

Winchester Invitational Tournament Chatter-Day 10-Issue #7-Monday, January 20, 2020

This is believed to be a first in the 98 years of the Winchester Invitational Tournament. At no time, have two unbeaten teams fought for the title, and both been in the Class 1A AP boys' basketball rankings. Both West Central and Payson are 18-0. They could meet again in post season at the sectional level. But, for now, West Central seeks its second title in a row, eighth consecutive win in tournament play and third title overall. Payson is seeking its 2<sup>nd</sup> title in three years, and third overall. West Central has finished 2<sup>nd</sup> three times, and Payson has been second twice. The winner becomes only the sixth unbeaten team to claim the WIT title. They join Winchester from 1961, Bluffs in 1962, North Greene in 1992 and 96, and Barry-West Pike in 2006.

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The team's combined wins at 36 are the best total ever for two schools fighting for the title. Bluffs and Winchester had one loss, 24-1, between them in 1962, and Barry and West Central had just two losses in 2005 29-2. In each of those seasons, the lone loss by Winchester and West Central were to the teams they faced in the title game in those seasons. In each of those games, the team that had won earlier in the year won the titles.

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The 5<sup>th</sup> place crown for Liberty was its 5<sup>th</sup> all time at the WIT. Liberty won it 2015, and in 1994, 96 and 98. Triopia's consolation title was its 4<sup>th</sup> ever, and the second time Triopia has beaten North Greene in the consolation title game of a tournament this year. Triopia won by 8 over North Greene at Waverly. Triopia is 4 and 4 in consolation games at Winchester. Liberty has never lost a 5<sup>th</sup> place game at the WIT.

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Have there ever been four winners on the final day(s) with double digit wins? Question is valid because Liberty, Triopia, West Central, Payson, Calhoun and Porta/AC all have 10 wins or more this year. We know it happened four years ago, when Carrollton, Brown County, Porta/AC, and Liberty all had double digit wins..53 total. This year, that total is 60.

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This is the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year for Porta/AC to make it to the third place game. The Bluejays are 3 and 1 coming in to tonight's game. Calhoun is seeking its 5<sup>th</sup> third place trophy.

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Three players in the title game have chances to move up the scoring list. West Central's Gabe Cox is 18<sup>th</sup> with 203 career points. Cole Schwartz of Payson is 38<sup>th</sup> with 168 points, and teammate Lucas Loos is 44<sup>th</sup> with 163 points.

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Gabe Cox of West Central has an outside shot of hitting 100 points in the tournament this year. If he does, he would be the first player to do so since Justin Brock scored over 102 in 2006.

Gabe Cox	West Central	74
Keaton Brown	N Greene	71
Nolton Klingele	Liberty	64
Garrett Bell	Triopia	60
Tate Kunzeman	Griggsville Perry	59
Broc Moore	Triopia	56
Cory Ronan	Routt	52
Brayden Pettit	Porta/AC	49
Cole Schwartz	Payson	47
Cory Nelson	Calhoun	46
Blake Eyler	Camp Point	46
Lucas Loos	Payson	43