

Sports

Bearettes defeat Van to open district play

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Redfearn played for Mitchell while he coached the Brownsboro Junior Varsity team.

Midway through the first period at the 4:50 mark Van sank a free throw to cut the Bearettes lead to 3-1.

After the slow start to the game the teams ended the first period tied at ten.

The defensive battle continued into the second period as the teams battled back and forth with the lead.

Brittany Lee nailed a three with :50 left in the half to give the Bearettes a 21-18 lead before Van answered right back cutting the lead to 21-20. A

final Lady Vandal shot attempt fell short at the buzzer giving the Bearettes a one point halftime lead.

Returning from what was sure to be a lively halftime speech the Bearettes responded well in the third period as they outscored Van 14-3.

Brownsboro used a 5-0 run to end the period as LeCandace Bell played great defense forcing several turnovers.

Leading 25-23 entering the final period of play the Bearettes continued to play solid defense in route to a 48-37 win.

Redfearn led the Bearettes in scoring with 13 points while Chelsea Chimney (12)

and Sabrina Bradley (10) also scored in double figures for Brownsboro.

Before the game Chimney, the Bearettes leading scorer on the season, stated she wanted to beat Van but that it is hard playing against her former coach.

Chimney played for Mitchell while he was coach of the Brownsboro junior varsity.

When asked about Coach Griffin and the 800 career wins Chimney said she was excited to be on the team that earned Griffin's 800th win and believes it is a great success for Griffin.

Van head coach Toby Mitchell said "I am very

happy and excited for him and the program. I will always be grateful to Coach Griffin, Brownsboro ISD, and the community for everything they have done for me and my family."

"As well as I know Coach Griffin, he will be very humble in this historic number and give credit to everybody else. He is due all the credit in the world for all the work, time, and dedication that he has given to the program and nobody deserves it more."

Brownsboro (17-5, 1-0) will host Canton on Friday night as they continue District 14-3A play. Canton defeated Chapel Hill in their district opener. Bullard defeated Athens to gain an early share of the district lead.

Bearette head coach Griffin stated that he believed the district would be tough this year and that on any given night either team could win.

Coaching in his 1,066 game on the varsity level Coach Fred Griffin is now just 200 games away from 2000.

Based on 20 wins a year Griffin could reach 1,000 career wins in ten seasons.

Entering this season Griffin led the Bearettes to 13 district championships, 21 playoff appearances and four state tournaments. He has yet to win a state title.

His overall record in Brownsboro stands at 654-183. He had led the Bearettes to eight undefeated district seasons. The Bearettes last undefeated run to the district title was during the 05-06 season.

During his first season as Bearettes head coach (1983-84) Griffin's team missed out on a playoff spot by just a few games to end the season with a 17-11 overall record and an 8-6 district record. His first win came against Wills Point in the home opener 67-29.

The following year (84-85) the Bearettes finished the season as Bi-district champs with a 30-3 overall record. That season also marked the begin-



Chad Wilson Photo

While surrounded by Lady Vandals, Bearette Sabrina Bradley goes up for the shot while Chelsea Chimney awaits a possible rebound attempt.



Chad Wilson Photo

Brownsboro's Brittany Lee dives for the loose ball during the 'Battle of the Kickapoo' last Friday night. Lee's all out effort was a great example as to how the Bearettes played the entire evening.

Brownsboro Bearettes under Coach Griffin

Information is based on records kept by *The Statesman*

2007-08: 17-5*	2000-01: 24-11, P	1993-94: 38-1, D,P,S	1986-87: 33-1,D,P
2006-07: 13-16, P	1999-00: 23-11, P	1992-93: 30-4, D,P	1985-86: 28-5,D,P
2005-06: 34-4, D,P,S	1998-99: 14-16	1991-92: 29-6, P	1984-85: 30-3,D,P
2004-05: 26-7, D,P	1997-98: 18-11, 4A P	1990-91: 27-6, D,P	1983-84: 17-11
2003-04: 21-12, P	1996-97: 30-6, 4A P	1989-90: 23-10, D,P	D= District Champ
2002-03: 30-5, D,P,S	1995-96: 24-8	1988-89: 32-4, D,P	P=Playoffs
2001-02: 31-5, D,P	1994-95: 26-9, P	1987-88: 31-5, D,P,S	S=State Tourney
			* current season

Griffin, others reflect on 800 win total

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"It's a funny story, actually," Griffin said. "I got out of college and wanted to be a boys' basketball coach. The only school nearby only had a head girls' basketball job available."

Griffin said he wanted somewhere close so he and his wife, Renee, would be able to stay together while Renee finished college.

"Maybe God or fate pointed me that way," Griffin also said.



Fred Griffin

After spending three years at West End, Griffin moved on to Stranhan High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He pointed out here he got to be an assistant boys' coach in addition to his girls' head coaching job. From two years in Florida he moved back to Louisiana to coach for three years at Hicks High School in Hicks.

Once his stay in Hicks was over, Griffin moved to Brownsboro, where something must have certainly resonated with him; he has coached at BHS for 25 years and over 800 of his overall games.

"It feels like Brownsboro is home to me," Griffin said.

Griffin came to Brownsboro

with assistant coach Chris Frederick, now retired.

Frederick said he came to Brownsboro on his own as a football coach, then became Griffin's assistant.

