

Huskies forfeit playoff game to Marquette

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The Cedar Valley Christian boys basketball team forfeited its Class 1A district playoff game to Bellevue Marquette Monday due to travel and weather concerns.

Bellevue Marquette was awarded a 2-0 victory and will face Easton Valley in the second round of the district tournament Thursday.

Jeff Pospisil, the principal and boys basketball coach at Cedar Valley Christian, did not want to take his team to Bellevue in what he believed could have been hazardous conditions. There was four inches of snow Monday, cancelling school, and Cedar Valley Christian has run into travel-related problems with weather and its school bus this season.

Pospisil called Bellevue Marquette, seeking a date to possibly reschedule the game, but the IHSAA ended up accepting a forfeit from Cedar Valley.

The Huskies ended the season with an 0-22 record.

"We've traveled three times this season when we shouldn't have. We've been compromising the safety of our kids," said Stephanie Hodge, the athletic director at Cedar Valley Christian.

"We drove to Midland in zero visibility. And he (Pospisil) received some negative comments from the parents about traveling in bad weather, so he didn't want to do that today."

Cedar Valley Christian has a school play Tuesday night and traditionally does not play on Wednesday night, due to church activities, although Hodge said the Huskies would have played Wednesday if told to do so by the IHSAA.

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“There was no optional reschedule date that would work for both schools,” said Hodge.

The Cedar Valley Christian school bus, used to transport players to games, has had problems before, adding to Pospisil’s concerns Monday.

“The bus has been an ongoing problem since we purchased it,” said Hodge. “The headlights went out in Janesville. Jeff had driven separately, due to a seventh and eighth grade game. He got all the way home and had to turn around and drive back to Janesville and lead the bus home.

“It’s been a problem,” said Hodge. “So right now we don’t feel we have adequate transportation to get our kids to games.

“This being an isolated boys game (and not a boy/girl doubleheader), we could have asked parents to drive, but again we had four inches of snow and no school today, and so he didn’t feel comfortable driving today.”

Pospisil could not be reached for comment.