

# Oursler's play does the talking for Grand Island

## *Vikings' win sets up rematch with Pioneer*

BY: Mary Jo Monnin / News Sports Reporter

SANBORN — Cassie Oursler woke up Thursday morning and could hardly talk. Her voice was raspy throughout the rest of the week and her first thought was, “oh great, I’m going to be sick.”

Oursler may not have been able to talk Saturday, but she was heard from.

The 6-foot-3 senior, Grand Island’s center of attention, put together a monster game to help GI beat Hamburg, 49-39, in the Section VI Class A-1 championship girls basketball game played at Niagara County Community College.

The Vikings (11-8) will play A-2 champion Pioneer (13-8) for the overall Class A title at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at NCCC. It’s the third year in a row the teams will meet for the crown.

Oursler, who has signed with Robert Morris, finished with 16 points, 21 rebounds and seven blocks to help the Vikings secure their fifth consecutive Class A-1 title. Dakayla Winfield added 10 points and Grace Olszewski and Stephanie Knight provided a spark combining for 14.

Oursler was dominant on both ends, blocking shots and scoring when counted on.

“I felt like I stepped up on defense because that was more important today,” said Oursler. “We focused mainly on their shooters. Inside we knew they had a lot of girls who were good and getting a rebound and going back up with it.”

Hamburg, which was chasing its first sectional crown since 2005, finishes 19-2 with its only other loss coming to Class AA Clarence. The Bulldogs rolled to a 12-0 record in winning ECIC II, but GI presented its share of challenges. Oursler and 6-foot senior Kassie Bennett helped take away Hamburg’s inside game.

Hamburg’s only lead of the game was at 3-0. The Vikings answered with a 9-0 run in which Oursler was the key with five points. By the end of the first quarter, which ended 13-7 in favor of GI, she already had seven rebounds.

The teams traded baskets in the second quarter with Grand Island scoring the last six points to take a 26-18 lead into the locker room.

The third quarter was about as even as it could be with both teams scoring 13 points. Hamburg scored the last five points, looking to build some momentum going into the fourth.