

Boys basketball place second in district after inspiring run

KORTNE GILBERT
Sports Editor

The season for the Cougars wasn't an easy one, but with all teams automatically making the post-season and all members of the team injury-free the senior based Cougars planned to make a playoff run and end on a good note. Tuesday, March 1 at Whitmer High-School in the sectional semifinals, the Cougars rocked 1-19 St. Francis 68-43 to advance to the sectional championship. Senior big man Allen Gant led all scorers with 19 while senior guard Jordan Hunt trailed with 18 points in the 15-point win over the Knights. For St. Francis, senior forward Nate White led the team in scoring with eight points and six boards. Southview pulled off a 60-50 victory over Rogers Friday, March 4 beating the 15-5 City League Champ Rams for the second time this season at Whitmer for the sectional championship. The Cougars kept their season thriving by thumping the Rams for the second time this season. Gant carried the Cougars after scoring 24 of his team's 60 points. Gant wasn't the only Cougar playing hard; senior point guard Chris Johnson added 13 points while seniors guard Brandon Sinram and small forward Joey Vermilya added nine apiece. Rams standout, junior DeVonte Pratt, scored a team-high 13 points while senior Darin Tucker added nine. Clemmye Owens, one of the areas

toughest ballers, finished with five points before fouling out early in the fourth quarter. Advancing to the district semifinals meant one thing for the hungry Cougars; a rematch against the Central Catholic Fighting Irish at Savage Arena Thursday night March 8. The Irish saw its post-season run cut short after the Cougars pulled through with a 49-43 win, winning the school's first ever district semifinal. Early in the season the Cougars were downed 66-55 by the scrappy Irish at home. The Cougars went 54% (7-13) from behind the arc. Cougar senior Brandon Sinram knocked down three clutch bombs from behind the arc in his 11-point effort. Hunt added ten himself after scoring the first five points of the game. Gant earned player of the game honors after adding 15 points and a superb game-high 10 boards. The Cougars shot 50% from the field in the win. Rebounding was another key stat for the Cougar victory. The boys out-rebounded a taller, bigger Central Catholic team 26-20. Central Catholic went 7-of-21 from the foul line in the seven point loss. The Irish wouldn't have complained if speedy senior point guard Chris Johnson wasn't on the court either. Johnson, a 5 foot 9 point guard grabbed seven rebounds, four being offensive. Johnson was also a hassle for the Irish on defense after the guard recorded a game-high five steals. The Cougars trailed after the first eight minutes of play

11-7, but took a 23-18 halftime lead. The Cougars never looked back closing the game after the Irish got a close as 41-39 with less than three minutes to play. Saturday March 10 the Cougars playoff run came to an end after setting new school records. The Cougars were downed after the Whitmer Panthers put an end to the potential Cinderella run in the playoffs winning 44-24 at Savage Arena to claim the District title. Lengthy Whitmer received a game-high 15 points and 11 boards from Michigan football player Chris Wormley. Wormley, a 6-foot-7, 265 pound center was a pest for the Cougars all night long. Junior standout Nigel Hayes added 13 points, nine rebounds, and a few early dunks to get the Panther faithful going early. Senior point guard LeRoy Alexander added nine points and five rebounds for the fifth-ranked Panthers. Whitmer will advance to the elite eight in hopes of capturing the Division-I state title. The Cougars were undersized throughout the entire game. The average height for a Whitmer Panther starter was 6-4. The Cougar starters on the other hand combined for an average of 5-foot-9 inches. The biggest player on the floor for the Cougars was Gant listed at 6-foot-2, five inches shorter than future roommate and Wolverine Wormley. The Panthers were determined to stop the Cougars streaky three-point shooting. Panther defense held the Cougars to only seven field goals and one three-pointer



Senior Chris Johnson drives to the basket against Central Catholic's Danielle Turner. The Cougars defeated the Irish 49-43 on March 8 at University Toledo's Savage Hall. The team, however, lost to Whitmer in the district finals 44-24.

after attempting nine (11 percent). Gant led all scorers with six points while Hunt added five in their final basketball

game as Southview Cougars. Hayes dunked the first pass of the game after the Panthers won the toss. The Panthers never trailed

in the game after leading 18-9 at halftime. The Panthers carried that first half momentum into the third quarter after leading 31-16.



