

7/18 PTL notebook: Coin flip determines top seeds

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NORTH LIBERTY, Iowa – After three games and two coin flips Sunday afternoon at the North Liberty Community Center, the seeds for the 2010 Prime Time League playoffs are set.

George Etre, Inc./Culver's of Coralville and Vinton Merchants/Hawkeye Title & Settlement both finished atop the PTL standings with 5-2 marks after both won their respective games on Sunday. But despite the 102-100 victory Etre/Culver's had back on July 6 over Vinton/Hawkeye, the latter won a coin flip between the two, meaning Vinton/Hawkeye will have the top seed in this year's playoffs, with Etre/Culver's possessing the No. 2 seed.

Vinton/Hawkeye reached this point after winning for the second time this summer against Bob's Your Uncle & Monica's/Iowa City Ready Mix (1-6), who will be the No. 6 seed in the PTL playoffs. UNI's Chip Rank led the way with 35 points for Vinton/Hawkeye in the 120-105 victory, a game that saw it build upon a 62-59 halftime lead and eventually put the game out of reach.

Bob's/Ready Mix had a few bright spots, one of whom was incoming Iowa freshman Devyn Marble. The Southfield, Mich., native had a double-double with 35 points and 11 rebounds, while also tallying seven assists.

As for Etre/Culver's, it was déjà vu all over again in defeating Jill Armstrong of Lepic-Kroeger Realtors, even though incoming Iowa freshman Melsahn Basabe only came away with 22 points and eight rebounds, his lowest numbers of the

summer.

Back on June 20, Etre/Culver's overcame a 19-point halftime deficit to beat Jill Armstrong in overtime, 110-107. This time around, it was a 57-36 halftime deficit it came back from to win in regulation.

"We wanted it more," Basabe said. "We won. They lost. It's that simple."

In defeat, junior Matt Gatens came away with 23 points, while junior Andrew Brommer posted another double-double of his own with 17 points and 12 rebounds. This loss dropped Jill Armstrong to 3-4, and after winning a coin toss of its own Sunday afternoon, will be the No. 4 seed in the PTL playoffs.

"You figure after the first half, we had learned our lesson from last time," Gatens said. "But obviously, we didn't."

Jill Armstrong will play at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday night against McCurry's/Mike Gatens Real Estate (3-4), who ended up being the No. 5 seed after losing on Sunday to L.L. Pelling Company/Goodfellow Printing, 95-79. The win gave Pelling/Goodfellow the No. 3 seed and it will take on Bob's/Ready Mix in the first game Tuesday evening at 6 p.m.

This contest was back and forth for most of the first half and the early portion of the second half. When Pelling/Goodfellow's lead was trimmed to 67-64, that's when sophomore Eric May took the game over.

The Dubuque native scored seven straight points and propelled a 25-4 Pelling/Goodfellow run, enabling it to put the game away and secure a winning record this summer.

"The reason it all happened was just transition," May said about his team's big second-half run. "We didn't let them get set like we were before. In the first half, it wasn't that high scoring, but we had a point where we were in transition

and just kept scoring and kept moving the ball.”

May finished the game with 23 points to lead the way for Pelling/Goodfellow, while incoming freshman Zach McCabe contributed with 17 points and eight rebounds in the win. Sophomore Cully Payne was the key figure for McCurry's/Gatens, coming away with 20 points, nine assists, and seven rebounds despite his team not coming away with the win.

The winner of the game between Bob's/Ready Mix and Pelling/Goodfellow will play Etre/Culver's on Sunday, while the McCurry's/Gatens-Jill Armstrong winner draws Vinton/Hawkeye in the semifinals.

Playoff schedule:

Tuesday, July 20:

6 p.m. – No. 3 L.L. Pelling Company/Goodfellow Printing (4-3) vs. **No. 6** Bob's Your Uncle & Monica's/Iowa City Ready Mix (1-6)

7:30 p.m. – No. 4 Jill Armstrong of Lepic-Kroeger Realtors (3-4) vs. **No. 5** McCurry's/Mike Gatens Real Estate (3-4)

Sunday, July 25:

3 p.m. – Pelling/Goodfellow-Bob's/Ready Mix winner vs. **No. 2** George Etre, Inc./Culver's of Coralville (5-2)

4:30 p.m. – Jill Armstrong-McCurry's/Gatens winner vs. **No. 1** Vinton Merchants/Hawkeye Title & Settlement (5-2)

Tuesday, July 27:

6 p.m. – 2010 Prime Time League Championship Game

*All games will be played in the New Gym at the North Liberty Community Center. All times listed are Central Standard (CST).