

Cagers remain on a roll

By Tom Carothers
 Sports Editor

After a pulse-pounding pair of contests, the Glencoe-Silver Lake girls' basketball team deserves a week off. However, after claiming second-half rallies to win both games last week – including a double-overtime victory in south Minneapolis – the Panthers might not want to cool their heels.

GSL claimed a thrilling 57-55 win at Minnehaha Academy on Tuesday, Jan. 13. The winning streak then hit five games with a 55-46 home triumph over Wright County Conference western division rival Annandale in the opening game of circuit play three nights later.

Friday's win over the Cardinals gave the Panthers a one-third share of the early lead in the WCC West and an 11-4 overall record – best in the division – entering the week.

It didn't look at first like

GSL would open last week on a happy note. With just two minutes to play, they trailed Minnehaha – a 2014 state tournament team that was riding a four-game winning streak – by a score of 49-41.

However, the Panthers stormed back and forced overtime by recording four points in the closing moments of regulation to send the game into the extra session.

"It was impressive how the girls fought back after being down by 11 points and then by four points with 14 seconds to go," Otto-Fisher said.

Neither GSL nor Minnehaha managed to record a single point in the first added frame. It wasn't until guard Maddie Monahan sank a pair of free throws with 33 seconds left in the second overtime that the game was settled with the Panthers earning a gritty two-point win over their stunned hosts.

"Our defense stepped up

big," Otto-Fisher said. "Such a fun game to watch. The girls did what our theme is this year, 'Never give up.' They played until the final buzzer. It was a huge win for them."

Guard McKenna Monahan led the Panthers with 15 points as sister Maddie and fellow guard Rachael Popp logged 13 and 12 points, respectively.

The good feelings of the road win were nearly washed away at home against Annandale, but another rally saved the day. After facing another second half deficit, the hosts turned up the intensity and the Cardinals were not able to match.

After trailing by seven points at the break, the Panthers roared to an 11-point lead late in the contest before settling for the nine-point win.

"The two biggest things that I thought were game changers in the second half were our shooting and defense," Otto-

Fisher said.

After shooting just 36 percent in the first half, the home side made 55 percent of their shots in the second frame.

"That really got us back in the game and allowed for the girls to shoot with confidence," Otto-Fisher said. "If they felt they were open, they were taking the shots. [Confidence] is what coaches love to see."

In addition to the second-half offense, Otto-Fisher's squad also upped the pressure on defense, forcing eight steals after halftime, as opposed to just two steals in the first half.

Maddie Monahan led GSL with 17 points. Popp scored 12 points and guard Madison Kalenberg had 10 points.

The Panthers are back in action on Friday, Jan. 23 at WCC West rival Mound Westonka before returning home to face Dassel-Cokato on Tuesday, Jan. 26.



Forward Zoe Christensen goes up above the competition for two points in the paint during Glen-

Chronicle photo by Tom Carothers
 coe-Silver Lake's 55-46 home win over Annandale on Friday, Jan. 16.

Busy week for gymnasts

By Tom Carothers
 Sports Editor

Three meets in five days last week made for some very busy times for the Glencoe-Silver Lake gymnastics team. After traveling to face Waconia in a dual meet on Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Panthers hosted a triangular meet and a five-team invitational competition within hours of one another on Jan. 16 and 17.

"We had a great time putting this invite on," coach Kim Hahn said in reference to Saturday's meet. "We decided to do the Winter Wonderland theme this year for décor. The girls were able to walk out in scarves, mittens, hats, etc. for the march-in, so they had fun dressing for that."

GSL also showed to be no worse for wear despite two meets in rapid succession, finishing third in its "Winter Wonderland" with a team score of 130.425. Just 24 hours earlier, the Panthers took third in their triangular versus Watertown-Mayer/Mound Westonka and Delano with a season-best score of 121.625.

"We were only about a little over a point off in our team score from the previous

night," Hahn said of Saturday's score. "For having two meets back-to-back, that is awesome."

Ashley Peterson led the way for GSL at the invitational, recording an all-around score of 33.425. She notched a 9.3 on vault, 8.775 on floor exercise, 8.05 on balance beam and 7.3 on uneven bars.

