

# Redbank Valley boys topple Clarion to go back-to-back

**BY RYAN KUNSELMAN**  
Sports editor

CLARION — Redbank Valley’s boys basketball team never trailed in its District 9 Class 2A championship contest against Clarion on Saturday at PennWest Clarion, making it back-to-back titles with a 47-35 victory over the Wildcats.

“I’ve coached this senior class since junior high, and times weren’t always great,” Redbank first-year head varsity coach Jake Daugherty said after the win. “We actually started out their ninth-grade year 0-11. So that’s where it started, but they showed up every summer and kept working, and it just makes it that much more bittersweet because these kids have worked so hard. Everyone sees the district championship, but they don’t see the seven months outside of basketball, twice a week in the gym and everything that goes into it to be successful. It means a lot.”

While the Bulldogs never trailed, they had their hands plenty full with the Bobcats.

Kaedyn Pago opened the scoring for RV with a pair of buckets and a 4-0 edge before a Wyatt Watterson three got Clarion on the board. Redbank’s Braylon Wagner hit a layup

and Watterson countered with another trey to make it 6-all.

The Bulldogs closed out the quarter with a 4-2 spurt on field goals from Pago and Kieran Fricko that gave them an 11-8 edge through eight minutes of play.

They would play from ahead the remainder of the contest, building a 20-14 halftime edge on a 9-6 frame that saw Breckin Minich get in on the action with five points while Jaxon Huffman and Pago added a bucket apiece. Mason Burford accounted for all six of the Bobcats’ points.

The third frame saw the foes exchange blows throughout, alternating scores for the entire frame with RV bookending the scoring to increase its lead to 28-20. Fricko netted four of the Bulldogs’ points in the stanza.

The scoring picked up in the fourth for both teams, but the Bobcats were never able to make a dent in their deficit as Fricko opened the period with a three-pointer that put RV up 31-20. The margin would only see single digits one more time throughout the remainder of the game at 41-32, but with just 1:11 to play, the game was mostly decided.

Fricko finished with a game-high 15 points while Pago and Minich added nine apiece. Wagner finished



Photo by Ryan Kunselman

**Redbank Valley’s Kieran Fricko (4) celebrates with his teammates as the finals seconds tick off the clock in the Bulldogs’ championship win.**

with eight points.

Burford topped Clarion with 11 points while Nathan Frederick added nine and Watterson eight.

Both teams will take part in the opening round of the PIAA Class 2A tournament, beginning Saturday with Clarion taking on District 4

No. 2 seed Muncy at Clarion High School while Redbank hosts District 7 No. 6 seed OLSH. Both games will begin at 1 p.m.

## Swimming

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Franklin’s 400 free relay team of Winslow, Stumpf, Jackson Clark and Quinten Boozell are also headed to the state meet as they dropped more than four seconds to finish in fifth place with a time of 3:27.72, which was good enough to get an invite to Bucknell. The foursome will also be competing in the 200 free relay at states as their fourth-place time on Friday night earned them an invite.

Gabi Schiffer and Madyson Kissell had a big day at the pool for head coach Eric Smith’s Oilers as Schiffer placed fourth in the 100 back with a time of 1:02.77 while she also finished seventh in the 100 free with an effort of 56.70. She has a shot at making the state meet as she is the first alternate in case anyone scratches from the event.

Kissell put together a marvelous effort in the 500 free as she dropped nearly 14 seconds to take home a medal with a fifth-place finish with a time of 5:30.49.

Abbey McCain added an 18th-place finish in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:20.53 as the OC girls finished 11th in the team standings with 85 points.

For the OC boys, Jackson Dilks dropped five seconds to earn a medal with an eighth-place finish in the 100 back at 57.14 while teammate Clae Thompson was two spots back in 10th after dropping more than two seconds at 58.52.

The two also paired with Martin Sharrar and Elijah Collins to take eighth in the 400 free relay with a time of 3:32.43, which was a nearly 12 second time drop.

Collins also swam in the 100 breast and placed 12th after dropping nearly two seconds to finish at 1:07.23 as the OC boys also placed 11th in the team standings at 67 points.

“Overall, the team swam very well. We had some eye-popping swims this weekend and gained valuable experience with our newcomers in their first district championship,” Oil City coach Eric Smith said. “We had some stumbles with early takeoffs on relays, but hopefully they learn from this and move forward. A huge thank you to the seniors for their dedication to the program and for setting lofty expectations for the underclassmen next year.”

The Franklin girls 400 free relay also put together a strong performance on Saturday as the foursome of Erdley, Ellie Coyer, Ally Wilson and Lexi Anthony dropped

six seconds from their seed time to place seventh at 3:59.52 and earn a medal.

Coyer also put on a terrific showing in the 500 free as she dropped nine seconds from her previous best time to place 10th in the event at 5:48.22.

