

## Athlete of the Week: Travis Ankoff

Staff Report

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On Sunday, Dec. 18, Lackawanna Trail senior Travis Ankoff drilled a 3-pointer to send the game into overtime before the Lions held on for a 40-36 win over Western Wayne to win the Cal King Tournament. In the tournament opener, Ankoff scored a game-high 15 points to help lead Trail to a 47-41 victory over Lake-Lehman. For his accomplishments, Ankoff has been named the Wyoming County Press Examiner's Athlete of the Week.



Grade, age, hometown: Senior, 17, Nicholson

Family: Eric, father; Shannon, mother; Ethan, brother, 12; Olivia, sister, 5.

Athletes I admire: Allen Iverson and Ray Allen

Favorite Movie: "Coach Carter"

Favorite TV show: "Modern Family"

Favorite band/artist: Kendrick Lamar

Favorite food: Hot wings

Favorite school subject: Physics

Three people I'd like to have dinner with: "Matthew McConaughey, Joe Rogan and John F. Kennedy."

Biggest role model: "My dad because he taught me most of the things I know and how to be a good person."

Post graduation plans: "I hope to attend college for something in the engineering field."

Superstitions or rituals: "We listen to a few of the same songs pre-game and I try to get a cheesesteak after school on game day."

What are some of your goals for this season? "We really wanted to win Cal King Tournament, which we accomplished, and are also really hoping for a league title."

As one of five seniors this year, have you taken more of a leadership role with the team? "Absolutely, all the seniors have really stepped up, especially myself being the lone captain. I'm just trying to lead all the younger guys, give them direction and show them how to act, be responsible and work hard."

What would you say some of your strengths are as a player? "I try to make opportunities and create shots for other guys. I'll drive to the basket and draw fouls when I can and take what's given to me and try not to do too much. It's important to get everyone involved, when we do that we play so much better as a team."

Anything you're looking to work on? "As a team, we need to work on handling pressure and staying composed."

What was the feeling like for you, not only leading the team in scoring against Lake-Lehman, but being able to get that win and move onto to the championship game? "It felt great for me, I was happy for the team more than myself. Everyone had been working hard to get that the past few years and put us in the position to win the championship."

Take me through the play that led to your game tying 3-pointer against Western Wayne. "I wasn't shooting really well all game, but coach (Christian Sunseri) drew up the play and told me I would come off a screen and if the shot was there to take it. I didn't want to let him down and was feeling confident. Luckily, the defender slipped and gave me some room and I was able to make it. It was right in front of the student section so that was awesome."

What did it mean to you to win the tournament? "It was unbelievable. The team was happy and coach was elated. We didn't get discouraged when they went on a late run and kept it together. We just played well in overtime and were so amped up from that shot, we thought we couldn't lose."

What do you think the team will be capable of this season? "I think we'll be capable of big things. There's definitely times when everything is going right and we can be a threat, we just have to be consistent and hit on all cylinders to get the type of effort that's needed to win every night."

What's been your favorite part of being on the team? "Probably the chemistry between all of the guys. The older guys have been playing together since elementary school. We're all great friends and have a good time on and off the court. It's been a great experience, the coaches make it fun, and I really couldn't ask for a better team."