

ABOVE: Onekama's Jarett Sovereign looks for a shot against a mob of Frankfort defenders on Friday during the Portagers' defeat in a Class D district final. **BELOW:** Randy Pienta drives to the hoop in Buckley.

Onekama bows out to Frankfort

By KYLE KOTECKI

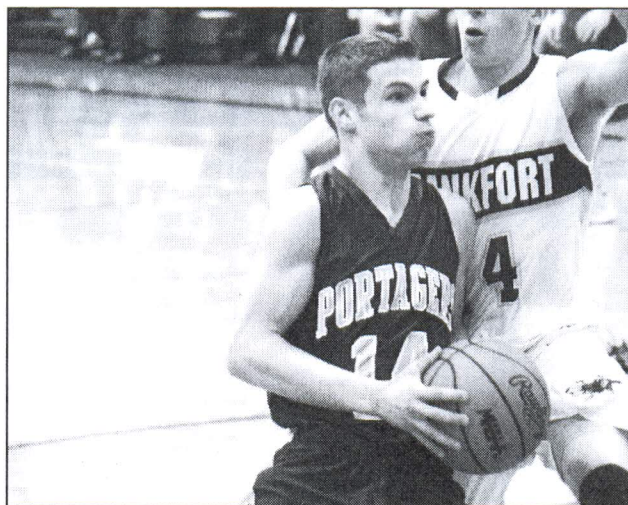
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS ADVOCATE

BUCKLEY — For 10 minutes the Onekama boys basketball team played even with Frankfort, but were unable to keep up with the Panthers' pace and fell 64-25 in their Class D district final in Buckley Friday night.

"I thought we started off the game pretty well," Onekama coach Nathan Bradford said. "I know the first quarter was low-scoring, but then it seemed like we had a few guys get in foul trouble early and then after that we had a hard time recovering once I had to rotate a few guys in."

After ending the first quarter knotted-up at 6-6, the Portagers (20-2) traded a few baskets with the Panthers (20-2) and had an 11-10 lead with 6:26 left in the first half. From there, however, Frankfort began to make their run, scoring eight unanswered en route to a 17-3 run that sent the Panthers to the locker room with a 27-14 lead.

Frankfort senior David Loney had eight of his game-high



12 points in the second quarter, with Matt Loney and Kole Hollenbeck chipping in with 10 and nine points on the night, respectively.

"I knew coming in (David Loney) was going to be pretty tough," Bradford said. "Obviously we had to key in on him a few times and he kept working hard and got a few easy baskets inside and that got them going a

little bit."

The Panthers opened the third quarter with a 6-0 run before the Portagers answered back with six points of their own. The teams entered the final stanza with Frankfort holding a 39-22 advantage.

Junior Caleb Wisniski led the Portagers with eight points to go with his two rebounds. Freshman Jacob Mauntler had

six points, two boards and two steals, and Randy Pienta had three points, three boards and two steals.

Onekama only scored one field goal in a three-point fourth quarter which saw Frankfort get in the bonus early and make multiple trips to the charity stripe. The Panthers shot a total of 37 free throws to the Portagers' 11 in the contest.

"When you have that big of a difference it's hard to overcome that many opportunities at the free throw line," Bradford said.

Despite the disappointing loss, Bradford was proud of his team's season, which saw the Portagers ranked 10th in the state.

"I told the guys, 'We had a good season. Don't hang your head. Keep your chin up high,'" he said. "It's too bad tonight we came out a little on the short end of the stick but we had a great season."

"We won 20 games," he continued. "It would've been nice to get this one but hopefully we can learn and rebound and get back next year."