

# SPORTS

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## Girls Basketball



The Saints' Amanda Coveyou (42) scores a two-point field goal against Gaylord during a non-conference game Monday, January 7.

**Poor Free Throw Shooting Plagues St. Ignace Girls**  
The St. Ignace Saints girls basketball team had a rough week, with non-conference losses to the Gaylord Blue Devils, Charlevoix Rayders, and Straits Area Conference (SAC) foe Cheboygan Chiefs.  
The Saints fell to the Blue Devils 53-50 Monday, January 7, then lost to the Rayders 53-38 Wednesday, January 9, and hit a three-game losing skip when they dropped a 43-35 SAC game to the Chiefs Thursday, January 10.  
The free throw line played a key factor in all three setbacks.

**Free Throws Lift Blue Devils Over Saints**  
St. Ignace outscored Gaylord 43-38 from the field, but the free throw line made the difference, where the Blue Devils held a 15-7 advantage to post the win.  
The Saints made 19 field goals, four treys, and shot 7-of-14 from

the charity stripe. The Blue Devils scored 17 field goals, four triples, and shot 15-of-27 from the free throw line.  
St. Ignace led 12-5 after the first eight minutes before the Blue Devils outscored the Saints in the second quarter to take a 26-24 halftime edge.  
Gaylord, a member of the Big North Conference, increased its lead to 42-32 after three quarters with a 16-8 margin and used the free throw line (8 of 12) to ice the win in the fourth quarter.  
St. Ignace outscored the Blue Devils 18-11 in the final eight minutes as Mallory LaLonde scored eight and Kayla Gustin chipped in five, and the Saints defense held Gaylord to one three-point field goal, but the Blue Devils made it up through free throws.

**Saints statistics:** Amanda Coveyou, 13 points; Mallory LaLonde, 12 points; Kayla Gustin, Marcie Rickley, seven points; Nicole Elmlad, six points; Jessica Massaway, three points; Chelsea Swope, Jodie Langstaff, one point.

**Free Throws Are Key in Game Against Charlevoix**  
Missed free throws made the difference against Charlevoix, as the Saints missed an opportunity to collect 20 points from the line.  
The Saints shot 15 of 35 (43%) from the free throw line for the game.  
St. Ignace led 11-9 after the first eight minutes and trailed 22-21 at halftime after the Rayders held a 13-10-scoring edge in the second quarter.  
Charlevoix outscored the Saints 15-4 in the third quarter for a 37-25 lead and completed the contest with a 16-13 margin in the final eight minutes.  
**Saints statistics:** Nicole Elmlad, 13 points; Mallory LaLonde, nine points; Amanda Coveyou,



The Saints' Samantha Radecki (20) attempts a two-pointer against the Chiefs.

eight points; Grace Wheeler, six points; Marcie Rickley, two points.

**Fourth-Quarter Free Throws Lift Chiefs Over Saints**  
Cheboygan made 13 of 18 free throws in the fourth quarter, including 7 of 8 by Katie Knaffle, as the Chiefs outscored the Saints 20-13 in the final eight minutes to post the Straits Area Conference eight-point win Friday night.  
St. Ignace struggled with shooting in the first half as Cheboygan led 18-9 at halftime, but the Saints defense picked up the intensity in the third quarter, creating a 13-5 scoring advantage and slicing the Chiefs' lead to 23-22 going into the final eight minutes.

Amanda Coveyou, playing with injuries, rebounded a missed shot and scored to tie the score at 28 with 5:04 left in the game, before the Chiefs' free throws dominated the offensive scoring.  
Nicole Elmlad drained her second three-point field goal of the game at the 1:18 mark to cut the Chiefs' lead to 35-31, but Knaffle connected on seven free throws in the closing 1:13 to secure the win for Cheboygan.

