

TOURNEY TIME: Nothing says the holiday season like a good basketball tournament and there were a few last week. Cambria Heights were the winners of the tourney they hosted as they defeated Moshannon Valley 69-54 on opening night and then beat Northern Cambria 64-51 for the title. In the win over Mo Valley, Ian Vescovi scored 16, Anthony Milanese dropped 15 and John Fees contributed 13 in the winning cause. Devin Lansberry led the Highlanders in the championship game with 20 points while Vescovi added 17 and John Link chipped in 10. Vescovi was named tournament MVP.

Somerset won the Boswell Jaycees Tournament with victories in back-to-back nights over Richland (74-72) and North Star (70-50). Ryan Fisher took home MVP honors for the event, the fourth in a row Scott Close's Golden Eagles have won. Another LHAC team participated in the tourney in Forest Hills. The Rangers lost on opening night to North Star (66-57) but rebounded to take consolation honors with a 53-43 victory over the Rams. Luke Gallaher had a game-high 18 points in the consolation game victory.

Last but not least, Bishop Carroll were the victors of the County Seat Tournament. Cosie Aliquo's Huskies defeated Bellwood-Antis 48-34 on opening night behind a 19-point performance from Jackie Moschgat. In the title game, BC defeated LHAC-foe Penn Cambria 51-40. It was a balanced effort in the title game as Moschgat had 19, Chad Panick 11 and Luke Paronish had 17. However, defense is what earned Matt Repko MVP honors. Despite not scoring a point in the title game and only 3 on opening night, he took home the top individual award. Joe Dziabo's 24 points led PC in the loss.

LHAC NON-SECTIONAL CONTESTS: Last Monday was a busy day in league play as all 12 teams were in action in non-sectional contests. Below are quick bullet points of that action:

- Cambria Heights 63, Somerset 48: The Highlanders were led by Ian Vescovi's 19 and Steve Sharbaugh's 16. In the loss, Anthony Papini had 13 while Ryan Fisher had 10.
- Westmont 64, Penn Cambria 60: The Hilltoppers got a double-double from Mike Valcheff (18 points, 12 rebounds) and teammate Chris Kessler dropped 20 in the win. Penn Cambria was paced by Joe Dziabo's 19 points.
- Johnstown 53, Bedford 34: The Trojans remain undefeated as Richard Agurs scored 10 while Paul Weatherly had 15 rebounds in the victory. The Bisons were led by Mark Scott's 18 points in the losing effort.
- Bishop Carroll 60, Central Cambria 54: Jackie Moschgat had 22 while Chad Panick scored 16 points and grabbed 10 boards for the Huskies. Central Cambria's Jordan Miller continues to be the conference's most prolific scorer as he had a game-high 32 points in the defeat.
- Richland 42, Forest Hills 41: A narrow victory for the Rams as Jordan Rozich's double-double of 11 points and 10 rebounds led the way. The Rangers' Luke Gallaher led all scorers with 22.
- Bishop McCort 61, Bishop Guilfoyle 47: Pat Hollern's Crushers win this year's Catholic school battle of Johnstown and Altoona as he got a balanced attack with Jim Spisak scoring 14, Bill Dill 13 and Jack Schrey 12. Nick Johnson scored 22 points from BG in the loss.

ON THE HORIZON: More tourney talk as with Christmas break continuing and school out. Bedford is playing in the Bellefonte Holliday Tournament and the Bisons will face Penns Valley the first night. Bishop Guilfoyle is taking on Tyrone in opening night of the BG tourney while Johnstown takes on LHAC sectional rival Westmont in the opener of the Windber Rotary Tourney. Finally, the Somerset Golden Eagles are in another tourney before the New Year, as they travel to Grove City to face Saegertown opening night. All tournaments referenced have opening nights of Monday with Championship/Consolation games on the next day.

COACHSPEAK: I recently caught up with Bishop Carroll Head Coach Cosie Aliquo to talk about the his squad's quick start. The Huskies went 3-0 back in the week of 12/15. "Anytime you beat Windber, Westmont, and Bishop McCort you have to be happy. But to do it all in one week says a lot about this team. We just take it one game at a time and in our conference you can't take any team for granted.

Coach Hollern does a great job with Bishop McCort so I always look to see where I can improve to get our program to that level. Right now I'm really happy with our senior leadership. All seven seniors have been fabulous."

The Huskies are at Glendale on Tuesday and then off until after the New Year. After the holiday break they'll have a challenging week, facing off against sectional opponents Johnstown (1/7) and Richland (1/9).