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NEWS - O'FALLON PROGRESS - O'FALLON SPORTS

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 0 Comments

O'Fallon girls bounced by Collinsville

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

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In their only hoop action of the week, the O'Fallon girls' basketball squad battled the Collinsville Kahoks and came out on the short end of a 56-46 final score.

Through most of the Tuesday evening league battle in Collinsville, the OTHS girls kept the game competitive, but key personal injuries in the third period contributed to Collinsville outscoring Ryan Massey's squad 19-8 — an advantage that the Kahoks were able to maintain through the final eight minutes.

Sophomore center Katie Roustio and freshman forward Taylor Underwood were victims of the rough and tumble play that dominated the second half.

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Roustio was knocked to the floor with a shot to the face during the pivotal third stanza and Underwood was sidelined with a possible collar bone injury early in the fourth period.

Faced with finishing the game without two of their starters, the Panthers were not able to compensate despite solid performances from Taylor Klingelhoef who finished with a team-leading 13 points and Kaitlin Kendall who added nine.

After Roustio's forced departure in the third, Collinsville's lead ballooned to 16 points; however, the Panther girls showed some

grit and determination, slicing the large margin to just six points with 5:26 remaining in the game.

"I was very proud of the way our girls battled back," said OTHS coach Ryan Massey. "Roustio was dominating on the boards at the time of her injury and was really supplying a spark for our offense. When she went down, we stuttered a bit, but our girls recovered and got back in the game during the fourth quarter."

The Panther rally fell short, however. A 10-2 O'Fallon run during the fourth period reduced Collinsville's lead to single digits, but improved free throws shooting down the stretch foiled OTHS' comeback bid.

The loss dropped O'Fallon's record to 5-3 and 1-2 in Southwestern Conference play as they prepare for a boy-girl varsity double-header this Friday evening at Belleville East.

The Panther girls will face off against the Lancers in a 6 p.m. game. The two schools' boys' teams will battle after the girls' contest.

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