Written by Russell Hedges
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The Cope Lady Cougars eighth-grade team and the Elm Grove Lady Eagles seventh-grade team continued to set the pace in their respective districts Monday.
Both teams improved to 6-0 in district play.
Cope defeated Greenacres 22-17 at Greenacres. Elm Grove edged Rusheon 24-21 at Rusheon.
In other eighth-grade action, Rusheon downed Elm Grove 48-33, and Benton knocked off Haughton 29-11
In other seventh-grade games, Cope defeated Greenacres 39-32, and Haughton dropped Benton 26-13.
At Greenacres, Keke Marshall and Krystal Grannum scored eight points apiece to lead the Cope eighth-graders to the win.
Tia Lowe led the Lady Mustangs with eight points, Wendy Torres hit a 3-pointer.
Chloe Walker had a season-high 23 points in Cope's seventh-grade victory. Jazmyne Dawson also had a good game with 16 points.
Sophia Kline reached double-figure scoring for Greenacres with 10 points. Camila Rodriguez added nine points and Brianna Jacobs had seven.
Brittney Roberson nd Tashia Dagley combined for six.
At Rusheon, the Lady Rams eighth-graders won their third straight game and took over second place in the district at 4-2.
Nykura Marzett scored a season-high 25 points. Artisha Reney added 14, and Quianna White and Davin Keith combined for seven.
Coach Cedric Washington said Areonna Gilbert turned in a strong defensive effort, and White played tough underneath the basket.
Jasmine Douglas led Elm Grove with 10 points and Mackenzie Kleinpeter had eight.
Balanced scoring helped the Lady Eagles seventh-graders win.
Akirya Jefferson led the way with eight points Kaylan Coker added seven points. Dionisha Wilson and Madison Laboy combined for nine.
Destiny Thomas led Rusheon with 14 points. Cecelia Cruz, Jada Johnson and Chrishawna Jones combined for seven.
At Haughton, Kichauna West scored 11 points and Rebecca Grantham had eight to lead the Benton eighth-graders to the victory.
Lynnse Terhune was 2-for-2 beyond the arc. Coach Maryjo Duddy said Sarah Koeppen and Morgan Hearn were strong on the boards.
Champagne Dennis continued to have a good season for the Haughton seventh-graders, leading the Lady Bucs with 12 points. Coach Justin Turner said Dennis had several rebounds and steals that turned into points off the fast break.
Leah Hopson added six points. Turner said Mayghan Myers and Savannah Salley played "great defense."
Mackenzie McEntee led the Benton seventh-graders with six points. Mackenzie Terhune and Brittney McLelland combined for seven.
Duddy said the Lady Tigers got "outstanding defense, rebounding and leadership" from Kaitlin Bratten.