

Bulldog offense too much for Dryden

Owen-Gage exploded for a season-high 66 points Thursday, routing visiting Dryden during a North Central Thumb League division crossover meeting.

Senior stars Kayla Zaleski and Katie Swiastyn combined for 45 points to lead the hosts to the 66-53 victory.

Coach Dave Fritz's cagers will now travel to face Peck Thursday, before entertaining league leader Port Hope on Tuesday.

Zaleski paced Owen-Gage to a 19-13 margin after one period against the Cardinals, hitting for 10 markers on 5 field goals in the frame.

Displaying their most balanced attack of the season, the hosts extended their advantage to double digits, 35-25, at the break. Owen-Gage received a pair of baskets from 5 different players during the half.

Swiastyn, who tallied 10 points during the initial half, continued her assault on the visitors from the perimeter in the third period. Swiastyn

added 9 points to her game-high 25 markers in the frame and helped the hosts take a 53-37 edge into the game's final 8 minutes.

Despite connecting on only 5 of 12 free throw attempts through 3 quarters, Owen-Gage has already exceeded its previous season-high point total of 51, which came during an opening night win at Arenac-Eastern.

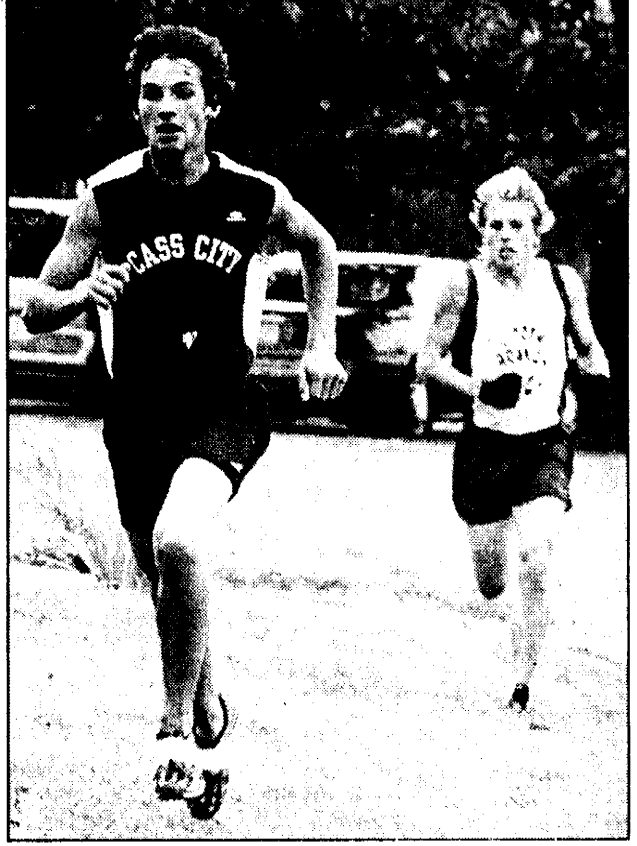
Besides Swiastyn, the Bulldogs received 20 points from Zaleski and 9 markers from Michelle Brown. Amanda Kopas led Dryden with 14 points.

OWEN-GAGE - Zaleski 9-0 (2-5) 20; Swiastyn 10-1 (2-6) 25; Brown 2-1 (2-2) 9; Schmidt 2-0 (0-0) 4; Error 1-0 (0-2) 2; Kady 3-0 (0-0) 6. **TOTALS** - 27-2 (6-15) 66.

DRYDEN - Klave 2-0 (0-0) 4; Krieger 1-0 (0-0) 2; Lublin 6-0 (1-2) 13; Piefer 4-0 (2-5) 10; Malone 0-0 (4-4) 4; Furgerson 2-0 (2-2) 6; Kopas 6-0 (2-5) 14. **TOTALS** - 21-0 (11-18) 53.



JEN ZMIERSKI led the lady Red Hawk effort Saturday, completing the 5,000-meter course in a time of 22:06.



