

Warriors down Wolves for win

Hot shooting leads North Douglas past defending league champion Days Creek

By Zach Silva
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On Saturday night it was the North Douglas Warriors channeling their inner Golden State Warriors three-point shooting abilities as the team from Drain took down defending league-champion Days Creek at home. Entering the game, North Douglas had made eight three-pointers on 61 attempts throughout the season. On Saturday the team hit six threes, all coming the first half, on 10 attempts as they rolled to a 48-31 victory.

"This is our house and we wanted to bring the energy," said North Douglas senior Abby Whipple who had 15 points including going three-for-four from three-point range. Whipple did more than just score as she filled the stat sheet with 10 rebounds, five steals, four assists and a block for good measure.

While offense has been hard to come by at times this season for North Douglas, it was not apparent in the opening quarter of play. With a three from Natalie Thompson on the first North Douglas shot of the game, and all three Whipple threes coming in the first quarter, the team was out and rolling.

"Really I think the difference sometimes is kids, they receive the ball are they ready to shoot or do they catch it and then decide to shoot? So Abby, if you looked at her shots today, they were in rhythm," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis. Adding, "When we make shots early... we're going to be pretty good for 32 minutes." The scoring was distributed around the team as Rilie-Jo Olds finished with 12 points and Thompson had 10.

But for all the excitement of the fast-paced offense, it was the defense that ultimately impressed the home side. As the Wolves wanted to turn the game into a track meet, the Warriors dropped out of their full-court press to make Days Creek beat them in a half-court setting. After falling behind 24-12 at halftime, the Wolves put together a strong third quarter but the Warriors were able to weather the storm. Entering the fourth quarter, North Douglas had a nine-point advantaged that they stretched to 19 with a 10-0 run to start the quarter and seal the game.

"We still have to hang our hats on how we defend and I was proud of our girls," said Davis. "Our preseason was good for us tonight because when they made a little run at us - I'm not sure that a year ago we might have collapsed. They had a 15 point third quarter and we kind of righted the ship."

One of the players anchoring the team on the defensive side was Thompson who was primarily matched up against Days Creek's Moriah

WARRIORS see B3

Hidden Valley aided by late rally



PHOTOS BY ZACH SILVA/CG SENTINEL

Cottage Grove's Dylan Graves drives the lane against Hidden Valley on Saturday. Graves led Cottage Grove with 13 points and was the only Cottage Grove player to score in the fourth quarter.

The visiting Mustangs put together a 26-4 run to slip past Cottage Grove for win

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It was shaping up to be a double-digit Cottage Grove victory against Hidden Valley until both teams did what they have done throughout the year. The visiting Mustangs (9-4) have continuously rallied from double-digit deficits while the Lions (1-12) have struggled maintaining rare double-digit leads this season and both teams played true to form on Saturday in Cottage Grove as a tumultuous fourth quarter turned into a Hidden Valley 49-46 comeback victory.

"We've come from behind for the last two years with this group and it's incredibly frustrating and my blood pressure is higher than it should be but it's always fun to be a part of a game like this," said Hidden Valley head coach Alex Keller

whose team rallied from 16-points down against Illinois Valley earlier this year. "It's even more fun to be the one that comes out on top."

Hosting the Sky-Em/Skyline crossover, a weekend of games pitting the two leagues against each other, the Lions were hungry for a victory and had an 18-point lead midway through the third quarter. After Cottage Grove turnovers and a four-point possession for Hidden Valley (fouled on a three-pointer, made two shots, missed the third foul shot, got the offensive rebound and scored a lay-up), the Mustangs finished the quarter on an 8-2 run to cut their deficit to 12.

"[Hidden Valley] did what they needed to do and we didn't do what we needed to do to win that game," said Cottage Grove head coach Seth Hutchison. "They needed extra possessions so they sped the game up and we fed right into it. And that's exactly what we did. And we needed to do the exact opposite. We needed to slow it down, shorten the game and take

care of the basketball and get looks that we were getting in the first half. We totally went away from that. That's on me."

As the Hidden Valley full-court defense forced Cottage Grove into turnovers, the shots that they had been taking all game started to fall from everyone on the court. In the final quarter of play, the Mustangs outscored Cottage Grove 20-5 and saw five different players score. 10 different Hidden Valley players scored in the game led by Parker Wright with nine points.

All of Cottage Grove's fourth quarter points came from Dylan

Graves who finished with 13 points on the day. Creed Lufkin had 18 points for the Lions.

"Our conversation between the third and fourth quarter was, 'Hey, we know

LIONS see B3



Cottage Grove's Creed Lufkin's basket gives the Lions an 18-point lead on Saturday before the Lions fell 49-46.

Elks edge past Eagles in league opener



Elkton's Austin Luzier backs down a Yoncalla defender on Friday night.

Elkton survives turnovers, scoring droughts to get 40-39 victory at home

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In a battle of similar teams - similar win totals, similar close wins and big defeats on the season, similar hopes for their future with young players - it was Elkton (4-8) doing just enough to get a 40-39 victory over Yoncalla (5-8) on Friday night at home.

"Basically you had two teams trying to figure out how to win. It was kind of ugly on both sides and certainly there were plays that we would like to have back and I'm sure Yoncalla would say the same thing but yeah, I'm pleased with our kids," said Elk-

ton head coach Gary Trout.

The Elks were able to survive a pair of scoring droughts - a five minute scoreless stretch to start the second quarter and scoring two points, that came in the final minute, in the third quarter - as they came away with the win despite late turnovers and a six-point deficit to start the final quarter of play.

Yoncalla's Corbin Eichman came up with a steal and three point play to tie the game at 36 with just over 1:30 to play in the fourth quarter. After an Elkton turnover just seconds later, the Eagles looked to hold the ball for the final 1:20 in order to get the last shot.

"Tactically I was trying to stall to hold the ball. And put the pressure on the defense and I wanted a drive to the basket. I wanted to

get it down to about 10, five seconds and then drive to the basket," said Yoncalla head coach Darwin Terry. "Players got a little antsy and... we turned the ball over into their hands and gave them an opportunity to score."

Trout urged his team to play simple and smart throughout the game and in the final minute they did just that. It started with working the ball around and finding Spencer Moore down low for the go-ahead lay-up from the block with 23 seconds to play. On the ensuing Yoncalla possession, the Eagles were called for a travel with seven seconds left to play.

Looking to extend the game, Yoncalla fouled Elkton sophomore Trystn Woody who proceeded to knock down a pair of free throws to give the team a four point lead and the vic-

ELKS see B3

Athlete of the Week



This week's athlete of the week is Elkton sophomore Trystn Woody. Woody led Elkton in scoring with 14 points in a win against Yoncalla on Friday night including a pair of made free throws that sealed the victory with 5.8 seconds left in the game.



Trystn Woody leads the offense in a game earlier this season.

PHOTO BY BECKY GERRARD