

OTHS girls get on track - OFallon Sports - bnd.com

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After a nearly two-week hiatus since their opening game of the season, the OTHS girls basketball squad finally got back into the swing of things this past week with two SWC games. Conference play proved just what the basketball doctor ordered as Coach Ryan Masseys squad rebounded from their season-opening loss with back-to-back victories over Granite City and Alton to improve to 2-1.

After a rocky start against Chatham-Glenwood, the OTHS girls were intent on improving their performance, and they were able to accomplish that task at least well enough to notch their first win of the season and first league victory with a 34-25 decision over the Granite City Warriors. Despite less than impressive stats which included 32 percent shooting from the field and a 50 percent effort from the free throw line, Coach Ryan Masseys squad found a way to win.

Trailing 14-11 after the first quarter, the Panthers turned up the defensive pressure, and it paid immediate dividends. Forcing several turnovers in the early minutes of the second frame, the OTHS squad was able to convert the miscues into points, erasing the early Granite City point cushion into a slim 21-18 lead at halftime.



The two teams traded baskets during the third period with the Panthers still clinging to a 2-point advantage entering the fourth stanza. With the outcome still very much in doubt, the OTHS girls again produced a solid defensive effort to kick start a lethargic offensive attack. Kaitlin Kendall was the catalyst for the Panther uprising. The OTHS forward converted on a short jumper and nailed a 3-point basket during the frame to pump a little life into the OTHS offensive effort.

Kendall ended the contest as OFallons leading scorer with 14 points on 5-for-8 shooting from the field and a 3-6 effort from beyond the arc. Katie Roustio was also able to hit double figures (12) although Granite Citys collapsing defense made it tough going for the Panther post player all night.

The combination of a more tenacious defense and more success shooting the ball allowed the OTHS squad to outscore their hosts 16-2 over the final eight minutes a blowout that helped secure

OFallons first victory of the 2011-12 campaign.

Hosting the Alton Redbirds on Tuesday evening, the local girls followed the same game plan that had worked against the Warriors a combination of stingy defense and balanced scoring. With a much smoother offensive approach than they displayed in their first game in the Panther Done, the OTHS girls bolted to a 17-9 lead by the end of the first quarter and never gave the visiting Redbirds an opportunity to recover.

Nearly the entire OTHS varsity roster got into the act at some point in the proceedings with ten Panther players breaking into the scoring column. Taylor Klingelhoefler led the parade of Panther scorers with 11 points. Running mate Katie Roustio added 10 as OFallon increased the lead to double digits, 30-18, by halftime.

O'Fallon saved its best defensive effort after the mid-game intermission. Jumping into passing lanes and generally disrupting any attempt to produce an offensive challenge, the Panther girls held Alton to just four third quarter points.

Although the OTHS squad did not exactly burn up the nets, their defensive pressure allowed them to convert several easy baskets during the frame and expand their lead to a comfortable 41-22 count by quarters end.

Everyone got into the act in the final stanza. Continuing their solid defensive play, the OTHS girls had no trouble cruising through the final eight minutes to improve to 2-1 on the season with a more formidable task coming up Thursday when they host the Collinsville Kahoks.