

North Douglas rolls past Days Creek, Glide

Warriors get big win against reigning league champs

By Zach Silva
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North Douglas was hoping for a win against Days Creek.

But facing the defending league champions on the road, the Warriors (18-4, 9-1 Skyline) exceeded even their own expectations as they secured not just a win but recorded an absolute rout of the Wolves (11-8, 7-2) last Tuesday in a 50-28 victory.

"Not in my wildest dreams did I expect that," said North Douglas head coach Jeff Davis. "I thought, coming down here... the game would be in the 30s and we would have to grind 'er out and whoever made more free throws would actually win it."

Instead, the game turned into the Sofia Alcantar show. The junior guard from North Douglas did a little bit of everything throughout the game

as she finished with 19 points, seven rebounds, six steals and five assists.

"She just continued to be aggressive offensively and she's as quick as any kid we've had at North Douglas," said Davis. "Look at how many deflections she had, she's just got those terrific instincts that's almost indescribable. Just real proud of her."

Typically when Alcantar leads the team in scoring, it is against an opponent that gives up steals to the North Douglas press which lead to open layups in transition. But on Tuesday, her scoring extended past that as she was consistently driving through the lane in the half-court offense to score at the rim or find an open teammate.

"I think we played as one and we brought it today. And we're not going to lose anymore, we're going to bring it to each game," said Alcantar.

Entering the game, the Warriors put an emphasis on a fast start and they executed their

plan perfectly on Tuesday night as they outscored the Wolves 9-2 in the opening quarter. North Douglas held Days Creek to seven first half points.

The Warriors' defense held the Wolves in check including reigning player of the year junior Moriah Michaels. Michaels, primarily guarded by North Douglas' Natalie Thompson. Michaels, an ever-present scoring threat, finished the game with 16 points but was

held to two points in the first half. No other Days Creek player finished with more than one made field goal.

"I don't know if our interior defense is all that good but if we can get out and pressure the ball, if Sofia plays and Riley (Black) and Nat play defense, then (we are in pretty good shape). Days Creek is a pretty good offensive team," said Davis.

This was the fewest points

Days Creek has scored since their first game of the season (Nov. 28) in a loss against 2A Bandon.

North Douglas was also helped by their nose for the ball as they out-rebounded Days Creek 47-21, including 16 offensive rebounds. Abby Whipple had nine rebounds for the Warriors while Rilie-Jo Olds had seven and Natalie Thompson six. Olds, Thompson and Whipple were also active scorers finishing with 10, eight and seven points respectively.

On Saturday night, the Warriors defeated Glide 41-14 in a non-league game and held the Wildcats scoreless in the first half. Whipple led the team with 10 points and nine rebounds. Alcantar had eight points and four assists while Nicki Derrick had eight points and four steals.

The Warriors, currently in the driver's seat for the league title, finish out the regular season this weekend at Yoncalla on Friday night and home against Elkton on Saturday.



PHOTO BY BECKY GERRARD

North Douglas senior Abby Whipple sends a pass down court against Days Creek to start a fast break.

Elks wrap week with win over Hornets

By Zach Silva
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Despite the victory, Elkton head coach Rob Parker was not pleased with his team's execution Friday night.

"We were, I don't know, brain dead?" said Parker after the Elks (12-8, 7-2 Skyline) defeat-

ed Camas Valley (10-10, 6-4 Skyline) 39-26 at home. "We weren't taking advantage of what they were giving us. People weren't going to the right spots, we just didn't play smart basketball. I'm surprised we got the win. We just weren't playing smart basketball."

It was the Camas Valley defense packing it inside and giving Elkton trouble. The Hornets executed a similar style of tough defense mixed with some offense in late January when they pulled off a 21-18 upset against North Douglas. The loss is North Douglas' only league loss of the season.

But for Elkton on Friday, when they were able to find their spots on offense - or, more aptly, when they were able to find Aspyn Luzier - the team was able to score. Luzier led the way for the Elks with 19 points including three three-pointers. After some early misses for Luzier, she knew that she just had to keep shooting.