CAMERON LAUTNER recorded Cass City's best time at 17:13.3 during its own invite Saturday, resulting in an individual 5th place finish.

Cass City finishes 4th at own invite

Cass City earned a pair of 4th place finishes Saturday at its own cross country invitational held in the recreational park.

Sophomore Cameron Lautner recorded a time of 17:13.3, finishing 5th individually, to pace the Red Hawk effort.

North Branch topped the boys' field with a team time of 1:26:29 led by Louis Verellen, who recorded the day's best time at a blistering 16:24.8. Yale, with a time of 1:29:16, finished in the runner-up spot, while Reese, at 1:32:32, rounded out the top 3 places.

Besides Lautner, Cass City had Brett Babich with a time of 18:50, Adam Wentworth

at 18:55, Kyle Reif at 19:04 and Jessup Hoyt at 19:49 completing the Hawks' team score of 1:33.51.

In the women's field, Reese's Rachel Tombley turned in the best time at 20:35.5.

Bad Axe, which had 5 runners in the top 11 places, captured the team event with a time of 1:47:05. Next was Yale at 1:49:12 followed by Harbor Beach at 1:53:39 and Cass City at 1:55:54.

Guiding the Hawks was Jen Zmierski who crossed the finish line in 12th place at 22:06. Following Zmierski, and finishing 2 spots back, was Carrie Hillaker at 22:19. The Red Hawks also had Tara Whittaker at 23:22 and Leah Whittaker at 23:42. Klyn Puterbaugh completed the hosts' times at 24:25.

Cass City will travel to compete at the Reese invite on Saturday before Tuesday's league invite at Ubyly.

BASKETBALL STANDINGS				
GREATER THUMB WEST				
Team	W	L	W	L
EPBP	3	0	7	3
Cass City	3	1	7	3
Reese	2	2	6	5
USA	2	2	2	8
BCAS	1	2	4	6
Valley Lutheran	1	2	3	6
Bad Axe	0	3	1	9
GREATER THUMB EAST				
Team	W	L	W	L
Sandusky	4	0	9	1
Brown City	4	1	9	1
Harbor Beach	2	1	8	2
Mayville	2	1	4	5
Ubyly	1	2	3	7
Marlette	0	3	4	6
Deckerville	0	4	1	9
NCLT NORTH				
Team	W	L	W	L
Port Hope	8	2	10	2
North Huron	7	3	8	3
Owen-Gage	7	4	7	4
A-Fairgrove	2	7	3	7
Cassville	0	10	0	10
NCLT SOUTH				
Team	W	L	W	L
Kingston	10	0	11	0
CPS	6	3	7	4
Memphis	5	5	7	5
Peck	3	7	3	8
Dryden	2	8	2	9

USA pressure causes problems Hawks sloppy in win over Patriots

The Cass City Red Hawks posted their third conference win in 4 starts Thursday with a 44-36 decision over the visiting USA Patriots.

Possibly the only bright spot in the game for Hawk fans was that it was a win over a Greater Thumb West opponent and keeps the Hawks in title contention with the surging Lakers who are undefeated in the league.

The Hawks now have 2 GTW games, both on the road. Tuesday they were to meet Reese, a team which is capable of posting a surprise win over favored Cass City. Thursday Bay City All Saints is the opponent.

To avoid an upset, the Hawks will need to play much better than they did over USA, which is in a down year. The Hawks played a sloppy game and the Patriot press caused problems and turnovers for Cass City. Despite the turnovers Cass City jumped off to a 9-2 lead in the first quarter, helped by 5 for 5 from the free throw line. USA closed the gap to just a point, 11-10 with 5:18 left in the half. The spurt was led by Kala Winiacki, who netted 7 of her 9 points in the period.

The Hawks took control again to outscore USA, 13-4, and post a 10-point lead, 24-14, at the intermission. In the spurt Sarah Meeker counted a hoop and 2 free throws and Kalen Trischler added a trey and a 2-point hoop.

