

Previewing 6/27 Prime Time League games

By Brendan Stiles

HawkeyeDrive.com

After a week-long hiatus, the Prime Time League returns to action Sunday afternoon at the North Liberty Community Center.

Here's a quick rundown of what Iowa basketball fans planning to attend Sunday's game should expect:

Vinton Merchants/Hawkeye Title & Settlement (1-1) vs. L.L. Pelling Company/Goodfellow Printing (1-1)

3 p.m., New Gym

Sunday's first game features a battle of teams with identical 1-1 records, but how these teams find themselves sitting at .500 is different.

Vinton Merchants/Hawkeye Title & Settlement comes into this contest after a 108-101 victory over Bob's Your Uncle & Monica's/Iowa City Ready Mix that it nearly gave away. At one point, Vinton/Hawkeye was ahead 95-74, only to surrender a 20-2 run that made it a one-possession game. However, smart decision-making down the stretch enabled it to emerge victorious.

Vinton/Hawkeye features Iowa senior Devon Archie, who bounced back in a big way last week with 14 points after only scoring two in the team's opener.

Meanwhile, L.L. Pelling Company/Goodfellow Printing is coming off a stinging loss to McCurry's/Mike Gatens Real Estate, a game that was back-and-forth until the final minutes when McCurry's/Gatens pulled away. Incoming Iowa freshman Zach

McCabe led Pelling/Goodfellow with 15 points, while sophomore Eric May had a double-double of 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Fans not able to make it out to the North Liberty Community Center on Sunday can tune into KRUI 89.7-FM for this contest, which will be called by my former Daily Iowan colleagues Rob Miller and Robbie Lehman.

Jill Armstrong of Lepic-Kroeger Realtors (1-1) vs. McCurry's/Mike Gatens Real Estate (2-0)

4:30 p.m., Old Gym

One team enters this contest 2-0, while the other probably believes it should be 2-0. Nonetheless, this game will be the most significant as far as standings are concerned.

Jill Armstrong of Lepic-Kroeger Realtors had a 19-point lead at halftime in its game last week, only to let George Etre, Inc./Culver's of Coralville come back, send the game to overtime, and take it by a 110-107 margin.

This team features a duo of Hawkeye juniors in Matt Gatens and Andrew Brommer. Gatens had 25 points in that defeat, as well as eight rebounds, while Brommer finished with eight points and six boards.

As for the team sitting atop the standings for now, McCurry's/Gatens got there thanks in large part to the play of Iowa sophomore Cully Payne last week. After being shut out the entire first half against Pelling/Goodfellow, the Schaumburg, Ill., native bounced back in a big way during the second stanza, and delivered a critical three-point play in the final minutes to give McCurry's/Gatens a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

Bob's Your Uncle & Monica's/Iowa City Ready Mix (0-2) vs. George Etre, Inc./Culver's of Coralville (1-1)

This might not be the biggest game of the afternoon, but it

will probably be the most-talked about affair when everyone leaves the North Liberty Community Center on Sunday.

It's a battle of incoming freshmen when Devyn Marble & Bob's/Ready Mix faces Etre/Culver's, led by Melsahn Basabe, who currently leads the PTL in scoring through two games, averaging 37 points per contest.

Marble had a rough first half last week against Vinton/Hawkeye, but his second-half play proved significant in his squad's near-comeback on Father's Day, as he managed to come away with 24 points. Basabe, on the other hand, was successful in leading his team to a comeback win last week over Jill Armstrong. Etre/Culver's managed to overcome a 58-39 deficit at halftime to win in overtime, 110-107. Basabe finished with a game-high 38 points, as well as 13 rebounds.

*Be sure to visit *HawkeyeDrive.com* Sunday night for extensive coverage of all the action at the North Liberty Community Center.*