"At the beginning of the game I wasn't making them but it was because I was rushing them. So in the second half I started taking more time and they started going in," said Luzier. "I just keep telling myself that I'm going to make them."

"We were trying to get the ball to her, she was our focus," said Parker. "They weren't covering her really well and if they're going to leave her open, we're going to take advantage of that. And no one else was hitting real good."

Luzier was the only player in the game with double figure scoring. Alexis Halstead added eight points for Elkton while Sadie Olson had six.

Leading by one after the first quarter, the Elks held the Hornets to two points in the second quarter and went to the half with an 11 point lead. Camas Valley cut their deficit to six points with under three minutes to play before Elkton finished with seven straight

points to record the win.

To end the regular season, the Elks have a tough test as they close out the year with three road games. After New Hope on Tuesday (after The Sentinel's press deadline) the team travels to Days Creek on Friday and finish with North Douglas on Saturday. The Wolves and Warriors are the only two teams that the Elks have lost to in league play this season.

"I want to win three games. That's it, win. I don't care if we win ugly, that's still a win. We'll take it any way we can get it," said Parker.

In the final week of play North Douglas, Days Creek and Elkton are fighting for the top spot in, not only the North Division, but the league as a whole. The top finisher will receive the number one seed and a first-round bye at the Skyline League District Tournament while the other two teams will face each other next Tuesday or Wednesday in the first round.

WARRIORS from B1

Creek was 15-of-20 from the line including eight-of-11 in the fourth quarter. North Douglas finished the game one-for-eight from the line and had four misses in a row in the final 23 seconds of the game.

"I don't know," said Vancil on how the team can get better at free throw shooting. "I've been trying to shoot free throws every day in practice. I don't know. That killed us at the end."

The Warriors and Wolves are in a pack of four teams - along with Umpqua Valley Christian (18-3, 10-1) and Riddle (19-3, 9-2) - at the top of the Skyline League fighting for three spots to get to the state tournament. While all four teams have clinched spots at the district tournament, the race is now on for an elusive one seed that secures a first round bye. Riddle has locked in the one seed in the South region, and, after last Tuesday's game, it is now Days Creek and UVC fighting for that top spot in the North division.

"The District playoff is going to be a nightmare. It is. Because we're all four, if we all do our job, should get into the playoffs. And one of those guys has to stay home, only three advance. And it's a shame," said Ellis. "But for a coach, it's an anxiety attack waiting to happen because it's going to be tough."

Unless there is a massive upset before the weekend, the one-seed will be determined by Saturday's game between UVC and Days Creek. The Warriors will, presumably, play the winner of that game on the road next Tuesday or Wednesday in the first round of the Skyline League District tournament. North Douglas lost both matchups to UVC and split their games with Days Creek.

"Anybody can beat anybody in this league on any night. So we're not overlooking anybody, we're trying to get ready for every single team we play and the boys know that," said Vancil. "I just tell them in the locker room, 'Hey, we've got to have some urgency towards the end of the season.'"

On Saturday the Warriors lost to 2A Glide 53-41 on the road in a non-league game. Caleb Parks had 25 for North Douglas as Justin Smith added 10.

North Douglas faces Yoncalla (9-14, 4-8) on the road on Friday before finishing the regular season on Saturday at home against Elkton (4-17, 1-9).

Middlefield Men's Club Monday 1/28/2019 Game: 3M

First Place: 135
Ron Ackerman, John Kallbrier, Pat Rickard, Gary Welch

Second Place: 133
Bob McCarty, Bill Medin, Don Perkins, Todd Dennis BD

Third Place: 132
Todd Dennis, Gary Ingram, Darrell Lee, Jim Wamsley

Fourth Place: 129
Frank Gates, Phil Hamilton, Gary Sparks, Larry Strickland

Fifth Place: 128
Gary Rider, Mike Stahl, Dave Tooker, Dick Winters

Sixth Place: 126
Jack Doleman, Paul Henrichs, Jerry Pennington, Dick Winters BD

Seventh Place: 124
Bill Avery, Jake Cox, Larry Eymann, Tom Arney

Low Gross
Gary Ingram, Gary Rider, Paul Henrichs

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