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# With teamwork clicking, O'Fallon makes late run to top Belleville West

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By Ken Roberts | [kroberts@post-dispatch.com](mailto:kroberts@post-dispatch.com) | Posted: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 10:45 pm |

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**BELLEVILLE** • Working as a team has been the key to the O'Fallon girls basketball success. [Share](#)

That was evident Tuesday night as the visiting Panthers outscored Belleville West 17-3 in a six-minute stretch in the third and fourth quarters en route to 59-41 victory against the Maroons in the first game of the girls/boys Southwestern Conference doubleheader.

O'Fallon improved to 4-2 overall and 4-1 in the conference. West fell to 5-6 and 1-4.

"We've been working as a team, and we've learned to handle the pressure," said 5-11 forward Kaitlin Kendall, who poured in a game-high 20 points. "We're learning how to work together. I just think we were able to handle the pressure."

The game was tied 27-27 with 5 minutes, 44 seconds to go in the third quarter when O'Fallon put together a 17-3 run and took control. Kendall, who scored 24 points in a win last week against Belleville East, scored 11 of the Panthers' 17 points as O'Fallon powered to a 44-30 advantage with 7 minutes 33 seconds to go in the game.

In addition to getting 20 points from Kendall, O'Fallon got 14 points from Taylor Klingelhoefner and 10 from Ciara Jones. West was led by 6-foot center Samantha Voegtle's 17 points.

"We've been working together really well and our shots were falling," Kendall said. "That helped."

O'Fallon's Ciara Jones looks for help after scooping up a loose ball in a Southwestern Conference game with Belleville West on Tuesday. Moving in to defend for West is Asia Cochran. (Chris Lee | [clee@post-dispatch.com](mailto:clee@post-dispatch.com)) [Buy this photo](#)



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O'Fallon coach Ryan Massey was pleased with the outcome.

"If we can continue to play hard and play together as a team, we can be pretty good," he said. "We're starting to realize we've got some potential in the locker room. I think the girls are starting to build up a little confidence."

West coach Clayton Fisher said his team's downfall was its ballhandling. The Maroons committed 21 turnovers.

"We had every break we could possibly have in the first half and we didn't take advantage of them," he said. "Right now, we're having trouble passing and catching a basketball. Our ballhandling right now is horrendous. Until we get that taken care of, you're going to see what you saw tonight."

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