

B U F F A L O N E W S

Grand Island girls complete three-peat

Pioneer gets back on winning track in Class A-2 triumph

By **Mary Jo Monnin**

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Grand Island became legal on Wednesday night.

The Vikings improved to 21-0 with a 53-25 victory over Williamsville East in the Section VI Class A-1 final. The outside shooting of Kallie Banker and the inside play of Cassie Oursler proved a winning combination as the Vikings made it three Section VI titles in a row.

Banker had four three-pointers among her 14 points, and Oursler added 12 points along with nine rebounds. Brooke DeMarco added 13 as the state's No. 1-ranked team in Class A cruised before 445 at Erie Community College.

Grand Island and Pioneer will play for the overall Class A title at 1 p.m. Saturday at ECC.

The Flames had no answer for the 6-foot-3 Oursler.

"If you're not used to playing against a kid like that, all of a sudden there's a 6-3 kid standing there in the middle that you're not used to seeing," said GI coach Jenepher Banker. "So it does alter what is usually comfortable."

Grand Island made quick work of the ECIC II co-champions, holding them to four field goals in the contest. The Vikings jumped out to a 15-0 lead before Mackenzie Klun broke through for East (17-4) with a pair of free throws 1:20 into the second quarter.

Banker and Oursler had success throughout the contest finding the holes in East's 2-3 zone.

"A drop-step is my favorite, and I do baby hooks sometime, and I'm working on going left more because I'm mainly righty," said Oursler.

Class A-2 final: Pioneer beat Olean, 49-28, in a game featuring teams with a long history of success in sectional play. Pioneer, winners of back-to-back titles in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, improved to 20-1.

Olean (13-8) had won the last three Class B-1 titles before moving to Class A this year.

Pioneer never trailed, building an 11-0 lead before Olean got on the board. The score was 19-11 at the break. Pioneer, led by Jenna Crabb, was never threatened in the second half. Crabb led the winners with 18 points, four assists and four steals. Kiley Titus had 14 points and seven rebounds.

Pioneer held Olean to single digits in all four quarters.

"That was the best defense we played all year," said Pioneer coach Bill Connelly. "They wanted to come out in a full-court man. We had a real good week of practice. They were very focused. This was a sigh of relief for the seniors. After those past two years of being frustrated here [back-to-back losses to Amherst] they really wanted this one. Half jubilation, half relief.

Olean's Emily Bantelman and Marissa Levia combined for 12 points. The Huskies weren't able to recover from scoring just two points in the first quarter.

The game featured two players whose sisters are playing NCAA Division I basketball. Bantelman's sister, Rachel, is playing for the University at Buffalo while Mikaela Connelly's sister, Joelle, is at Temple University.

Class D semifinals: Six of 10 players scored for Sherman, which cruised into Saturday's final with a 41-11 rout of Olmsted at Jamestown High School.

Senior Kaylyn Zemcik led the winners with 14 points, five rebounds and four steals as the Wildcats (17-3) limited their Canisius Cup foe to just five field goals in reaching the sectional final for the first time since 2009. Olmsted finished 14-4.

In the other semifinal -- a rematch of last year's Section VI final, Pine Valley (16-4) gained a measure of revenge by ending Clymer's state championship reign with 51-39 triumph.

Alex Smith had 19 points, while Carlye Swanson added 11. Seven players scored for Clymer (13-7), led by Rebecca Skinner's nine points.

The Section VI Tournament continues today with the finals in Class B-1 and Class B-2.

No. 1 seed Eden (16-4) will play No. 3 Roy-Hart (14-5) at 6 p.m. in Class B-1. No. 1 seed Wilson (19-1) faces No. 3 Allegany-Limestone (15-5) at 8 p.m. for the Class B-2 crown.