

# Highland's defense shuts down Freeburg to pick up tourney win

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Highland first-year girls basketball coach Stephanie Harris learned her lessons well.

Lesson No. 1? Defense wins.

Defending champion Highland held Freeburg to just one basket in the final 4 minutes, 23 seconds of regulation and overtime and went on for a 61-53 win in the first round of the Mascoutah Girls Basketball Invitational on Tuesday at Mascoutah High School.

A former Highland standout who was a first team all-tournament team selection when Highland won the tournament in 2006, Harris picked up her first coaching win in the event.

"Defense won this game," Harris said. "Freeburg is a very good team and they were hitting shots from all over in the first half. I think the (Taylor) Poindexter girl had 20 points in the first half. Then we put one of our seniors Sarah (Trobaugh) on her and told her to stop her and she did. I think she had three points the second half and overtime."

Harris watched her team rally from a 39-34 deficit after three quarters behind seven fourth quarter points from freshman Olivia LaPorta.

Still, Freeburg (8-6) had a chance at the end of regulation. But once again the Bulldogs defense came through.

Tied at 50, Freeburg had the ball with 24 seconds remaining, but failed to get off a shot.

"We told the girls to step out and deny," Harris said. "They did a great job in that sequence."

Emily Michael and LaPorta scored in the opening minute of overtime and Freeburg would get no closer as the Bulldogs (7-5) scored the first nine points of the overtime period.

LaPorta led Highland with 20 points, while Trobaugh added 13. Poindexter had 21 for Freeburg.

Althoff 44, Okawille 41

Surviving a third-quarter lapse, the Crusaders got six points late from junior Kymber Hill as they held off Okawille in the opening game of the tournament.

Althoff (7-4), behind a balanced scoring attack, built a 24-15 at halftime and when Hill scored on a strong inside move in the opening seconds of the third quarter, the lead was 11 for the Crusaders.

But Okawille responded. Keyed by a pair of 3-point baskets by Megan Wienstroer, Okawille went on a 17-5 run during the last seven minutes of the third period to take the lead.

A running one-hand jumper by Jolly Lake gave the Rockets their first lead of the game at 30-29 and when Wienstroer tallied on a baseline jumper, Okawille took a 32-29 lead entering the final period.

"We talk all the time about playing a complete 32 minutes. I thought we went out and played very well the first half, but then, like we have before this year, we come out a little flat in the third quarter," Althoff coach Todd Hill said. "The fourth quarter, we came out and regained our composure."

As did the Crusaders defense which held the Rockets (7-6) scoreless for the first 3:05 of the period. Hill scored the first five points of the period as Althoff took a 34-32 lead.

Hill had 16 points to pace Althoff. Hanna Bergkoetter had 17 for Okawille.

Mater Dei 83, Webster Groves 32

Add one more record for senior all-state guard Brooke Schulte.

Schulte became the all-time scoring leader in Mater Dei girls basketball history as the Knights (12-0) rolled to the lopsided win.

Schulte, who scored 22 points, broke the record of 1,614 career points set by Barb Perkes in 1986 when she scored on a layup with 3:09 remaining in the first quarter.

Schulte now has 1,630 points for her career with half a season remaining.

Following the historic shot, Knights coach Dave Kohnen called timeout and the accomplishment was announced to the large crowd

"It was nice of them to stop the game and recognize the accomplishment," Schulte said. "Honestly, I didn't know I was getting to close to the record until I read it in the newspaper.

"It means a lot to me to be mentioned with some of the great players in school history."

Schulte will attend DePaul University next year.

Central 57, Carbondale 28

Highly touted sophomore Madison Timmermann scored 22 of her game high 25 points in the final three quarters as the Cougars (11-2) rolled to an easy win over the overmatched Terriers.

Unbeaten since dropping a three point decision to Mater Dei earlier in the month, Central held Carbondale to 10 first half points and built a 26-10 halftime lead.

Alexis Strieker added 12 points for Central.

Belleville West 39, Centralia 38

The Maroons (6-6) built a nine-point lead with just under five minutes remaining, then held on for dear life as they advanced to take on Central in a quarterfinal round game.

Getting strong play from Emily Becker (12 points) and Diamond Enlow, West built a 37-28 lead with 4:37 left, but committed three turnovers and missed two free throws in its final five possessions and the Annies made things interesting in the end.

West was 0-5 from the line in the fourth quarter and 2-of-11 for the game.

"That's why it's as close as it was," a relieved Maroons coach Clayton Fisher said. "I told the girls before the game that for the last four years we've been able to advance in the winners bracket here (Mascoutah). I know we're playing a top five team in Class 2A in Central, but it means a lot to be able to advance on that side again."

O'Fallon 51, Mascoutah 40

Senior Taylor Klingelhoefler scored 15 points while Victoria Ham and Katie Roustio combined for 26 more as O'Fallon defeated the host Indians in a first round contest.

With Klingelhoefler scoring eight of her points, the Panthers (5-2) used an 18-12 second quarter spurt to take a 29-20 lead.

Mascoutah, which got 11 points from Jessica Scinto, never got closer than seven points during the second half.

"A couple of days off and with just one practice, we knew it could be sloppy at times and it was. But Mascoutah is a well coached team and (Terry) Moeller always has his girls well prepared," O'Fallon coach Ryan Massey said.

"I thought Victoria Ham gave us a life. It's not always about how many minutes you play, it's what you're able to do with your opportunity when it comes. Victoria did a nice job tonight."

Ham and Roustio added 13 points each.

Nashville 42, Carlyle 40

The cold-shooting Hornettes had the fight of their lives from the Indians who fell just short of a major upset.

Nashville, which led throughout, built a 36-28 advantage with under four minutes remaining, but Carlyle rallied.

Baskets by Courtney Kern and Sedreyana Harris cut the Indians deficit in half.

Nashville (12-0) built the lead back to six but a four-point play by Katie Funderburk with 43.6 seconds remaining pulled Carlyle to within 38-36.

But free throws by Jolie Woll and Shawn Rennegarbe in the final 35 seconds proved just enough margin for the Hornettes.

Erica Brown led Nashville with 12 points, while Kern led Carlyle with 11.

Mount Vernon 60, Belleville East 54

Cheyenne Piper hit four straight free throws in the final 43 seconds as the Rams rallied for a first round win over the Lancers.

The Rams trailed 41-37 after three quarters but used a 23-13 advantage in the fourth quarter to record the win.

Jessica Green paced Mount Vernon with 21 points, while Alexis Brown led East with 22 points.

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