**Team scoring:** Cheboygan: 26 field goals made, four triples (26 points), 17 of 24 free throws; St. Ignace: 11 field goals made, three triples (25 points), and 10 of 17 free throws.  
**Saints statistics:** Marcie Rickley, 12 points; Nicole Elmlad, nine points; Amanda Coveyou, eight points; Kayal Gustin, three points; Kristen Olsen, two points; Jodi Langstaff, one point.  
**Chiefs statistics:** Katie Knaffle, 19 points; Kristie Stacks, 15 points; Nikki Lafrinere, six points; Erica Neuman, two points; Laura Nash, one point.

**Saints JV Update**  
St. Ignace's junior varsity team defeated Gaylord 55-37 Monday, January 7.  
The JV team fell to the Charlevoix Rayders 52-34 Wednesday, January 9, and the Cheboygan Chiefs 50-38, Thursday, January 10.

**Saints statistics:** Samantha Radecki, 16 points; Grace Wheeler, 11 points; Kristen Olsen, nine points; Micaela Kelly, six points; Abby Chambers, five points; Heather Beaudoin, four points; Angela Fischer, Martina Beaudoin, two points.  
**Saints statistics vs. Rayders:** Samantha Radecki, 15 points; Kristen Olsen, 11 points; Brooke Allan, five points; Micaela Kelly, three points.  
**Saints statistics vs. Chiefs:**

Mallory LaLonde, 24 points; Grace Wheeler, six points; Micaela Kelly, four points; Angela Fischer, Martina Beaudoin, two points.

**Pickford Defeats Brimley in EUPC; Hornets Sting Panthers**  
The Pickford Panthers girls basketball team defeated the Brimley Bays 51-42 in a key Eastern Upper Peninsula Conference (EUPC) contest Thursday, January 10, but the Panthers were stung by the Pellston Hornets 72-59 Monday, January 7.

**Defense Lifts Panthers Over Bays**  
Man-to-man defense provided the winning edge for Pickford, which put together its best effort this season in its conference win over Brimley.



"This was best team effort this season," said Panthers Head Coach Becky Arbic. "We played as a team at both ends of the court, especially our man-to-man, and our help defense was a huge key."  
The Panthers, 2-2 in the EUPC and 5-5 overall, trailed 7-0 early in the first eight minutes before pulling their game plan together to cut the Bays' lead to 13-11 after the first quarter. The Panthers defense led to a 13-4 scoring edge in the second quarter, for a 24-17-halftime lead.  
The Panthers held a 13-11 scoring edge in the third quarter for a 37-28 lead before both teams scored 14 points in the final eight minutes.

**Panthers statistics:** Courtney Bruni, 17 points, 14 rebounds; Melissa Kucharczyk, 16 points, eight rebounds; Jasmine Ledy, seven points; Krista Esslin, six points; Jenna Ledy, three points, four assists; Rachel Schmitgal, two points; Alli Priskorn, five rebounds.

**Bays statistics:** Jessica Graham, 15 points; Amber Aikens, 11 points; Kelly Graham, six points; Ashton Cameron, five points; Jenna Somes, three points.  
**Pellston Beat Pickford 72-59**  
The Hornets outscored the Panthers in every quarter, including an 18-14 margin in the first eight minutes, and a 16-11 scoring advantage in the second quarter for a 34-25-halftime lead.  
Pellston outscored the host Panthers 38-34 in the second half.

**Panthers statistics:** Jasmine Ledy, 24 points, five triples; Melissa Kucharczyk, 14 points, three rebounds, three assists; Courtney Bruni, 10 points, six rebounds; Jenna Ledy, five points, seven assists, four steals; Justine Hatfield, Alli Priskorn, two points.

**Eight Is Enough: Entire Eagles Roster Scores in Two Wins**

All eight players for the Engadine Eagles girls basketball team scored in each of two victories last week.  
The Eagles improved to 8-3 on the season after defeating the Big Bay de Noc Black Bears 70-32 Friday, January 11, and Mid

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