After that the Hawks never trailed again. In the third quarter the teams took turns throwing the ball away and traded baskets, each scoring 6 points.

CASS CITY - Rabideau 2-0 (1-3) 5; Mecker 2-0 (4-4) 8; Czekai 3-0 (4-5) 10; Trischler 2-1 (0-1) 7; Hendrick 2-0 (6-7) 10; Schinnerer 1-0 (2-2) 4. **TOTALS** - 12-1 (17-22) 44.

USA - S. Rayl 1-0 (0-0) 2; Sutherland 1-0 (0-0) 2; Gainforth 1-0 (2-3) 4; Winiacki 2-1 (2-2) 9; Alegria 2-2 (0-2) 10; Squires 2-0 (1-1) 5; Houthoofd 1-0 (2-4) 4. **TOTALS** - 10-3 (7-14) 36.

The Patriots closed the gap to 6 points, 39-33, with 2:29 left in the game but could get no closer. In the last quarter

Renee Czekai with 6 points and Ashley Hendrick with 5 points carried the scoring load.

Czekai and Hendrick, with 10 points each, led Cass City and Sarah Alegria led the Patriots with 10 points.



VISITING USA played a vigorous defense against the Cass City Red Hawks. Megan Gainforth presses the Hawks' Ashley Hendrick, who helped break the USA press and scored 10 points.

Harbor Beach tops Hawks in overtime

Cass City has split games with the 2 top teams in the Greater Thumb East, defeating Sandusky earlier and losing last week, Tuesday, to a veteran Harbor Beach quintet, 56-54, in overtime.

Despite the loss, coach John Maharg was not displeased with the play of his team. The Hawks are a young team and the loss should help us mature, he feels. Cass City has 3 sophomores and a junior on the starting five and there are only 2 seniors on the team.

The Pirates have a huge front court and Cass City responded well in the battle of the boards.

In the first quarter the Hawk offense operated the way that delights coaches. They jumped off to a narrow 13-12 lead after the first 8 minutes and 5 players notched baskets with Ashley Hendrick netting a pair and Emily Schinnerer notching a 3. The Pirates matched the Cass City offensive surge with 5 players sharing the first quarter scoring load.

Helped by a pair of treys by Schinnerer and Kalen Trischler the Hawks stayed in control in the second quarter and at one point led by 6 points before the Pirates closed the gap to 29-26 at the intermission.

The teams battled on nearly even terms in the third quarter. The Hawks were paced by Hendrick with 5 points

and Harbor Beach by Kelsey Wehner with 3 hoops.

Things looked bright for the Hawks with just under 2 minutes to play. The Hawks were in front by 6 points, but a hot shooting Wehner with her second trey of the quarter and a basket by Kayla Kramer cut the deficit to a point. Cass City went stone cold from the free throw line, making just 2 for 8 in the closing minutes with the game on the line.

In the overtime it was Kramer's free throw shooting that spelled the difference. She netted 5 of 8 to account for all of the Pirates points. Schinnerer netted a basket and Hendrick one of 2 free throws for the Hawk points in the overtime.

Hendrick with 15 and Schinnerer with 14 points were in double figures for the Hawks. Wehner netted 16, Laura Messing 14 and Kramer 12 for Harbor Beach.

CASS CITY - Rabideau 2-0 (4-6) 8; Brinkman 4-0 (1-3) 9; Meeker 2-0 (0-0) 4; Trischler 0-1 (1-2) 4; Hendrick 6-0 (3-4) 15; Schinnerer 4-2 (0-1) 14. **TOTALS** - 18-3 (9-15) 54.

HARBOR BEACH - Wruble 0-1 (2-3) 5; Lemanski 2-0 (0-0) 4; Woycehoski 0-1 (0-0) 3; Wehner 5-2 (0-0) 16; Messing 7-0 (0-0) 14; Hessling 1-0 (0-2) 2; Kramer 2-0 (8-12) 12. **TOTALS** - 17-4 (10-17) 54.

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