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Thursday, Dec. 09, 2010 0 Comments

# O'Fallon girls split opening SWC games

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

The OTHS girls' basketball manufactured some good news and some bad news in their first full week of regular season play. Last Thursday, the local girls dropped their home opener to the Granite City Warriors 53-45 but responded to the disappointing loss with a 64-16 drubbing of the Alton Redbirds on Tuesday evening.

In their Southwestern Conference opener, the Panther girls were unable to sustain their offensive attack and fell victim to a second half rally by the Warriors. Granite City was able to solve the OTHS defense, hitting on critical shots and free throws in the final minutes of the contest to spoil the Panthers first home game of the season.

The results were much more to Coach Ryan Massey's liking on Tuesday evening when his charges made the trip to Alton worthwhile with a 64-16 shellacking of the host Redbirds.



Panther Katie Roustio (44) shoots over two defenders. - PROGRESS/Roger Popwell

Katie Roustio and Taylor Klingelhofer led the OTHS scoring spree with 15 and 12 points respectively. The Panther girls smothered Alton in the opening stanza, jumping to a huge 21-2 advantage after the first eight minutes.

O'Fallon continued to blast the Redbirds in the second period with the entire roster getting into the act.

A 35-9 halftime lead made the final result academic as Massey unloaded his bench in the second half. Twelve OTHS players broke into the scoring column during the evening.

The O'Fallon girls also showcased aggressive defensive play. After holding Alton to just two points in the initial stanza, the Panthers blanked their hosts in the third period, adding injury to insult.

The Tuesday evening win improves the Panthers' seasonal mark to 5-2 and 1-1 in SWC action as they prepare to face the Collinsville Kahoks today (Thursday).

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