

Traugher Junior High School Sports News

7th Grade Boys Basketball:

On Monday, 11/2 the 7th grade boys basketball team welcomed the Tigers from Thompson in the home opener for the Panthers. In the first game both teams came out a little unsure in the first quarter and the Panthers fell behind 6-5 at the end of the first quarter. Both teams battled hard in the second quarter and the Panthers trailed 18-11 at the half. In the second half the Panthers could not answer the hot shooting by the Tigers and eventually fell to them by the score of 46-20. Leading the way for the Panthers was Ben Sullivan who had 8 points. In the second game the Panthers again came out sluggish and fell behind early and trailed at the half by a score of 15-7. However the Panthers battled back in a key third quarter in which James Harris hit a 3-pointer as the clock expired to tie the game at 20 after three quarters. In the fourth quarter the Panthers were led by Chris Wootton who scored 8 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Panthers to the 30-22 victory. James Harris chipped in 5 points, while Connor Hennessy and Jake Shepherd each added 4 points apiece.

On Tuesday, 11/3, in their second game of their young season the 7th grade boys basketball team took on Sandwich in a conference matchup. The Panthers grabbed the lead from the very start of the game and were able to muscle their way to a nail biter of a finish in the first game. The Panthers led 12-9 at the half and were able to hang on for a 22-18 victory in the first game. The Panthers were led by Zach Hegseth who had 8 points, Drew Paisley had 5 points, and Chance Dickey with 4 points. Outstanding defense was played by Ben Sullivan, Ryan Hennessy, and Chance Dickey to help secure the win. In the second game the Panthers continued their winning ways as they were able to hang on for a 16-12 victory. The Panthers were led by Jared Parker and Chris Wootton who each had 5 points, while Connor "Mr. Aggressive" Hennessy chipped in 4 points. Outstanding defense was played by the Keyvan twins as they gave Sandwich fits in the backcourt, and DeAndre Ford grabbed numerous rebounds to help secure the win.

8th Grade Boys Basketball:

The fall production of Panther Basketball opened last evening to mixed reviews. The ensemble cast performed well, but the choreography was a little jittery, with 2 steps forward and 1 step back being the tenor of the night. Kenny Newsome led the balanced scoring with 8 points, followed closely by Kyle Prentice and Jerome Minick with 7 each. Sean Graff directed the point with the efficiency, while Ryan Gustafson and Bryce Holm led the defensive pressure. Unfortunately, all of these positives went for naught down the stretch. Time after time, the Panthers had chances to lower the curtain on the Tigers, but missed free throws, put backs, and unforced errors allowed Thompson to hang around until the final act, when like the baby waving the American flag, the Tigers stole the show and prevailed 32-28. Game 2 saw the Panthers get back on script with a 23 to 18 victory. Tyler Gibson was the award winning high scorer with 10 points, while

Manny Roman excelled in a supporting role with 6. Jeff Manna, Trevor Metczak, Alex Compton and Alex Perello all hit their marks with great performances. On Tuesday, November 3rd, the 8th grade Panthers traveled to Sandwich to take on the Braves. The 1st half can best be described as a walk through, as the lethargic Panthers failed to compete at the level of their ability. Fortunately, after trailing 18-14 at halftime, the Panthers awoke and played up to capabilities, outscoring the Braves 22-4 in the 2nd stanza. Kyle Prentice with 14 and Kenny Newsome with 13 carried the scoring burden. Bryce Holm was huge off the glass, and Sean Graff ran the point well. Game 2 saw the Panthers improve to 2 and 0, with a resounding 23-12 win. Tyler Gibson had 8, Fred Horton 6, and Manny Roman 4 to pace the scoring, while Alex Compton and Jeff Manna directed the floor with an aplomb belying their experience. Great Job Panthers!

On Thursday, 11/5, the 8th grade Panthers took the floor against the Bednarcik Bulldogs full of doubt. The reputation of the Bulldogs had preceded them, and the Panthers were in awe. As the game progressed, an epiphany took place: the Bulldogs were only human, and the Panthers could compete. The 1st half turned into a slugfest, as the two teams went at it tooth and nail. The half ended with the Bulldogs up 16-13. However, for some reason, the doubt returned at the start of the 2nd half, and the Panthers allowed the Bulldogs to fire out to a 32-17 3rd quarter lead. Turnovers and missed shots fueled the collapse. The Panthers settled down in the 4th quarter, but the damage had already been done. The final score was 34-20. Bryce Holm and Kyle Prentice led the way with 7 each, but too many missed opportunities negated a good effort. Game 2 saw the script replayed. The Panthers jumped out to a 12-10 1st quarter lead, but then stopped doing the things that had secured that lead and the Bulldogs went on to a 31-24 win. 8 Panthers scored, with Cody Worst leading the parade with 5.