

Regional & State Tournament Preview

Girl's basketball district preview

BY DAVID SANTISTEVAN JR.
The Chronicle-News

HTA Lady Tigers are (13-9) this year, and have won most of their games with a tough, physical in your face defense that is allowing opponents to score under 35 points per game PPG, against them.

Morgan Gilmore, Shelby Choate, and Andrea Shaw are physical, play hard, give the Tiger defense a burning desire and make them think twice before taking the ball to the basket. Combined, Gilmore, Choate, and Shaw have over 75 steals and close to 20 blocks between them.

Caitlyn Reyes gives HTA good quality minutes and she is a force on the boards. Reyes grabbed 14 rebounds last weekend at districts.

"The key for us is that we have to be aggressive on defense. Eads has one of the best players in the state in Jordan Barnette, we need to contain her if we do that and be physical and aggressive on "D" we will do alright." Coach Joe Jimenez said.

Jordan Barnette has been part of two state championship teams at Eads. She knows what it takes to win. Barnette is averaging 16.8 PPG, 8 RPG, and close to 5 steals this year. As Barnette goes, the Lady Eagles go. Stopping her will be the key for HTA to advance.

On offense, the Lady Tigers, are lead by Catherine Jimenez and Patsy Adams. Jimenez is averaging a double double this year, her 18.5 PPG and 12 RPG are among the best in the state in Class 1A. Adams scored 26 last week in a win over Moffat at districts.

"We match up well with Eads. The key on offense will be to shoot the ball well from the outside, they (Eads) likes to play zone, and they will probably look to stop our inside game, and force us to beat them from the outside." Coach Jimenez added.

HTA will take on Eads (17-5) today at 3 p.m. at Dove Creed High School. The winner will face either Dove Creek (21-1) or Wiley (10-8) on Saturday for a chance to play in the Elite

Eight State games next weekend.

Hoehne Lady Farmers are coming off a thrilling three OT win over Fountain Valley 63-60. In that game all 12 girls played even at the end of regulation and in all three overtimes. This is a fairly young team that has had many obstacles thrown their way last weekend and basically all season. The win last weekend in the district championship may have just been the game that brings this group closer together. A win like that should silence those who say they lack experience. Every player that had to step up, did. Teams grow up real fast in triple overtime games.

Hoehne (14-8) is a solid defensive team, their hustle and physical style is what keeps them in games. The two time Class 1A District Six champs are led by Senior Nicole Paradisa. With Paradisa, stats really do not tell the whole story she leads by example.

Jordan East has really played well over the past few weeks, she is a young player that gives Hoehne a presents inside. East comes to play every night. Alyssa Hernandez, a junior, has overcome injuries and does all small things to help HHS win. Lyndsi Necaize gives the Lady Farmers good quality minutes and another inside presence.

Randi and Danielle Cordova are quick and play solid defense and they just may be two of Hoehne's best defenders along the perimeter.

Donna Tavakoli hustles, plays hard and last week she showed late in the district championship she can hit clutch shots and free throws.

Stephany Navarette kept Hoehne in district final, scoring 11 points in the final minutes and hitting two free throws with 0.8 left to send the game into the first extra period.

"They are big and aggressive, we will have to pressure them and force them to make mistakes." Coach Cliff Santistevan said about Pikes Peak Christian.

The Eagles have three girls that average in double figures scoring. Cassidy Austin averages 12.5 PPG and she grabs 14.4 RPG.

Santistevan added "We need to limit our turnovers, make shots from the outside and box out on both ends of the floor."

Another key for the Lady Farmers is to take the ball to the basket try to get the bigger Eagles in foul trouble. HHS can not just settle for outside shots or fall behind early.

Pikes Peak (11-11) and Hoehne will tip off at 3 p.m. today in Florence with the winner to take on the winner of Evangelical (19-2) Akron (11-10) contest on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Senior Cherrie Liu leads the Trinidad Lady Miners; she is the heart and soul of this relatively young team. Last week Liu hit two free throws with no time left on the clock to send the game against Salida in overtime, because of her poise won the game and extended Trinidad's season. Liu has been the leader the Lady Miners needed to keep this group together.

Trinidad like HTA and Hoehne, have a good, solid, and quick defense that gives them a chance to win every game. The Lady Miners are quick up front on defense, and the "D" gives them opportunities on the offensive end.

The bench is deep for THS as they have 9 to 10 girls that they can play and they have girls that play various positions.

Trinidad probably has the toughest challenge this weekend, Holy Family is (21-1) and one of top girls teams in Class 3A.

For THS to be successful they will have to take care of the ball, shoot a high percentage from the field, box out, and they cannot fall behind early. On defense Trinidad needs to be physical and play the way they have all season defensively.

Trinidad vs. Holy Family is slated to start at 1 p.m. today.

Boys basketball preview

The Farmers go as Eric Sanchez goes. The senior is the team's leader in most categories. Sanchez was able to control the glass on both ends last weekend in the district championship win over Custer. Geaninny Campos another senior along with "The Critic" Manuel Pedraza are quick and are two of Hoehne's best defenders.

Gramm Kephart can shoot the lights out of the ball, the senior guard, can set the tempo of the game early; if he can get out on the break, make break away lay-ups and if he can hit some three pointers early. Chris Stacy is the role player; if he hits his open shots and keeps the defense honest that will create more one on one opportunities for both Kephart, and Sanchez.