Peterson had just returned to competition from an ankle injury for Friday's triangular and promptly returned to form despite a two-week absence. She scored a 31.425 in the all-around at Friday's triangular, a performance featuring an 8.625 on floor and an 8.6 on vault, as well as an 8.2 on bars and a 7.725 on beam.

"It was great to have her back, and I know she was happy to be back in," Hahn said.

Hahn was pleased with her team's efforts in securing their best point tally of the winter thus far. The Panthers' previous high came in their first meet of the season when they recorded a 121.125 at home against Waconia.

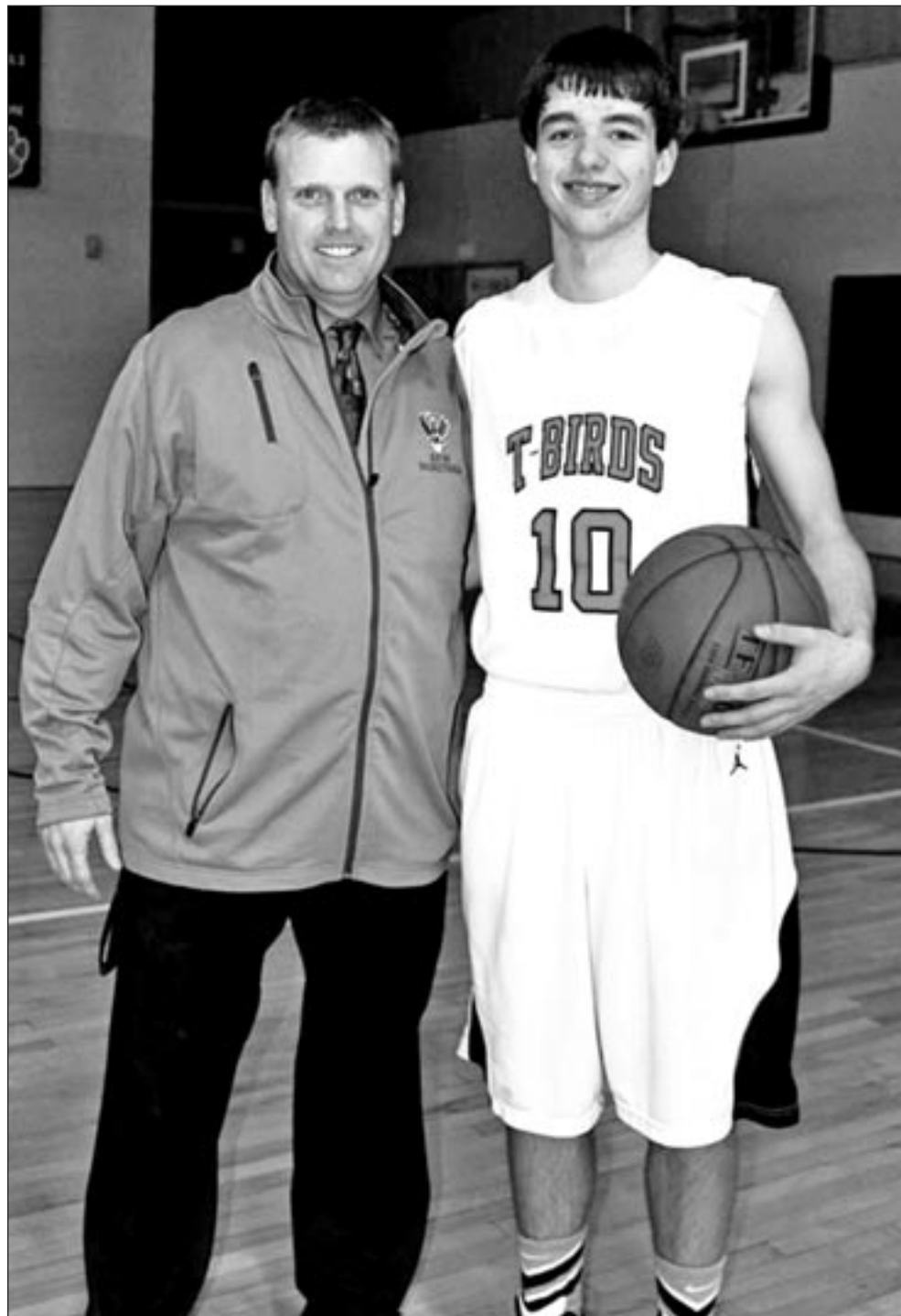
"We were consistent on

Gymnasts
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Gia Venier hurtles through the air during one of her vault attempts in a triangular meet at the Panther Field House

Chronicle photo by Tom Carothers
 on Friday, Jan. 16. Venier finished with an all-around score of 29.325 in the meet.



