

Clean Sweep

Boys, girls take down rival Pella Christian in first encounter of the season

It wasn't all alley-oops and three point baskets Jan. 7 as the boys' and girls' teams hosted crosstown rival, Pella Christian.

The boys had to overcome an early 15-point first quarter deficit on their home floor in order to eventually defeat the Eagles by 17 points. The Lady Dutch kept an anxious crowd the entire way, narrowly outmatching their opponent by six points.

"We really started to pick up our game in the second half. We hit a lot more shots when we started playing together. We're a lot harder to beat when we do that," said junior **Jessica Holterhaus**.

Junior **Garret Jansen** said his team met the challenge.

"We came into the game ready to play, but we weren't ready for them to connect on seven of their first eight shots! Our team responded really well to some early adversity," said **Jansen**.

Jansen cashed in on half of his shot attempts and grabbed a handful of rebounds as well on the way to victory.

The boys' record increased to 6-2 while the girls went over the .500 mark at 5-4.

Thoughts on Pella, PC game.

"It was awesome to play and beat two of my AAU teammates. I'll always remember my first game against PC."

-Freshman **Ryan Van Wyk**



"It was a great atmosphere, got that W, Pingel Nation."

-Senior **Jordan Pingel**



"I thought we played really fast, which made the game really fun."

- Junior **Mackenzie Gustafson**



The student section lets their voices be heard in support of the guys and girls against Pella Christian. "I think we've had a way better student section this year compared to last. The team is really exciting, and it makes it

really fun to come to games and be loud. I know I've personally enjoyed the games a bunch this year," said senior **Tanner Phelps**, one of the senior leaders of the cheering section.

RECORD COLD

-14 degree temps/wind chill combine for day off

Students were granted an extra day of winter break Jan. 6. The day brought in record cold temperature with a low of negative 14 degrees and wind chill as cold as negative 50.

"I think the extra snow day was a positive. We got an extra day of break, which was nice. I was actually ready for break to be over, though," said freshman **Jenna Murphy**.

Cancelling school due to harsh weather appealed to mothers as well.

"I think cancelling school because of cold weather is the safe way to go. Personally, I wouldn't want my kids waiting outside for their bus," said **Laura Fank**, mother of 8th grader **Cait**.

One of the only negatives students are noticing is that the latest snow day pushes the final day of the year until after Memorial Day weekend.

"I don't want to go to school after Memorial Day. I would rather have a longer summer vacation than winter," said junior **Brian Rundle**.

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☞ Juniors **Amelia Vande Lune**, **Katie Finney**, **Marissa Borgerding**, and **Ashley Kirkland** enjoy each other's company after taking pictures at **Canfield's** house.

"After pictures we ate at George's restaurant and went to the dance. My favorite part was going to bed afterward, I was really tired," said **Vande Lune**.

Winter Formal offers escape

Winter Formal was the perfect stress reliever following a straining week at school. After enjoying a long break, many students were struggling to get back into the school routine. Thankfully, they were able to blow off steam by participating in some Winter Formal fun.

"We went to 3rd Church for pictures, ate at George's, watched football at **Derrick Akers'**, and topped it off with the dance. My favorite part was watching **Bryce Bortscheller** tear it up on the dance floor," said junior **Todd Van Dyke**.

Groups of all ages shared similar plans and highlights of the night including pictures, food, dance, and friends.

"My friends and I weren't that creative. We went to **Elyse Parisee's** to take pictures, ate at George's and then went to my house to chill with bros. We always have a good time together, but honestly, my favorite part of the night was eating George's fries," said sophomore **Zach Vande Weerd**.

The finale of many Winter Formal nights happens at the dance. DJ'd by student favorite **Josh Visser**, the winter's finest dance was one of the best in many years.

"I had so much fun at the dance. I think it was the best one that I've gone to in high school," said senior **Claire Andersen**.



☞ Senior **Aaron Van Maanen** sprawls out on the dance floor to impress lady viewers during a dance contest with junior **Colin Jones** "What can I say? I do what I can. The winner couldn't be decided, but I probably won," said **Van Maanen**.



☞ Sophomores **Kenzie Nossaman**, **Sarah Peterson**, **Tori Swanson** and **Elyse Parisee** bring it in close to feel the love between friends. "We had the best time just jammin' to our favorite tunes as a group of friends," said **Nossaman**.

SOMEONE TO KNOW... FRESHMAN NICK BERNHAGEN

Freshman **Nick Bernhagen** is involved in cross country, band and basketball. He considers competing as one of the top 10 runners for the cross country team as a freshman to be one of his greatest accomplishments. He had run only one 5K before joining the team.

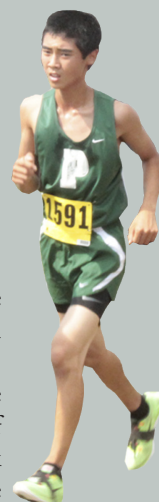
"I loved being able to participate this year. The state runners all had a very close bond. It was fun, competitive and relatively stress free since I was an alternate. I am looking forward to improving with everyone over the summer and into next year," said **Bernhagen**.

Bernhagen's favorite class in school is principles of engineering,

and he hopes to go into an engineering field someday.

"It's a really fun class, and it seems like something I would like to go into someday. It's hard to tell right now with so much of high school to go," said **Bernhagen**.

He plans to continue cross country next season and hopes to be able to run sub 17 minutes consistently. He also hopes to be one of the top six runners and qualify for state. Keeping up his hard work in school and maintaining his number one class ranking would be cool, too.



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