

SPORTS

Emotional win over Nooksack Valley takes Blaine boys basketball to bi-district playoff

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Cael Button
Junior • Boys Wrestling

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▲ Blaine's boys varsity basketball team will move on to the bi-district playoff this weekend with its 58-37 win over Nooksack Valley.

Photo by Janell Kortlever

BY IAN HAUPT

Up by 20 points, Blaine boys varsity basketball head coach Brett Farrar subbed off his starters with a minute left in the game. All five of them separately gave him an emotional hug before sitting down. Farrar, who lost his father that day to a long cancer

battle, turned around a minute later as the final buzzer sounded, securing the Borderites place in the next round of playoffs, to hug his family.

Blaine outplayed a young Nooksack Valley team with quick offensive passing and a strong defensive performance. The game finished 58-37.

"[The team] gave a phenomenal effort defensively," Farrar said. "They gave it everything out there, each and every one of them. It was a real team effort."

A moment of silence was held before the game for Farrar's father, who was a referee in the conference for multiple years.

"He loved the game," Farrar said. "It was a pretty tough loss."

Coming into the game, Nooksack Valley was no pushover opponent. The Borderites narrowly beat the Pioneers 52-49 in regular season play. A couple of

fourth-quarter three-pointers secured the win for them that night.

Nooksack finished the regular season with a 5-11 record. The team has only one senior and three starting freshmen.

Blaine was 11-5 in regular season action and finished the season with seven straight wins. But on the back of a tough 86-57 loss to Lynden Christian in the district championship last Friday, the Borderites were looking for another path into the playoffs. They also wanted to win it for Farrar.

Farrar said he was pleased the team gets to keep playing.

Blaine came into the game flying, holding Nooksack to two points by the end of the first quarter. At halftime, the Borderites led 27-18. With a couple stops early at the end of the third

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▲ Head coach Brett Farrar signals to his players in Blaine's 58-37 win over Nooksack Valley Tuesday night. Farrar lost his father the night before the game. His mom, brother, wife and daughters sat near the team bench during the game and a moment of silence was held before the game to remember his father.

Photo by Janell Kortlever

Sasquatch sighting in Lincoln Park



▲ Sasquatch, a.k.a. Blaine resident Greg Nuzum, was sighted in Lincoln Park on February 12. Nuzum is known to dress up as other characters around town, most recently spotted as the Grinch last Christmas. Photos courtesy Greg Nuzum

Sports ...

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quarter and two big threes from sophomore Joey Brown, Nooksack looked like it could get back into the game, closing the gap to four points. However, Blaine saw the quarter out, which finished 37-24, following a timeout and never looked back.

Quick team passing, strong drives from junior Matthew Russ, and three-pointers from seniors Scott Baldwin, Cole Thomas and Avery Dohner extended the Borderites lead to 20 points in the fourth quarter and gave them time to empty the bench.

Baldwin led the Borderites with 13 points. Thomas and Dohner both had 11, Russ had nine, junior Carson Lehnert had six, junior Lucas Smith had four, and senior Jaxon Kortlever and sophomore Noah Tavis each had two.

The boys will play next Sat-



▲ Jaxon Kortlever returned from a minor knee injury to play in the game against Nooksack Valley Tuesday night. Photo by Janell Kortlever

urday, February 19, at 6 p.m. at King's High School in Shoreline. Their opponent was not announced by press time.

"We don't know who we're

going to play yet," Farrar said. "We've been really solid defensively all season, and if we keep playing that way, working as a team, we should be alright."

Covid ...

From page 13

school district area had the highest Covid-19 cases in the county, with 1,046 cases per 100,000 people. Mount Baker school district had the lowest case rate at 311 cases per 100,000.

Eleven county residents died from Covid-19 in the past week, bringing the virus death toll to 253 people in Whatcom County.

On February 15, 32 Peace-

Health patients had either been admitted for Covid-19 or tested positive for Covid-19 after being admitted for another reason.

Children 5-17 years old have the highest Covid-19 transmissions in the county, with 1,156 cases per 100,000, a 34.3 percent case rate decrease from the previous week. People 65 and older had the lowest case rates with 336 cases per 100,000, a slight increase from the previous week.

The health department re-

leased its weekly Covid-19 report for January 30 through February 5. The county averaged 200 new cases during this time, down from 320 daily cases during the last week of January. Four people died that week: A vaccinated woman in her 50s, a vaccinated woman in her 60s, a vaccinated woman in her 80s and an unvaccinated man in his 60s.

For more Whatcom County information, visit whatcomcounty.us/covidvaccine and whatcomcounty.us/coviddata.

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