"The Key on offense for us is to play inside out, limit turnovers and just be patient." Hoehne head coach Manuel Navarette said. "If we box out on defense, get a hand in the shooters face, talk / communicate on defense

and front the cutters we should be able to stop them."

Navarette added "We need play like we practice, make strong passes, stay aggressive the whole game, and get out and run this will open up things for us on offense."

Hoehne will tip off with Pikes Peak at 4:30 p.m. today with the winner to face either Colorado Springs Schools or Wray at 2:30 on Saturday for the Regional championship and a spot in next weekends state tournament.

The Primero Bulldogs seniors will have to lead this group of young and talented kids, the Bulldogs must not let the time of year, the playoff atmosphere, affect them. The young Primero team last week just might have got caught up in the hoopla of the district playoffs. Seniors Matt Maestas and Billy Stanton stepped up and showed the younger players that this was just another game in a three point win over Centennial last Saturday

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Be aggressive, take the ball strong to the basket, and play aggressive in your face defense are the keys that gained the Hoehne Farmer boys the win over Custer County for their second straight district championship. These same simple concepts will be keys this weekend in Florence in order for the Farmers to advance in regionals.

The Farmers are probably one of the smaller teams of the 32 left in the Class 2A road to the Elite Eight, so being aggressive on both sides of the floor will keep them on the path to their ultimate goal.

Hoehne's opposition today is Pikes Peak, a team that plays in district eight, a very tough district. The Eagles (12-10) are the districts sixth seed. They have lost to Fountain Valley, Calhan, Simla, and Limon. Cassidy Austin, one of three kids that average over 10 PPG, leads the Eagles. Austin grabs 15 boards a game and scores about 12.5 PPG.

Pikes Peak lost six in a roll late in the season. They are big but they have played up and down all season.

Trojans head to tournament

Courtesy of MIKE SALBATO
Special to the Chronicle

The Region IX South co-champion Trinidad State basketball team will be heading to Sterling, Colorado for the 16-team regional tournament starting this weekend. The tournament gets started on Friday but the Trojans won't see action until 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Despite the first place tie the Trojans are the second seed from the south division because of a series of tiebreakers. Northeastern Junior College will be the top seed, Lamar will be third and Otero will be the number four seed.

TSJC (16-14) faces Western Wyoming (15-15) in the first round. The Mustangs finished third in the Central Region behind champion Casper and Central Wyoming.

Western is a bigger team with a couple of players listed at 6'9". They are led in scoring by 6'2" sophomore Darin Weeks who averages 15 points a game.

The Trojans are lead in scoring by sophomore Donell Wells. Wells finished the year as the fourth leading scorer in the 18 team region at 20.3 points a game. He was just half a point behind top scorer Anthony Harris (20.8) of Northeastern Junior College. Also leading the way for TSJC is sophomore Josh Henry. The 6'6" post is the third leading rebounder in the region grabbing just under ten rebounds a game to go with a double-digit scoring average. Point guard Willie Holmes is fourth in steals in the region. He averages double figures and controls the pace of the game for TSJC. Jordan Martinez-Doublin should be a key player for the Trojans in the tournament. He has picked his offensive game up as of late to go along with his defensive and rebounding skills. Josh Megyeri rounds out the starting five. The sophomore from Manitou Springs averaged 13 points a game while hitting 40 percent of his 3-point attempts. Bench play will also be very important if the Trojans are going to advance

through the tournament.

The game on Saturday should be a high scoring affair. The Trojans are the fourth highest scoring team in the region. They average 81 points a game but give up almost as many as they allow 80.1 a game. Western Wyoming averages 77 points a game but gives up 78.2. Both teams can shoot the long ball. The Mustangs lead the Region in 3-point percentage at 40 percent. The Trojans are second in the region in 3-pointers made with 241. The Trojans will hope to find their way to the free throw line where they were best in the region this year hitting 73.3 percent of their charity tosses.

If the Trojans get past the Mustangs their probable second round match up will be with 24-6 Sheridan. TSJC hopes to improve on their success of last season when they fell two points shy of the title game. The games will be played throughout the weekend until Tuesday when a new Region IX champion is crowned.

Good luck all area teams!

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Good luck and best wishes Lady Miners

Felix, Darlene, Janelle, Kendra and The Lopez Family

Congratulations and good luck TSJC Trojans at the Region IX!

The Lopez Family and TSJC Business Office

Good luck at Regionals to all area teams

TLAC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 17, Trinidad, Colorado 81082 • (719) 846-8234

Go Trojans and good luck!

TSJC Booster Club

Go Farmers boys and girls. Congratulations on District Championships.

Hoehne Schools

Congratulations and good luck Lady Miners.

Fom the students, facility and staff of School District #1

Best wishes!

Dan and Kathy Nuschy and family

Congratulations to all five area teams!

4M Tire and Diagnostic Center

Go area teams! Good job!

From Big 4 Country Store

Go TSJC Trojans at Regional IX Tournament

Dan and Kathy Nuschy

Go Hoehne Boys and Girls!

The staff at PVC

Go all the way to state Primero Bulldogs!

PVC Constrution