"Me and him were both strong minded," Frederick said. "We argued all the time, but it made us better coaches. He definitely helped me on my coaching methods and how to treat the kids."

Becky Daughtry, former Bearettes player and now both the freshman basketball coach and head volleyball coach for Brownsboro girls, said she feels like she is part of the 800 accomplishment. Daughtry also said she spent around four years under coach Griffin.

"I don't think words can really express what this means to his family and those who have been with him," Daughtry said.

"It's an accomplishment I'll probably never make because I won't be coaching that long," Daughtry added.

Frederick said there is one thing about Griffin's coaching that stands out, besides Griffin's love of good defense.

"He's got a distinctive whistle. Any time the players hear this whistle they look right at him," Frederick said.

Looking to the future, Griffin decides though 1,000 career wins is a possibility, it will be difficult to achieve.

"I'd like to coach for a little bit longer," Griffin said. "I'm 55 years old; I'll do it as long as my health holds."

Griffin said he got into coaching because a coach always seemed to be a strong authority figure.

"I've always looked up to coaches," Griffin said. "And I always try to treat my players like my daughters."

Griffin also said he always wants parents to feel their kids are safe. After all, the coach has three daughters of his own; Katy, Allie and Caroline.

"It does me good to see players I coached out in the community," Griffin added.

Frederick said Griffin's relationship with the players went beyond the court.

"If they did something right he was right there with them

giving high fives," Frederick said.

As for the 800th win, Griffin said it's something he'll enjoy more later on.

"Now I'm just happy with 1 and 0 in the district," Griffin said.

Griffin has taken teams to state six times; twice at Hicks and four times at Brownsboro, and said he hopes to finally win one before retirement.

It may have been quite a road to 800 but, for Griffin, there are still games to win and players to coach.



Chad Wilson Photo

Griffin, right, talks with Bear Radio host Doug Shaffer following career win number 800.

Bearette Sub-Varsity Basketball Results

Junior Varsity Bearettes

The Brownsboro Junior Varsity Bearettes improved to 18-3 on the season while under the direction of Coach Tom Spears.

In the final game of the Bearette Doubleheader the JV team defeated Grace Community by the score of 42-24. Nicole Pickett led the girls in scoring with 12 points.

Starting district play last Tuesday in Brownsboro the Bearettes defeated Van 28-10 as Montoya Hightower led the team in scoring with 11 points. Chelsea Chambers drained a three pointer in the win.

The Bearettes won first place in the Brownsboro Tournament Saturday by defeating Eustace and Grace.

Megan Hain led the girls in scoring in the championship game with 16 points as the Bearettes defeated Grace 42-12. Against Eustace Jessica

Caviness led the girls in scoring with 10 points as Brownsboro won 34-12.

Bearettes	9	8	17	8-42
Grace	6	4	11	3-24
N.Pickett	12	M.Hain	10	M.Hightower
10	J.Caviness	3	K.Wood	2
K.Robles	2	J.Dingler	2	C.Chambers
1				

Bearettes	12	5	8	3-28
Van	2	2	2	4-10
Hightower	11	N.Pickett	7	C.Chambers
3	J.Caviness	3	A.Scarborough	2
J.Dingler	2			

Brownsboro Tournament				
Bearettes	16	7	3	8-34
Eustace	5	0	3	4-12
J.Caviness	10	M.Hightower	8	N.Pickett
6	J.Dingler	4	M.Hain	4
C.Chambers	2			

Bearettes	18	8	8	8-42
Grace	3	0	4	5-12
M.Hain	16	M.Hightower	7	J.Caviness
5	N.Pickett	4	J.Dingler	3
S.Holt	2	T.Harmon	2	K.Robles
2	K.Wood	1	C.Chambers	1

Freshman Bearettes

Van has been a thorn in the side of the Freshmen Bearettes this season as Brownsboro lost three close games to the Lady Vandals out of the last four total games played.

Brownsboro ended the Bearette Doubleheader with a 30-27 loss to Van. Bryanna Delgado led the team in scoring with 10 points.

In what was one of the closest games played against Van this season the Bearettes lost the district opener in overtime 31-29. Tiffany Hurd led the girls in scoring with 17 points in the two point loss. Carley Smith nailed a three pointer for the Bearettes.

In the Brownsboro tournament on Saturday the Bearettes defeated Ferris 32-16 as Carley Smith led the team in scoring with eight points.

Playing Van for the third time in four games the Bearettes fell by two points in

the Brownsboro tournament championship game.

Chelsea Holcomb led the girls in scoring with nine points as their record on the season dropped to 8-10.

Brownsboro will play Canton Friday at 4:30 in Brownsboro continuing district action.

Bearettes	4	7	8	8-27
Van	5	8	9	8-30
Delgado	10	Hurd	7	Holcomb
4	Veitch	2	Cook	2

Bearettes	7	10	4	8	0-29
Van	11	8	3	7	2-31
T.Hurd	17	B.Delgado	5	C.Smith	5
C.Holcomb	2				

Bearettes	10	10	10	2-32
Ferris	0	2	9	5-16
C.Smith	8	T.Hurd	6	H.Crist
6	B.Delgado	4	C.Holcomb	4
C.Cook	2	C.Carter	2	

Bearettes	6	5	7	9-27
Van	9	8	2	10-29
Holcomb	9	M.Sims	7	Hurd
6	Crist	3		