

## 2021 CLASS 1A-I

### 110<sup>TH</sup> BOYS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

UNITED WIRELESS ARENA | DODGE CITY, KS

OLPE 54, SOUTH GRAY 47

DODGE CITY – The Olpe Eagles boys basketball team etched itself a place in history here Saturday night when it produced a rare football-basketball double-double, claiming the Class 1A-Division I championship with a 54-47 come-from-behind victory over the previously unbeaten South Gray Rebels.

The victory enabled the Eagles to duplicate their girls' team state title from earlier in the day and followed by a few months their Class 1A 11-man football championship when they beat Oakley, 12-0, on Thanksgiving 2020 weekend.

It was the first boys' state championship in school history, and was only the second time the boys had played for a state championship, dating back to 2002 when they lost to Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan 58-56 in double overtime.

Olpe had somewhat been playing in the shadows all season of the No. 1 ranked Little River Redskins and the Rebels, but on back-to-back nights, knocked off the top two teams in Class 1A-I. First it was Little River 75-66 in the Friday semis and then the big, big win over South Gray which was looking to complete its second undefeated season in four years.

South Gray had gotten red-hot in the second quarter to go up 27-20 at halftime following a 21-point explosion, but then seemingly the Rebels' offense went icy cold in the third again, scoring only 6 points but still clung to a 33-31 advantage.

Four more Olpe points completed a 10-0 run that erased a 33-25 South Gray lead late in the third and then the teams shared the lead at 37 and 39 before a mini 5 point run made it 44-39 with 3:52 to play. The Rebels would never get the lead back as the Eagles made several big defensive stops in the closing two minutes.

Yet, with 27 seconds remaining, Brady Deges' deep 3-pointer pulled the Rebels into a one-possession game at 50-47. Olpe dropped in 4-of-6 free throws down the stretch and South Gray missed a couple of 3-pointers as the clock went to 0:00.

It would have been South Gray's fifth state championship but the Eagles were not to be denied. Rebels' coach Mark Applegate finished his 39<sup>th</sup> season with 725 career wins. Jordan Barnard led the scoring for the winners with 17 points, Truman Bailey came off the bench in support with 11 points while Derek Hoelting and Damon Redeker each netted 10. Brent Penner finished with 14 points to lead the Rebels while Brady Deges and Aaron Skidmore each contributed 11.

The start of the game resembled something like a car stuck in the mud.

Olpe scored the first six points in the first four minutes while South Gray couldn't get untracked. It wasn't until the 2:04 mark that the Rebels got on the scoreboard and by the end of the period it was just a 7-6 Eagles lead.

Things heated up in the second quarter, though, as South Gray drilled five 3-pointers en route to a 21-point period while Olpe managed 13 that produced a 27-20 halftime edge for the Rebels. Junior Brent Penner off the bench produced 12 first-half points while Jordan Barnard, the hero of Friday night's semifinal win over Little River, led the Eagles with 11.

**OLPE (18-3)** -- Barnard 6 4-6 17, Bailey 4 0-0 11, Hoelting 4 2-2 10, D. Redeker 3 4-4 10, Olsson 2 2-5 6.  
Totals 19 12-17 54.

**SOUTH GRAY (24-1)** – Penner 6 0-0 14, Deges 4 0-0 11, Skidmore 4 1-2 11, Salmans 1 0-2 2, Riley 3 3-3 9.  
Totals 18 4-7 47.

**Olpe (17-3) 7 13 11 23 -- 54**

**South Gray (24-0) 6 21 6 14 -- 47**

3-point goals: Olpe 4 (Barnard 1, Bailey 3), South Gray 7 (Penner 2, Deges 3, Skidmore 2). Rebounds: Olpe 29 (Olsson 7), South Gray 28 (Salmans 7). Assists: Olpe 12 (Hoelting 5), South Gray 11 (Salmans 5). Turnovers: Olpe 13, South Gray 13. Fouls: Olpe 9, South Gray 15. Fouled Out: None.