

# Gilpin vs. Nederland in a thriller

DAVE GIBSON  
GILPIN COUNTY

Sometimes the smaller the schools, the bigger the rivalry. Such is the case when the Gilpin Eagles and Nederland Panthers boys' basketball teams meet on the hardwood. An annual highlight on the schedule, the Eagles would be looking to avenge a 41-32 loss they suffered in Nederland last year and reclaim the local mountain turf.

The fans from both sides always add an element of excitement as they vociferously root for their team. Held in Gilpin this year on February 2, all gate receipts and contributions were donated to the Shelby and Cody Allen Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



On paper, the Eagles were the taller of the two teams with three of their players standing at 6'6", 6'5", and 6'3". No one on the Panthers' squad was over six feet, but they've been the shorter team in all of their games this year yet still have been able to register three victories.

From a different league, the Eagles were in search of their first win. Gilpin's head coach Cassidy Gioia had instilled in her team to play hard, not be afraid to shoot, and never give up. Gilpin shot the ball well in the first quarter pouring in 11 points. Stoked with adrenaline and possibly caught up in the hype, Nederland clinked their shots long, scoring only three points.

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PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

## A hotly contested rivalry

Top: The final score. Bottom, from left to right: Nederland guard Kiryu Sugishita brings the basketball up the floor. Gavin Dillon of Nederland led all scorers. Gilpin's Rolland Keller grabs a loose ball. 6'6" senior Ben Zeckser goes in for a layup for the Eagles.

## What's happening at Gilpin Parks & Rec

**250 Norton Drive, Black Hawk**  
**gilpincounty.colorado.gov**  
**303-582-1453**

### Pool Hours - WINTER

\*Please call to confirm prior to coming

\*Closed Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday\*

Monday and Wednesday:

7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

(closed 12 - 4:30 p.m.)

4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Building Hours

\*Now closed on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday\*

Monday and Wednesday:

7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Cardio Dance Class

Mondays, February 5 through April 1 (no class Monday, February 19) from 5 - 5:55

p.m. Ages 14+. \$65/session or \$9/drop-in for ages 14-59, \$50/session or \$7/drop-in for ages 60+.

### Dad and Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 10, 5:30 - 8 p.m. \$40/pair, \$10/additional child. Join us for a 50s sock hop dance with food and crafts!

### Spring Swim Lessons for Kids

Six-week sessions. Saturday mornings February 10 through March 16. Wednesday afternoon session #1, February 7 through March 13. Wednesday afternoon session #2, April 3 through May 8. \$50/resident, \$60/non-resident per six-week session. Multiple skill levels available.

### Parents' Night Out

Friday, March 1 from 4:30 to 8 p.m. REGISTER BY Friday, February 22. Ages 5-12, \$25/child or \$15/child if enrolled in Friday camp. Dinner provided for all children, Drop your kids with us and enjoy a Friday evening to relax, have date night, or get chores done!

### Spring Taekwondo

Mondays and Wednesdays 6 to 7 p.m.,

with 7 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays for advanced training, Monthly memberships available for \$72/individual, \$160/family. Drop-in per class \$12. Ages 4 to adult.

**We are HIRING** for summer youth camp leaders! Pay is \$16.69 - 22.53/hour, dependent on qualifications and experience. Summer camp runs from Monday, June 10 through Friday, August 16. Apply at <https://gilpincounty.colorado.gov/careers> or contact Jake Rippey with questions at [jrippy@gilpincounty.org](mailto:jrippy@gilpincounty.org)

**Outdoor gear rentals** NOW AVAILABLE at the Community Center made possible by our partnership with ACA! Outdoor gear can be rented Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Prices vary for gear rentals. For more information please visit <https://www.alwayschooseadventures.org/gearlibrary>.

Friends of the Gilpin County Community Center's **"Heart of the Community"** Fund supports residents in need with family punch cards for daily admissions, as well as scholarships for youth who need help to cover youth sports and classes. Visit <https://gilpincommunitycenter.org/heart-of-the-community->

fund/ for more information and to apply.

### Youth Camp (Licensed Child Care):

Monday - Thursday 4 - 6 p.m.,

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Eagles Teen Program:

Monday - Thursday, 4:15 - 7:15 p.m.

### Pilates Mat Class:

Saturday, 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

**Hatha:** Monday and Friday,

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Senior Fit:** Monday, Wednesday

and Friday, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Senior Lunch:** Wednesday and Friday,

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

**Pickleball:** (First 30 minutes is for instruction/practice - no games at this time). Monday and Wednesday,

8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Friday, 12 - 3 p.m.

**Aquafit:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Gilpin Stitchers Club:** 2nd and 4th

Monday of each month, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Master Swim:** Monday and Wednesday

6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Lap Swim:** Monday, Wednesday, and

Friday, 8 - 9:30 a.m.



PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

**For bragging rights**  
Left: Gavin Dillon (left) and Lane Willis vie for control of the jump ball to start overtime. Above: Rolland Keller ties up his opponent.

# Thriller

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Both teams settled into the contest in the second quarter. The Panthers' full-court man-to-man defense mostly shut down the Eagles offense except for converted free throws resulting from that pressure. Nederland had trouble penetrating to the hoop and scored on outside jump shots. Score at halftime: Gilpin 17, Nederland 8.

As is at times veteran Nederland Head Coach John Leventhal's tactic, he sent his team on the court with added intensity to start the second half. The Panthers outscored the Eagles 18-11 in the third quarter. Gilpin sank three buckets and went 7-11 at the foul line. Score after three quarters: Gilpin 30, Nederland 26.

The Panthers made a run then the Eagles made a run behind solid execution that put them up by 11 points with six minutes remaining in the contest. Battling back one more time, Nederland took their first lead of the evening with a minute to go. Gilpin answered to tie the score at 40-40 at the end of regulation play.

By then the noise in the gymnasium had risen to a fever pitch. Coaches had trouble relaying instructions to their players. The bleachers quaked under stomping feet and Gilpin supporters cupped their ears and shouted repeatedly to the Nederland

side, "I can't hear you!" to which they returned the high decibel sentiment.

The athletes and coaches had three more minutes in the overtime period to settle who was king of the mountain. Even though four of Nederland's players had fouled out by that time, they got the shots they wanted, but were unable to convert on most of them. Ahead by two points, all of Gilpin's starters were still on the floor when Nederland heaved a last-second prayer from beyond halfcourt that fell short. Final score: Gilpin 44, Nederland 42.

For Gilpin, Roland Keller led the way with 12 points, 5 rebounds, and 2 steals. Connor Holloway finished with 6 points and 4 rebounds. Drew Starkey contributed 4 points, 2 rebounds, and 2 steals. Lane Willis hauled in 12 rebounds to go along with his 2 points, 2 blocks, and 2 steals. In one of the keys to winning the game, Ben Zeckser, Roland Keller, and Taurean Paxton shot 80, 75, and 75% respectively from the foul line.

On the Nederland side of the ball, Gavin Dillon stood out with 21 points, 10 rebounds, and 11 steals. Ricky Fortunato had 5 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, and 9 steals. Indio Koonz added 6 points and played tough defense in the trenches.

The series has proved to be so popular that depending on what the athletic directors can arrange, the schools might play each other twice next year – once in Gilpin and once in Nederland.



## Gilpin School Calendar

**Thursday, February 8**  
4:30 p.m. - Middle School Girls' Basketball - Home vs West Grand

**Friday, February 9**  
TBA - Varsity Wrestling Regional Tournament at Northeastern Junior College  
4 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball - Home vs Lyons

**Saturday, February 10**  
2 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball at North Park

**Tuesday, February 13**  
2 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball vs Bishop Machebeuf

**Wednesday, February 14**  
9 a.m. - Late Start - School Begins  
4:30 p.m. - Middle School Girls' Basketball at Summit  
TBA - Middle School Wrestling at Summit

**Thursday, February 15**  
4 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball - Home vs Front Range Christian  
TBA - Varsity Wrestling State Championships at Ball Arena

**Friday, February 16**  
4 p.m. - High School Boys' Basketball - Home vs Peyton

**Saturday, February 17**  
TBA - Middle School Girls' Basketball Gilpin Round Robin Tournament

**Monday, February 19**  
No School Presidents' Day  
TBA - High School Boys' Basketball District Playoffs



## NMSHS Calendar

**Thursday, February 8**  
Colorado All-State Choir  
Middle School Alpine at Eldora  
3 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Cripple Creek Victor

**Friday, February 9**  
Colorado All-State Choir  
High School Alpine - Giant Slalom

**Saturday, February 10**  
Colorado All-State Choir

**Monday, February 12**  
4:30 p.m. - JV Boys' Basketball at Golden View  
5:30 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Golden View

**Wednesday, February 14**  
5 p.m. - Middle School Girls' Basketball at Louisville Middle

**Thursday, February 15**  
High School Alpine - Giant Slalom  
Middle School Alpine at Copper MT Championships  
4 p.m. - First Day IS Wrestling  
4 p.m. - Last Day IS Girls' Basketball  
6 p.m. - SAC Meeting

**Friday, February 16**  
High School Alpine - Slalom  
4:30 p.m. - Middle School Dance  
5:30 p.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Foothill League Tournament

**Saturday, February 17**  
High School Nordic at Steamboat Touring Center  
9 a.m. - Varsity Boys' Basketball at Foothill League Tournament