

Mother Nature steps in once again during the Winchester Invitational Tournament. Play has been moved up tomorrow night due to the winter snow that will arrive sometime tomorrow. Everything has been moved up an hour and a half. That means the Calhoun-Camp Point game will be played at 4, the Routt-Western game begins at 5:30, and Payson and West Central will play about 7.

=====

Top Scorers through 5 days of play at the WIT

1	Cole Howard	W Central	44
2	Landon Obert	Liberty	38
3	Lane Ippenson	Camp Point	37
4	Tanner Cannady	Payson	35
	Cole Schwartz	Payson	35
	Garrett Snow	Triopia	35
7	Kyle Colgrove	Western	34
8	Lucas Loos	Payson	33
9	Vaughn Toyne	Porta/AC	32
10	Drew Evans	W Central	31
	Jordan Neisen	Liberty	31

Still just one upset in the tournament through the first 16 games. There were two upsets through the first 16 games in the 2015 tournament. There were three upsets through the 2008's first 16, and just one the rest of the tournament. There were two in the first 24 games in 2001, and just one more the rest of the tournament.

=====

The last time the Tournament featured all four of the top ranked teams reaching the championship bracket semifinals was in 1998. This year it is top rated Triopia playing 4<sup>th</sup> ranked Porta, and 2<sup>nd</sup> rated Payson meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked West Central. Back in 1998, top rated Carrollton beat number 4 Triopia, and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked Bluffs downed number 3 Camp Point. Carrollton would win the title with a two point victory over Bluffs. Triopia pulled a mild upset over Camp Point to claim the 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy.

=====

All of the final four teams this year have received recognition in the AP polls. Triopia is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in 1A, and Payson is 5<sup>th</sup> in 1A. Porta AC is rated 12<sup>th</sup> in 2A, and West Central is tied for 11<sup>th</sup> in 1A. The combined record of the four teams is 58-8. Not many, if any of the losses among the 8 are to class 1A teams.

=====

Porta/AC won the title in 2015. But, the Bluejays have lost in the semifinals in 4 of the past five tournaments. Triopia and Porta/AC met in the semifinals two years ago. 5<sup>th</sup> ranked Triopia pulled the upset over top ranked Porta that year on its way to the tournament title.

=====

Brown County and North Greene met here in the first round in the 2013 tournament. The Spartans won that game 54-32. Brown County beat North Greene 56-30 in a fifth place game in 2012.

=====

Carrollton and Liberty last played here in the 2011 tournament. The Eagles won 66-52. Carrollton beat Liberty in the 2010 title game 48-32.

=====

The plaques are in for the all-tournament team. Coaches, please get your ballots in by halftime of the 3<sup>rd</sup> place game Saturday. Remember, if you can't turn it in, e mail it to . Those must be in before 10 Friday night. You can text me the players at 370-9058. Please identify yourself. The easy way is to give the ballots to Denny Vortman, Adam Brockhouse, Grant Dewitt, or drop one by the broadcast position. All tourney team will be announced at the end of the title game.