

## **Centralia survives scare from Burlingame in 1A-I girls semis**

DODGE CITY – Centralia’s Panthers will seek to complete an undefeated season as they eye their sixth state basketball championship when they face Pretty Prairie’s girls at 6:15 p.m. Saturday at United Wireless Arena.

The Panthers secured the final spot in the championship game with a roller-coaster 53-45 triumph over the Cinderella team of the tournament, the Burlingame Bearcats in Friday’s late semifinal battle.

Earlier, Pretty Prairie knocked off previously unbeaten and No. 1 seed Hodgeman County, 37-32. The Bulldogs are looking to secure their first state title while Centralia’s last championship came in the 2016 season over Waverly, also in 1A-I.

The game was the basketball version of a roller coaster at the amusement park as Burlingame opened with an 18-11 lead after one quarter only to see the Panthers answer with a 17-7 second period, giving them a 28-25 halftime edge.

It was the third quarter that proved to be the deciding time of the game as Centralia continued to use its pressure defense that pushed them to a 19-2 advantage and a 47-27 lead heading to the final eight minutes.

Burlingame, though, refused to fold. Making their first-ever state tournament appearance, the Bearcats scored the first 10 points of the fourth, slicing the lead to 47-37 with 3:16 remaining and still plenty of clock left.

The Panthers, though, got some key free throw shooting down the stretch and had just enough to hold off the Bearcats and head to the title game.

“We started to play defense in the second quarter,” Centralia Coach Roger Holthaus said afterward. “That’s been our big thing all season.”

The Panthers had a tough time keeping the Bearcats’ 5-9 junior Kaylin Noonan off the blocks, as she poured in 24 points off 11-of-13 shooting. Included in that was 10 points in the final eight minutes.

“She’s a stud and we had no answer for her,” Holthaus said of Noonan. “When I look at them, I see us in the mirror. We’re very much alike and I knew that would be a dogfight.”

Daelyn Winters added 10 points for Burlingame. Centralia was led by its sensational freshman, Oen Deters, with 16 as she canned 7 of 11 field goals and grabbed 6 rebounds. Abbie Flentie contributed 13 and Lena Haverkamp 10 to the winning cause.

The Panthers had the hottest hand in the tournament through two rounds from the field, hitting 20 of 39 field goals for 51.3 percent. Burlingame was 19 of 46 for 41.3 percent.

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### **CENTRALIA 53, BURLINGAME 45**

**Burlingame 18 7 2 18 -- 45**

**Centralia 11 17 19 6 -- 53**

Burlingame (21-3) – Tyson 0-1 0-0 0, Noonan 11-13 2-4 24, Winters 4-17 0-0 10, Simmons 3-11 0-0 9, Masters 0-2 0-0 0, Crook 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 19-46 2-4 45.

Centralia (25-0) – Haverkamp 3-8 2-2 10, Wells 1-3 0-0 3, Kramer 1-2 0-0 2, A. Deters 3-5 3-4 9, O. Deters 7-11 1-2 16, Flentie 5-10 0-0 13. Totals 20-39 6-8 53.

3-point goals—Burlingame 5-22 (I. Tyson 0-1, Noonan 0-1, Winters 2-10, Simmons 3-8, Masters 0-2), Centralia 7-16 (Haverkamp 2-5, Wells 1-2, A. Deters 0-1, O. Deters 1-2, Flentie 3-6). Rebounds—Burlingame 27 (Noonan 8), Centralia 22 (O. Deters 6). Assists—Burlingame 11 (I. Tyson, Winters 3), Centralia 14 (Flentie 4). Fouls—Burlingame 13, Centralia 6. Fouled out—Burlingame (Simmons).

### **Class 1A-I Scoreboard**

#### **Boys**

#### **Friday's Semifinal Results**

Olpe 68, Macksville 38

South Gray 79, Solomon 46

#### **Saturday's Schedule**

#### **Consolation**

12 p.m.—Macksville (22-3) vs. Solomon (17-8)

### **Championship**

4 p.m.—Olpe (24-1) vs. South Gray (23-2)

## **Girls**

### **Friday's Semifinal Results**

Pretty Prairie 37, Hodgeman County 32

Centralia 53, Burlingame 45

### **Saturday's Schedule**

#### **Consolation**

2 p.m.—Hodgeman County (24-1) vs. Burlingame (21-3)

#### **Championship**

6:15 p.m.—Pretty Prairie (24-1) vs. Centralia (25-0)