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photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

The Ignacio Bobcats go through post-game handshakes with the Sanford Indians after falling 61-53 in the Saturday, March 3 2A-Region III Tournament championship in Durango. IHS's 2011-12 season ended at 18-5 overall, while SHS improved to 20-5 entering this weekend's State Championships in Pueblo.

Jefferson (15 points) finished yet another Bobcat three-point play with 1:18 left, after being fouled by backup Dalton Rodriguez, but two Larsen FTs (with 0:03 left) again kept Sanford's engine revving.

And his fourth try put it into gear, 6:56 left in the game. After Richmond's last basket, Jarvies answered with SHS's seventh long-ranger, cutting IHS's lead to 53-45. Three-pointers numbers eight and nine, both by Jarvies, pulled Sanford back to 53-51 with 4:36 left, and then put the Indians ahead 54-53.

"They keep pushing the pace, keep wearing you down. They did a great job," said Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez. "Hats off to them; they're going to do a great job at the state tournament. They're going to compete, play great defense, and they have no quit in them."

"We just stuck it out; we don't quit," said Jarvies, who totaled 19 points. "Played as a team, and got some good team shots in the fourth. We practice those shots every day, and they just fell tonight."

A Rodriguez free throw put SHS up by four, with only 59 seconds left, and as IHS's shots failed to fall — including late three-point tries by Richmond and senior Matthew Silva — Sanford found themselves promptly headed back to the stripe as fouls were committed in hopes of saving time.

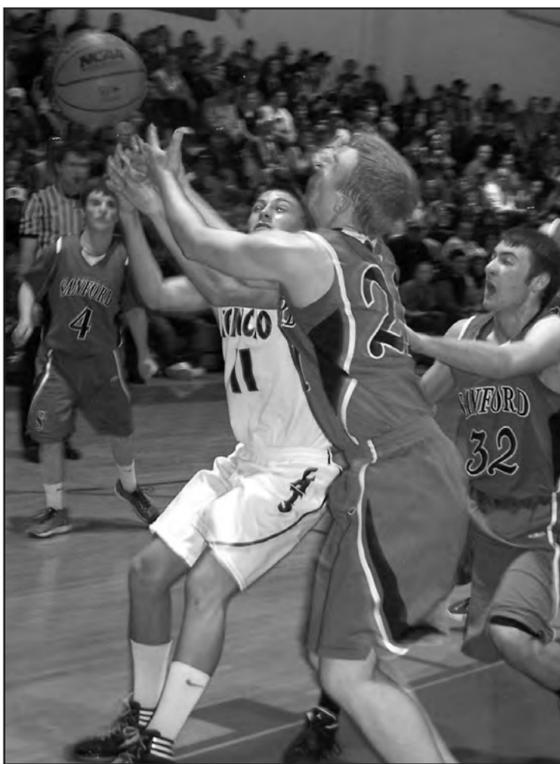


photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Clayton Jefferson (11) goes neck-and-neck with Sanford's Josh Jarvies (21) and Stetson Edgar (32) for a ball near the baseline during the Saturday, March 3 2A-Region III Tournament championship game in Durango.

Building on a win over West Grand (Kremmling), Sanford out-attended Ignacio (who'd ousted Crowley County 67-54) 16-2 from the charity line in the

fourth quarter, finishing 19-of-32 to the Bobcats' 4-of-8, and capped the contest with a make by Edgar (nine points).

Herrera finished with four points, but Jones and Kelton Richmond made just a hoop each, and senior Xavier Watts was held scoreless. Shane Richmond ended his season-long assault, and his career, with a game-high 30.

"Shane's just a scoring machine. I've never coached a kid anywhere even close," Valdez said. "He can score with anybody, and we just had a hard time getting him the ball down the stretch. That was our biggest problem; he did everything he could for us."

"Let's face it: We're not deep. ... Our guys got tired, were getting beat defensively," he added. "When they'd go out to help, [Sanford would] go to the corners to wide-open, good shooters, and they didn't miss anything late in the game."

"It was nice being here in Durango again. ... [It] would have been nicer to win it all. But it was still a good year," said Richmond, as Ignacio finished an abbreviated 18-5.



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio head coach Chris Valdez (standing), assistant Shane Seibel (right, seated) and the Bobcat bench wear expressions of concern as Sanford and guard Calder Larsen (left) run down to set up their offense during a frenzied fourth quarter on Saturday, March 3 in Durango. Via a 22-2 fourth, SHS prevailed 61-53 in the 2A-Region III Tournament, securing a spot in this weekend's State Championships in Pueblo.

Lady Cats make valiant exit

By Joel Priest
Special to the Drum

Prentiss became the master. It was for just a quarter, but it was long enough to give Denver Christian a seemingly safe half-time pad. The only problem facing the Lady Crusaders inside Colorado Mesa University's Brownson Arena was that they were against an underdog in the Lady Cats, one with a known track record of climbing out of holes, and one who made sure to pack all the right tools for a return to Grand Junction and a repeat go-round against a big city squad in regionals.

"We have a couple trick defenses we threw at them that worked," said Ignacio boss Brice Searles. "Our girls played a heck of a second half. If we could only combine that with the first half, I think we would be walking out of here with that 'W' in our bag."

But despite seven missed free throws and nine missed layups, with six seconds left on Wayne Nelson Court, victory — or overtime — was suddenly still possible. Junior Valerie Armstrong alertly tied up Merissa Prentiss (12 ppg) to gain the possession arrow, and Searles drew up a play in IHS's huddle.

