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NEWS - O'FALLON PROGRESS - O'FALLON SPORTS

Thursday, Feb. 04, 2010 | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Recommend \(0\)](#)

OTHS girls slow slide

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

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Snapping a four-game skid was paramount in the minds of the O'Fallon High girls' basketball team when they traveled to Collinsville last week.

With a little extra effort, they compensated for poor free throw shooting (13-for-27) and sporadic offense to post a 45-36 victory over the Kahoks.

"Our coaching staff was looking for a better effort from our squad than we have had in the past couple of weeks," said OTHS coach Ryan Massey. "We still had some issues, but our girls did enough things right — especially on the defensive end — that allowed us to pick up the win."

It was the Panther girls' 14th of the season to go with 8 losses and moved them above the .500 mark in SWC action at 6-5. Senior point guard Ally Fore was sidelined due to injury; however, sophomore Taylor Klingelhoefler took over the reigns of running the offensive sets for O'Fallon and responded well to the challenge. Stephanie Copelin led the Panthers in scoring with 12 points.

After a sluggish start by both teams, three-point baskets by Jamaia Nixon and Klingelhoefler allowed the Panther girls to squeeze out a one-point lead at the end of the first quarter. The two squads battled on even terms during the second stanza, but O'Fallon finally gave themselves a little breathing room with a scoring run highlighted by Copelin's 3-point basket and a 15 foot jumper by freshman Katie Roustio.

The Kahoks, who suffered their own shooting woes both at the free throw line and from the field, rallied to cut the OTHS lead to five points, 32-27, by the end of the third period. The Kahoks continued to edge closer as the fourth quarter began.

A 3-point bomb by Tori Bell reduced the OTHS advantage to 32-31 after two minutes of the final stanza. The Panthers responded, however, going on a 7-0 run which allowed them to preserve the victory.

The good vibes produced by the win were short-lived for O'Fallon, however. On Tuesday evening the Panthers traveled across the river for first round action in the Webster Groves Winter Challenge. Facing Rock Bridge (MO), O'Fallon succumbed to another anemic shooting performance.

Rock Bridge sprinted to an early 18-12 lead in the first period, an advantage that they maintained until the halftime break. Things went from bad to worse for the Panthers after the intermission when Rock Bridge exploded for 23 third quarter points.

O'Fallon outscored their Missouri opponents in the final frame, but it was too little and too late as Rock Bridge sent the Panthers into the consolation bracket with a 61-45 loss. Taylor Klingelhoefler (12) and Ally Fore (10) were the only O'Fallon players to score in double figures.

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