The Southview Cougarettes traveled to Columbus on March 4 for the OHSAA cheer and dance state competition. The Cougarettes took first place in both Pom and Jazz and finished third in the Hip Hop category.

Cougarettes make history at State competition; win 2 titles

KRISTEN DARAH
Staff Writer

The Cougarettes competed at the OASSA State Cheer and Dance Competition March 4 at the St. John Area in Columbus. The team performed three of their routines: Pom, Jazz, and Hip Hop, and took home two state titles in the Pom and Jazz division. Not only did the Cougarettes win two state titles, but the girls also made history. The OASSA State Cheer and Dance Competition began in 1996. 2012, however, marked the first year that a dance team has ever won two division titles in the same year. Senior captain Ellie Bostwick seemed excited about the outcome of the competition. "Winning two state titles in the same year felt amazing. In years past, teams have only ever won one title. But the girls, Coach, and I knew that we had the potential to bring home more than one this year. The energy, precision, and technique in our Jazz and Pom dances really took us far. We exceeded our expectations and swept the competition," Bostwick said. And it appeared that the team did just that. In the Pom division, the Cougarettes placed ahead of the runner-

up team by 15 points and won by 27 points in the Jazz category. The girls also placed third place in the Hip Hop Division. The girls competed against three other teams in Jazz, seven other teams in Pom, and nine other teams in Hip Hop. Senior lieutenant Taylor Zaborski seemed very pleased with the Cougarettes' score in Hip Hop. "I don't think the Cougarettes have ever really been considered especially strong in the Hip Hop category. We wanted to change that this year. Out of eleven teams, we placed third in the state. It was such an exciting feeling and definitely an improvement from years past," Zaborski said. It seemed that the girls had a lot to prove at the competition this year. Last year at the 2011 State Competition, the Cougarettes won the Jazz category with their dance "Sweet Dreams." Zaborski claimed that the girls were fully aware of the challenge they faced coming into the competition. "The Cougarettes have established a very impressive name over the years. Especially coming off of a Jazz state title from last year. The girls and I knew the amount of effort we had to put into this season to top years past. There was definitely some pressure involved, but overall the pressure and excitement surrounding the

day really helped us perform and succeed," Zaborski said. Though each dance is only around two minutes, the girls put in a lot of hard work leading up to the competition. The girls practiced four times a week to improve dances and sharpen technique, totaling up to about eight hours a week. Senior co-captain Marisa Kruszewski explained that the Cougarettes had time to solely focus on preparing for competition because their half-time performances had finished weeks earlier. "It definitely helped focusing all of our energy on making the three dances spotless for States. After our basketball game performances were over, the girls and I continued to put in hours of dedication. Though the practices were tedious and tiring, it was definitely worth it. It brought us home two state titles," Kruszewski said. Freshman Taylor Bush explained she was excited to compete in Columbus, especially since it was her first year on the team. "It was so much fun traveling to Columbus with the team. I was really nervous going into States because I didn't really know what to expect. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome though! It felt amazing winning States, and after all the hard work we put in, we really deserved it."

