

Winchester Invitational Tournament Day 2 Monday January 9, 2017 Winchester Chatter WIT Day 2

Record setting performances in the first session of the tourney this year got the 95<sup>th</sup> annual tournament off on the right foot. Porta/AC and Payson combined to knock down 18 three pointers in that first game. That's three more than the record for the WIT set three times at 15. That was last done in 2007, when Porta hit 11, and Waverly 4 in a game. Saturday's opener produced 14 in the first half alone. Not to be outdone, Triopia and Griggsville Perry combined for 19, to break the record again. In fact, Triopia matched the record for threes by one team by hitting 11 in the win over the Tornadoes. Bluffs did it in 1997, and Porta matched it in 2007.

The 33 point performance by Max Muller was the most by a tournament players since Drew Burwinkel had 33 two year ago. No player in this tournament has scored 40 or more in a game since Jay Behrends of Porta\_ dropped 41 in 2002.

Routt is in the championship bracket for only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since Routt Catholic rejoined the tournament in 2010. The lone trip in the championship bracket over that stretch was when the Rockets won the WIT title as a 6<sup>th</sup> seeded team under Gale Thoroman in 2012.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year, the 4<sup>th</sup> seeded team upset the number 12 team at the Winchester Tournament. A year ago, Pleasant Hill surprised Carrollton. Saturday it was Pleasant Hill that surprised Calhoun 57-53. It was the third time in six years of the tournament that number 12 nailed number 4.

Triopia has reached the championship bracket at the WIT for the first time since 2013. Triopia lost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round that year, and then fell in the 5<sup>th</sup> place bracket semi-finals. Liberty hasn't been on the consolation side of the bracket since claiming the consolation title in 2009. That was 7 straight opening round wins.

Porta/AC and Routt Catholic are meeting in the tournament for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year. Porta/AC won a year ago 61-33. And, Calhoun-Triopia tonight is also a rematch from a year ago of another opening round game from 2016. Calhoun held off Triopia 48-36. In fact, this will be the fourth time the teams have met at Winchester over the past seven years. Each time, the Trojans have been the underdog, until tonight. And, Triopia has an upset win and Calhoun an upset win in that stretch. Payson was the last 12<sup>th</sup> seeded team to make it to the semi-finals on the championship side, losing to Porta in 2008.

Saturday's three first round upsets marked just the third time that has happened since rankings were started in 1931. The last time it happened was in 1999, when seed numbers 12 (Carrollton), 13 (Winchester) and 15 (Bluffs) posted upsets. It also happened in 1940 with Roodhouse, Hamilton and Mount Sterling.

Greenfield-Northwestern became just the fourth number 15 ranked team to win in the first round. Perry beat Greenfield in 1984, Bluffs stopped Waverly in 1999, and Pleasant Hill knocked off Barry in 2000.

As we suspected, Liberty is the first defending champion to be ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the next year's tournament. Porta won the tourney in 1976, and was ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in 1977. And, Winchester won the next tournament in 1978, and then was pegged 13 in 1979.

Basketball is getting younger. No less than 11 freshmen and twelve sophomores scored in their teams opening round games Saturday. West Central freshman Gabe Cox his 17 points, and Western freshman Preston Wellman had 16 to finish among the top 10 scorers. Sophomores Drew Winters of Routt had 25, and Triopia's Shawn Bell had 18.

A belated congratulations to Nick Rathgeb, who picked up his 100<sup>th</sup> career coaching victory last month. Porta/AC is rated number 1, and set to play for a semi-final berth against Routt tonight. Carrollton's Jeff Krumwiede finds himself three wins short of career coaching victory 500.

Let's give you the top scorers from the first round:

1) Max Muller	Porta/AC	33
2) Drew Winters	Routt	25
3) Ian Smith	Grigg-Perry	23
4) Lane Marlow	Camp Point	22
5) Shawn Bell	Triopia	18
Wes Klocke	Calhoun	18
Kaleb Root	Pleasant Hill	18
Gabe Cox	West Central	17
Preston Wellman	Western	16
Easton Clark	Calhoun	15

(Much Thanx to KC for his help)