Not only did it break a 75-percent-intense press, but the ball found the hands of the only Lady Bobcat to connect from beyond the arc in the contest: Armstrong, whose make had sliced the Lady Crusaders' lead to 34-33 (once an imposing 23-8 at intermission, thanks to Prentiss' 10 second-period points) with 2:31 left.

An infraction with 0:35 remaining, ruled an intentional foul against Ignacio junior Michelle Simmons, had allowed DC senior Ryleigh Newcombe to make a free throw, but Denver Christian was unable to capitalize on the bonus possession. Nor on two more, gained via fouls whistled on IHS's Pam Cotton, the latter coming with only 11 seconds left.

But upon receiving the ball on the right wing at the three-point line, Armstrong found herself immediately blanketed and her vision toward the hoop completely obscured by DC senior Christina Drost, playing a dangerous gamble that left Simmons (seven points, six rebounds, four steals) open in the paint.

Forced into Plan B, Armstrong passed to sophomore Cloe Seibel on the left wing — a good alternative, as Seibel had tied the score late in the first quarter (which ended at 6-6) with a 17-footer. But by the time Seibel (eight points, seven rebounds) squared up to the basket, the buzzer sounded and ended IHS's



photo Joel Priest/Special to the Drum

Ignacio's Pam Cotton (23) finds a window of opportunity between Denver Christian's Eliza Walker (left), Christina Drost (rear) and Jerika Schmitt (right) during the Friday, March 2 2A-Region V Tournament game in Grand Junction. IHS fell 35-33 in an improved (over last season) trip to Colorado Mesa University's Brownson Arena.

2011-12 season, 35-33 in the 2A-Region V semifinals.

Cotton, a junior, was most crucial in the near-miss, holding DC junior Jerika Schmitt — a steady 14-ppg scorer — to an alarming zero, while booking three points, 10 boards and two blocked shots herself. Fellow forward Mariah Vigil, often called upon to help defensively, fought for a team-high 10 points, six coming in the Lady Bobcats' fantastic fourth.

"Ali Lammers stepped up huge for us. She's really not a 'scorer' if you look at her stats all season," said DC head coach Becky Mudd of her senior, who netted all eight Lady Crusader points in the third, "so thank goodness for her! Hit a couple shots [two threes] there that, at least, kept us in it, but they battled right to the end. Give them credit for that."

"No question," agreed Searles, recalling last season's drubbing against Lutheran (Parker). "They had such a comfort level about them that was just so mellow. There was no nerves, nothing that would even equate to nervousness. Just had a confidence about them that was really good to see."

"We came out really slow in the first half," Vigil said. "It was like we were getting down on ourselves. We went into the lock-

er room and we're like, 'We need to bring this up!' So that's what we did, and in the second half we played as a team."

Armstrong accounted for Ignacio's other five points, while Prentiss led all with 16. Lammers finished with nine, Newcombe six, and Drost and freshman Nicole Landhuis two points apiece.

"The girls just came up just a little bit short," Searles said, with IHS ending 10-11 overall. "Not of effort, or desire. ... What they did in the second half, there was no question they played a winning game."

Beaten by a bucket the following afternoon, 58-56, by Pueblo Events Center-bound Paonia, DC's fortunes fizzled out at 17-6. The 22-1 Lady Eagles later received the No. 1 seed in the "Great Eight" and faced Region III champs Del Norte to continue their quest for a state championship.

In fact, only Norwood's Lady Mavericks — not 2A Ridgway, nor even 2A Dolores — will represent the San Juan Basin League in the season's final weekend. With a 37-20 win over Belleview Christian (Westminster) in Glenwood Springs, NHS (21-1) earned the 2-seed in Class 1A, pitting them against No. 7 Kim at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland.

Ignacio High School 2012 baseball schedule

March										
15-17	Piedra Vista	Tourney	A	V	TBA	21	Dove Creek	A	V/V	11 a.m.
22	Pagosa Springs		H	V/V	1 p.m.	24	Dolores	A	V/V	1 p.m.
27	Sargent		A	V	3 p.m.	28	Nucla	H	V/V	11 a.m.
April						May				
10	Dove Creek		H	V	4:30 p.m.	1	Bayfield	A	V/V	2 p.m.
12	Pagosa Springs		A	V/V	1 p.m.	5	Districts	TBD		
14	Dolores		H	V/V	11 a.m.	11-12	Regionals	TBD		
17	Nucla		A	V/V	1 p.m.	18-19	State	TBD		
							Districts, Regionals and State are to be determined.			



Southern Ute Youth Turkey Hunt
April 28-29, 2012

The Southern Ute Wildlife Division and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWF) are sponsoring a Youth Turkey Hunt on Tribal lands on April 28th and 29th, 2012. Our goal is to educate and encourage Tribal Member youth about hunting and outdoor activities on the Reservation. The Hunt will be filmed and broadcast on NWF's Turkey Call television show.



Requirements:

- ✓ 12 to 17 years old (after April 28th 1995 and before April 28th 2000)
- ✓ Passed Hunter Education
- ✓ Enrolled Southern Ute Tribal Member

In addition, the Wildlife Division is interested in recruiting experienced adult Tribal Member turkey hunters to serve as mentors for the youth hunters.

Please contact the Southern Ute Wildlife Division at (970) 563-0130 for more information, to register, or volunteer.