Submitted photo

G-F-W's Schuette cracks 1,000-point plateau

Seth Schuette, a Brownton resident and guard for the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop boys' basketball team, recorded the 1,000th point of his high school career on Tuesday, Jan. 13 in a game at Cedar Mountain.

Schuette, pictured at right with Thunderbirds head coach Rich Busse, was presented with a ceremonial ball during last Thursday's game against Norwood Young America.

Panthers entering crucial stretch

By Tom Carothers
 Sports Editor

Last week was one of ups and downs for the Glencoe-Silver Lake boys' basketball team. The Panthers kicked off their week with a 54-46 win at Litchfield on Tuesday, Jan. 13, but a four-game winning streak came to an end with a 73-72 overtime loss at Annandale three nights later.

"Annandale is very good and we knew that," coach Robb DeCorsey said. "It's a tough place to play and I'm not sure when the last time we won there is."

The Annandale game was GSL's second overtime contest in the span of 10 days. The Panthers had previously won a 62-56 overtime tilt at Hutchinson on Jan. 6.

"We learned some lessons in the Annandale game, just like we learned lessons in the Hutchinson game," DeCorsey said. "We just had more fun learning those lessons against Hutchinson since we won that game."

GSL's first half shooting woes continued against the Cardinals as a six-point lead in the first half was turned into a four-point halftime deficit. The back-and-forth struggle continued into the second half, as well as the added frame.

"In a game like that, every mistake is amplified," DeCorsey said. "We missed

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Matmen win NLS tourney

By Tom Carothers
 Sports Editor

A narrow defeat at home followed by an unanticipated tournament victory highlighted the efforts of the Glencoe-Silver Lake wrestling team last week.

Still coping with more than their share of injury and malaise, the Panthers hosted Wright County Conference foe Litchfield under the spotlight in their home arena on Tuesday, Jan. 13. In a tight battle that came down to the final match, the visiting Dragons came away with a 34-32 win.

"We wrestled hard, but had a couple guys out," coach Lance Wurm said. "Things didn't go our way, but we

didn't give up."

GSL held an early 3-0 lead after Tanner Chmielewski claimed a 10-8 win over Ezra Kaping in the opening match at 106 pounds. However, the Panthers promptly fell behind 22-3 until Aaron Donnan's 11-2 major decision versus Logan Nelson at 138 halted the bleeding.

Brandon Richter's win by forfeit at 145 and Nate Tesch's prompt pinning of Dylan Penk at 152 drew the Panthers to within three points at 25-19. Litchfield claimed the next two matches to extend its advantage to 31-19 before the hosts began cutting the deficit yet again.

Nick Brelje's pinning of Andrew Schauer at 182 com-

bined with Tristan Weber's 17-7 major decision against Logan Wagner at 195 again pulled GSL tantalizingly close to its foe at 31-29.

But it was not to be.

Litchfield claimed an excruciatingly tight 2-1 win at 220 that gave the Dragons all the points they would need for victory.

Trailing 34-29, the Panthers required a pin from Christopher Lemke at 285 to snatch the team win. While the senior grappled valiantly to earn a 3-0 decision, Litchfield's Tristan Revering was able to evade the fall to send the visitors into the snowy night with a 34-32 triumph.

"It was a tough loss and not having our full lineup

again hurt us," Wurm said. "But the kids are not getting beat down."

The team showed its resiliency three nights later in a trip north for the New London-Spicer invitational tournament. GSL, still short-handed, put up one of its top combined efforts of the season in claiming the championship at the eight-team competition.

"I was very pleased with how we did," Wurm said. "I didn't think we could win with just 10 wrestlers. I was surprised."

The Panthers claimed five individual weight class titles

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Legals

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(Published in The McLeod County Chronicle January 21, 2015)

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