“We did really well and we had a lot of great swims,” Franklin coach Charlie Smith said. “The 500 free was the first meet of the day for us, and with Dani dropping five seconds and Ellie dropping nine seconds, it really set the tone for the rest of the meet for us.”

Wilson and Anthony also had solid swims in the 100 back as Wilson dropped time to place 14th at 1:07.10 while Anthony dropped more than a second to finish 18th at 1:09.02.

For the boys, Clark dropped four seconds to place 10th in the 100 breaststroke at 1:05.97 while Jacob Balsamo dropped 2.4 seconds to finish 16th at 1:11.38.

The Franklin boys placed seventh in the team standings with 137 points while the FHS girls were ninth in the team standings with 103 points.

“It was a good weekend for us. We had a 100 percent success rate,” Charlie Smith said. “They kids really made us as coaches look good.”



**Franklin’s Dani Erdley (left) shakes hands with Oil City’s Madyson Kissell on the medal podium following the 500 freestyle event on Saturday at the District 10 Class 2A Championships at Spire Institute in Geneva, Ohio. Erdley placed third in the event while Kissell ended up in fifth place.**

## Wrestling

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Cochrannton also saw Cash Morrell reach the state mat, placing third at

172. He won by forfeit in the third-place bout after picking up a 15-0 tech fall win over Port Allegany’s Mason Gordon in the consolation semis.

**Wenner moves on for Berries**

CANONSBURG — Dalton Wen-

ner punched his ticket to the PIAA state meet by placing second at 127 pounds during Saturday’s conclusion of the West Class 3A Regional tournament held at Canon-McMillan High School.

Wenner opened his Day 2 action by rolling to a 10-2 major decision

over Trinity’s Dominick Canali. In the finals, though, he would be on the wrong end of a major decision, falling to Butler’s Santino Sloboda by a 10-0 margin.

Wenner was the Berries’ lone qualifier as Elijah Brosius (139),

Alex McLaughlin (152) and Rilee Matalino (107) all lost their consolation Round 2 bouts, while Noah Lucarelli (285) picked up a 1:27 pin of Central Mountain’s Henry Hayes in his consy Round 2 bout before falling in consy Round 3.

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NHL STANDINGS										
EASTERN CONFERENCE										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Atlantic	60	38	20	2	78	194	172			
Toronto	61	37	21	3	77	204	171			
Florida	59	35	20	4	74	211	156			
Tampa Bay	60	30	24	6	66	176	191			
Detroit	59	30	25	4	64	166	168			
Ottawa	62	28	26	8	64	167	195			
Boston	60	29	26	5	63	180	201			
Montreal	58	24	29	5	53	186	198			
Metropolitan										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Washington	60	38	14	8	84	215	157			
Carolina	61	35	22	4	74	195	170			
New Jersey	61	33	22	6	72	186	152			
Columbus	60	30	22	8	68	205	196			
N.Y. Rangers	59	29	26	4	62	179	183			
Philadelphia	61	27	26	8	62	180	202			
N.Y. Islanders	59	27	25	7	61	165	176			
Pittsburgh	63	24	29	10	58	183	233			
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Central	61	42	15	4	88	214	143			
Winnipeg	60	39	19	2	80	206	155			
Dallas	60	30	20	4	74	173	176			
Minnesota	61	35	22	4	74	173	176			
Colorado	61	35	24	2	72	198	182			
St. Louis	62	29	27	6	64	179	187			
Utah	61	27	25	9	63	172	181			
Nashville	59	21	31	7	49	153	197			
Chicago	60	18	35	7	43	164	213			
Pacific										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Vegas	59	35	18	6	76	197	166			
Edmonton	60	35	21	4	74	195	174			
Los Angeles	58	31	19	8	70	166	154			
Calgary	60	28	23	9	65	155	176			
Vancouver	60	27	22	11	65	165	184			
Anaheim	59	26	26	7	59	154	183			
Seattle	61	26	31	4	56	180	198			
San Jose	61	15	37	9	39	157	230			
NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.										
Saturday's Games										
Tampa Bay 3, Washington 1										
N.Y. Islanders 7, Nashville 4										
Florida 3, Calgary 0										
Boston 3, Pittsburgh 2										
Columbus 5, Detroit 3										
Edmonton 3, Carolina 1										
Philadelphia 2, Winnipeg 1, SO										
Ottawa 5, San Jose 3										
Montreal 4, Buffalo 2										
St. Louis 4, Los Angeles 1										
New Jersey 3, Utah 1										
Seattle 6, Vancouver 3										
Chicago 6, Anaheim 3										
Sunday's Games										
Toronto 6, Pittsburgh 5, OT										
Minnesota 1, Boston 0										
Carolina 2, Calgary 1, OT										
Dallas 6, St. Louis 3										
Nashville at N.Y. Rangers, late										
New Jersey at Vegas, late										
Monday's Games										
Ottawa at Washington, 6:30 p.m.										
Buffalo at Montreal, 7 p.m.										
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.										
Tampa Bay at Florida, 7 p.m.										
San Jose at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.										
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.										
Tuesday's Games										
Calgary at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.										
Carolina at Detroit, 7 p.m.										
Columbus at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.										
Nashville at Boston, 7 p.m.										
San Jose at Buffalo, 7 p.m.										
Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.										
New Jersey at Dallas, 8 p.m.										
Anaheim at Edmonton, 9 p.m.										
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9 p.m.										
Minnesota at Seattle, 10 p.m.										

