. Petersburg makes more passes over the top than any team we've played this season, and that took away a lot of that."

It makes the rest of the team better, too.

"With Gage in the lineup and Jake [Young] and Gavin [Maury] all on the back line of our zone, that makes us look so big," said Slider. "Gavin Maury played a really solid game for us against Petersburg. He pulled down 13 rebounds."

"Obviously, anyone coming back like that who was the News Tribune player of the year is a great addition. He can disrupt you inside and with his outside game too,"



Josh Hoban's double-double on Wednesday helped Keyser into the sectional final. TRIBUNE PHOTO BY LEE BROWN (KNOBLEY.COM)

said Haines of Shaffer's return. "We've got to concentrate on them all, really. They're like us in that everyone can contribute."

"Defense is going to be key," said Slider. "We're not sure what we're going to do yet. We've got a lot of things in our arsenal. It might be a game-time decision."

"We have some good shooters, streaky at times, but they've improved every day," said Haines. "I think if teams play zone against us, I'm happy with that...I think that will work to our advantage."

As for keys tonight?

"We've got to be mentally tough and confident. Sometimes, some aren't confident. We've got to pick each other up as a team, make shots. My biggest thing is to play good defense. I'm going to let them get out and run. I think we can run," said Haines.

"We have, at times, not come out and given a full effort," said Slider. "We've seen it the last few ballgames. Gage coming into our lineup has helped us to play much better. We've got to come out and play for four quarters with confidence. That's what we did against Petersburg. It's going to be a dogfight until the final buzzer against Keyser."

"The kids know. They've played against each other for years. It's going to be a great atmosphere. Hopefully, we get a great crowd and win a sectional title," said Haines. "I'm sure our kids will be up and their kids will be up. All we have to say is 'Frankfort!'"

Both teams will play in the Region II finals next Thursday at 7 p.m., with those two winners advancing to the state tournament in Charleston.