

BRAYMER MOVES INTO FINALS

The Braymer Bobcats survived a tough semifinal match in the 31st Annual Meadville Basketball Tournament by topping a very good Hale Cardinal team 72-67. This win moves them into the championship game versus the host Meadville at 8:00pm Saturday night.

The two teams battled, back and forth, for the lead all night. Hale jumped out early in the 1st quarter only to see Braymer fight back behind baskets by senior guard John Haley. In an up tempo game that clearly favored the much smaller Cardinals, both teams made mini-runs in the first two quarters that kept the game close. Score at halftime - Braymer 38 - Hale 37.

The third quarter and much of the 4th continued along the same lines with neither team able to stop the other. While the defenses played pretty well, the offenses of both squads were exceptional. Hale's guard oriented offense spread the floor hit open shots. Braymer used their much bigger posts to score inside. Braymer finally took control of the game with less than 2 minutes remaining when senior Clayton Brown took charge in the paint. Scoring on drives to the basket or free throws he powered the Bobcat offense to an eight point lead that Hale was unable to overcome.

For the evening, Braymer was led in scoring by John Haley with 23 points. James Schreier had 20 points and 9 rebounds. Clayton Brown extended his streak of double-doubles by adding 12 rebounds to his 16 points while Trent Utt had 8 rebounds to go along with his 3 points.

Caden Shonk knocked down 2 3-pointers for 6 points and Dylan Adkison and Jesse Utt added 2 each. Sophomore Brandon Taylor came off the bench to pull down 4 rebounds.

Braymer enters the championship game on a 13 game winning streak that has pushed their season record to 14-1, while Meadville enters the game undefeated at 15-0 and a #2 ranking in Missouri Class 1. Game time for the final is set at 8:00 pm Saturday.