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Friday, Dec. 10, 2010 0 Comments

Coach depends on Klingelhoefter

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

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One of the players on which OTHS girls' basketball coach Ryan Massey is counting to produce winning results is junior Taylor Klingelhoefter.

Already a seasoned veteran who has contributed to the OTHS basketball program during her first two years of high school, Klingelhoefter has already demonstrated her importance to the Panthers' success by earning All-Tourney honors in the Taylorville Round Robin tournament.

After losing their opening round game to Hillsboro, the O'Fallon girls turned things around quickly, winning their final three games to capture the tournament title for the second season in a row. In the final contest of the tourney against host Taylorville, Klingelhoefter exploded for 23 points to help secure the championship trophy.



Panther hoopster Taylor Klingelhoefter is the Athlete of the Week. - PROGRESS/Mark Raeber

An aggressive player with excellent basketball savvy, the junior Panther dynamo, the daughter of Rick and Patty Klingelhoefter, is also one of Massey's primary ball-handlers and defenders. Multi-tasking on the court has not been a problem for the OTHS junior and is a role that she savors.

"I play basketball because it has always been my passion," she said. "I know that if I didn't play basketball a part of me would be missing. It's who I am. I started playing in kindergarten and love it as soon as I picked up a basketball. I didn't make my first shot until I was in third grade, but it showed how persistent I was in never giving up."

"Playing basketball has influenced me not only to be a better leader," she continued. "But also a leader on and off the court. These past two years I've always wanted to be a verbal leader, but now that I have developed my skills over the years, basketball has made me mature into the leader I've always wanted to be."

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