# NHL SCORING LEADERS

## Through Sunday, March 2, 2025

	GP	G	A	PTS
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	61	23	68	91
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	60	44	46	90
Nikita Kucherov, TB	56	27	60	87
Connor McDavid, EDM	54	22	53	75
David Pastrnak, BOS	61	32	43	75
Mitch Marner, TOR	58	18	56	74
Kyle Connor, WPG	61	31	43	74
Jack Eichel, LV	58	19	51	70
Mikko Rantanen, COL	59	27	43	70
Jack Hughes, NJ	61	27	43	70
Clayton Keller, UTA	60	22	47	69
Jesper Bratt, NJ	61	17	51	68
Martin Necas, COL	61	20	48	68
Brandon Hagel, TB	59	30	38	68

2 tied with 67 pts.

# PENGUINS SUMMARIES

## Sunday's Game

### Toronto 6, Pittsburgh 5

Toronto	2	3	0	1	—	6
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	0	—	5

First Period—1, Toronto, Domi 4 (Robertson, McManis); 2:15, 2, Toronto, Timmins 2 (Holmberg, Nylander); 4:39, 3, Pittsburgh, Glass 4 (Lizotte, Shea); 10:27, 4, Pittsburgh, Rakell 27 (Grzelecki, Crosby); 11:29, 5, Pittsburgh, Crosby 19 (Rust, Karlsson); 13:51 (pp). Penalties—Domi, TOR (Slashing); 13:08; Domi, TOR (Tripping); 15:45.

Second Period—6, Toronto, Matthews 22 (Marnier, Knies); 4:08, 7, Pittsburgh, Rust 21 (Karlsson, Crosby); 15:38, 8, Toronto, Tavares 23 (McCabe, 19:04, 9, Toronto, Knies 23; 19:59. Penalties—Letang, PIT (Tripping); 8:01.

Third Period—10, Pittsburgh, Rakell 28 (Shea, Letang); 0:10. Penalties—None.

Overtime—11, Toronto, Nylander 35 (Rielly); 1:00. Penalties—None.

Shots on Goal—Toronto 13-11-8-1—33. Pittsburgh 17-11-6-0—34.

Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 1; Pittsburgh 1 of 2.

Goals—Toronto, Woll 21-11-0 (34 shots-29 saves). Pittsburgh, Blomqvist 4-9-1 (33-24).  
A=16,284 (18,387), T=2,226.  
Referees—Pierre Lambert, Jon Mclsaac. Linesmen—Ryan Gibbons, Brad Kovichak.

## Saturday's Game

### Boston 3, Pittsburgh 2

Boston	2	0	1	—	3
Pittsburgh	0	0	2	—	2

First Period—1, Boston, Pastrnak 32 (Zacha, Geekie); 1:32, 2, Boston, Lohrei 4 (Zacha, Pastrnak); 6:33 (pp). Penalties—Malkin, PIT (Hooking); 5:09; Crosby, PIT (Slashing); 8:01; Viel, BOS (Roughing); 8:01; Kestelice, BOS (Unsportsmanlike Conduct); 8:01; Coyle, BOS (Tripping); 8:59; Zadorov, BOS (Slashing); 18:33.

Second Period—None. Penalties—Beecher, BOS (Tripping); 9:48.

Third Period—3, Pittsburgh, Beauvillier 13 (Hayes); 14:01 (sh), 4, Boston, Coyle 14 (Zadorov); 19:19 (en). 5, Pittsburgh, Rakell 26 (Rust); 19:38 (pp). Penalties—Karlsson, PIT (Interference on breakaway (Penalty Shot)); 3:38; Kestelice, BOS (Roughing); 4:49; Lizotte, PIT (Interference); 12:29; Koepke, BOS (High Sticking); 18:26.

Shots on Goal—Boston 12-8-6—26. Pittsburgh 11-5-15—31.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 2; Pittsburgh 1 of 7.

Goals—Boston, Korpisalo 10-6-2 (31 shots-29 saves). Pittsburgh, Nedeljkovic 12-12-5 (25-23).  
A=17,320 (18,387), T=2,233.  
Referees—Tom Chmielewski, Garrett Rank. Linesmen—Justin Johnson, Matt MacPherson.