Rec basketball, soccer teams finish winter season

ZACH EISEL
Staff Writer

Another winter recreational sports season has come to an end. One of the more memorable basketball teams was the Southview Honey Badgers. Though only finishing with a 2 and 6 record, star player senior Manuel Vazquez was exciting to watch, averaging 13 points and 7 assists on the season. Vazquez enjoyed playing with his team this season. "It was a blast! It's not serious like High School basketball is; you can have fun and relax without worrying about making a mistake," said Vazquez. The F.C. Super Smash Bros., who represented Southview in soccer, finished the season 7-2-1. Omar Gad's, a member of the team, talents shown bright as he helped the team to a number of its victories. "FC Super Smash Bros. was definitely something to look forward to during the week. It may have been recreational

but still was competitive," said Gad. Colin Lee, another member of the team, was disappointed on how the season ended. "It was fun to play a sport different than lacrosse, but I was disappointed on how the season ended losing two straight games and the league title which we were capable of achieving," said Lee. Mellow Yellow, another team that represents Southview in soccer, finished the season 6-1-1. Junior Jared Lyle was happy about how the team finished the season. "We went into the season to have fun and at the same time we won the league which was our goal from the beginning. It was fun playing with everyone though not all of us play soccer. At least my mom made us victory cookies for every win we got! Yummy!" said Lyle. A key contributor to the team was the goalie junior Eric Breeden. Breeden was overjoyed about winning the league title. "Our team had a very successful sea-

son. I am very proud of my teammates and I had a lot of fun playing this year. Winning the title was just icing on the cake to an awesome season," said Breeden. The Southview Pirates, Southview's broomball team, are 7 and 4 with 4 more game to play. Junior Kelsey Parks is happy with how her team is playing. "It's competitive, but at the same time fun. I hope our next four games go well," said Parks. There is an abundance of talent within the Southview walls, even though a lot of it is not showcased within the regular school sports. Winter recreational activities are a great opportunity for student athletes of all levels to come out and have fun doing what they love. By following all of these people, one may learn a few sports tips along the way and share some wonderful memories that can last through high school and beyond.

Lacrosse team topples Tecumseh Indians 14-4

CONNOR PERRY
Staff Writer

The lacrosse team officially started on March 9 with scrimmages against league rivals St. John's Jesuit and St. Francis De Sales. In their first scrimmage, they lost to St John's 3-2. It was closely contested, with goals scored by juniors Jared Yoshino and Austin Valdez. Next, they played St Francis and lost again by a score of 3-2. Both goals were scored by junior Nate Smith. After the game, the teams played again and tied 3-3. The goals were scored by Yoshino, junior Colin Lee, and Smith. The last scrimmage of the night was against St. Johns. The Cougars won 3-1. Yoshino scored one goal and Smith added two more. On March 20 the Cougars scrimmaged Central Catholic and Ottawa Hills. They beat both teams and also played well in their half field scrimmages against the teams. Goal scorers included Lee, Smith, Valdez, senior P.J. Fretti and

senior Andrew Dimartini. The Cougars had their first game last Friday against the Tecumseh Indians and won 14-4. They started strong and were leading 5-0 after the first quarter and 9-0 at halftime. During the second half they slowed the pace and finished the third quarter at 11-1. Yoshino opened the scoring early in the first quarter and led the team with seven goals. Smith also scored three goals. Dimartini added two more and Valdez and Fretti each had one. Lee said, "We played hard and executed well. Our offense played especially well and we put away a lot of goals." The Cougars will travel to Columbus this weekend to play in a tournament featuring teams from the surrounding area. The team is expected to do well this season and contend for the TALA championship. They also expect to place well at the Wildcat Cup this weekend and hope to end the season with a good record. Lee said, "We are

looking good this season and hope to continue our success. We worked hard in the off season and feel as if we can contend for a league championship and make a far run in the state playoffs." Their schedule this season is very formidable, including traveling to Medina, the team who knocked them out of the playoffs last season. Smith commented on playing Medina again, "I am looking forward to having another chance at them because of last year's loss. We have gotten a lot better from last year and I think we could pose a real threat this year." The team is very optimistic for the upcoming season. That spirit is now starting to spread through the student body. Support this year exceeds previous years and the students are excited for games this year. "I am really looking forward to the upcoming lacrosse season. The team looks really good this year and their games are exciting," said senior Mike Sheng.

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