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NEWS - O'FALLON PROGRESS - O'FALLON SPORTS

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O'Fallon girls cruise past Belleville East

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

In a varsity basketball double-header against Belleville East, the O'Fallon High girls held up their end of the bargain, blasting the Lancers 53-34 in a contest that preceded the OTHS — Belleville East boys' contest.

With only one blemish on their record, Coach Ryan Massey's squad continued their impressive start to the 2009-10, continuing to employ the same game plan that now has them sitting confidently with a 9-1 overall record and a 4-0 mark in Southwestern Conference action.

"We're very pleased with where we are right now," said OTHS coach Ryan Massey. "We have received valuable contributions from all our girls. We still have room for improvement, and we are entering a particularly tough portion of our schedule beginning with the Mascoutah tournament next week, but overall I can't complain with the execution and certainly not with the results."

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Panther guard Taylor Klingelhoefer dribbles up the court.

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Sophomore standout Taylor Klingelhoefer produced a breakout performance in helping the Panthers secure the victory. A starter as a freshman last year, Klingelhoefer has continued to play solidly on both ends of the court, but Friday night she stepped up her offensive output just a bit, scoring 24 points to lead the O'Fallon attack.


The Panther shooter hit for nine points in the first quarter to help O'Fallon forge into a 15-10 lead. The scoring continued in the second stanza — for both Klingelhoefer and her teammates — as the Panther girls extended their advantage to double digits (30-19) by halftime.


"Taylor is capable of having big offensive games," Massey said. "She's only a sophomore, but she is now ten games into her second varsity season. That gives her an experience advantage, and she has continued to work on her game. Her hard work along with her athletic ability makes her a definite threat in every game."

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The hustling Panther girls outworked Belleville East throughout the contest, forcing 17 Lancer turnovers and holding a major advantage in rebounds. Seniors

Stephanie Copelin and Camihya Tally combined to pull down 17 boards during the game. Copelin's 3-point basket at the end of the second period put O'Fallon ahead by double digits for the first time in the contest.

It was a harbinger of things to come for the Panther girls as they continued to apply the pressure at the start of the third quarter, resulting in more Belleville East turnovers and easy basket opportunities for O'Fallon.

The OTHS girls will start tournament play in Mascoutah on Monday, December 28 with a first round matchup against the Highland Bulldogs. The tipoff is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

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