

Bridgman sews up at least a piece of Lakeland championship

HIGH SCHOOL: BASKETBALL – ROUNDUP
South Bend Tribune February 22, 2006 6:59AM

Dan Kunde scored 16 points while hauling in 11 rebounds as Class C No. 5 Bridgman (17-1, 12-0) clinched at least a share of the Lakeland Conference boys basketball title with a 49-39 win over visiting Coloma, Tuesday night.

Spencer Paulsen and Tyler LaVanway scored 13 and 10 points respectively for the Comets (8-11, 5-8), who were held to only two points in the third period.

Nick Sweet chipped in 10 points for the Bees.

BRIDGMAN 49, COLOMA 39

At Bridgman

COLOMA (39): Tyler LaVanway 4 0-1 10, Erving Warren 0 0-4 0, Jeff Gargano 0 0-0 0, Kasey Weber 0 1-2 1, Brian Saltzman 2 0-0 4, Rickey Fischer 1 0-0 2, Spencer Paulsen 5 1-1 13, Phil Murphy 1 0-0 3, Gabe Guidry 3 0-0 6. TOTALS: 16 2-8 39.

BRIDGMAN (49): Dan Kunde 7 0-0 16, Craig McNees 3 0-0 6, Todd Hendricks 1 0-0 2, Nick Sweet 5 0-0 10, Jon Malm 0 0-0 0, Zach Welsher 1 0-0 2, Zac Nemitz 3 0-0 9, Seth Coffing 0 0-0 0, Boo Ott 0 0-0 0, Blake Ivers 0 0-0 0, Casey Burli 0 0-0 0, Pat Kading 1 0-0 2, Zac Nemitz 1 0-0 2. TOTALS: 22 0-0 49.

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| Coloma | 7 | 19 | 21 | 39 |
| Bridgman | 11 | 25 | 36 | 49 |

3-point goals: Coloma 5 (LaVanway 2, Paulsen 2, Murphy), Bridgman 5 (Kunde 2, Nemitz 3). Total fouls (fouled out): Coloma 6 (none), Bridgman 8 (none). J.V. score: Bridgman 51, Coloma 44. Varsity records: Bridgman 17-1 (12-0 Lakeland), Coloma 8-11 (5-8 Lakeland). Officials: Terry Fosdick, Larry Brewer, Randy Melvin.

Bees cut down the nets – just in case

By AL AREND - H-PSports Writer

BRIDGMAN — There was a reason Bridgman basketball players cut down the nets Tuesday night after clinching just a share of the Lakeland Conference crown.

“We clinched a share of the Red Arrow title back in 1997 but didn’t cut down the nets,” recalled Bees coach Mike Miller. “Then we got upset at home the last game and never did get to cut the nets down.” This time, the Bees wanted to cut the nets down after a home victory.

Bridgman, the state’s No. 5 rated Class C squad, seemingly went through the motions in beating Coloma, 49-39, to improve to 12-0 in the circuit and 17-1 overall.

The Bees, in winning their second straight Lakeland title, used two major scoring runs to put the Comets away. Their biggest lead was 45-24 on back-to-back 3- pointers by reserve Zach Nemitz midway through the last quarter.

Coloma (5-8, 8-11) survived Bridgman's 11-0 run to start the game, and actually tied it at 19 with 3:03 left in the half.

But the Bees then went on a 17-0 run holding the Comets scoreless for nearly 11 minutes to take a 36-19 lead with 2:20 left in the third.

"We didn't finish the game very well, but I thought we played outstanding defense at the start, and the whole third quarter," Miller said. "I especially thought Nick Sweet did a good job guarding (Tyler) La Vanway." La Vanway, Coloma's leading scorer, netted 10 points but was limited to just five shots. He did hit two 3s.

Bridgman outshot Coloma 40 percent (22 of 54) to 36 percent (16 of 44), and committed four fewer turnovers. Both squads had 30 rebounds, but the Bees held a 27-22 edge through three quarters and scored seven baskets on offensive putbacks, a fact that didn't go unnoticed by Coloma coach Brent Nate.

"We battled them and never gave up, but they hurt us with offensive rebounds early on," Nate said. "But I felt we showed some character tonight when they jumped on us 11-0 to start the game."

Dan Kunde led Bridgman with 16 points, 11 rebounds and two blocks. Sweet added 10 points and Nemitz nine coming on three baskets from behind the arc.

Spencer Paulsen led Coloma with 13 points and Jeff Gargano snared six rebounds.