

Warriors drub Regina for 6th straight

Written by Tom Fruehling

Tuesday, 18 December 2012 23:41 - Last Updated Thursday, 20 December 2012 13:29



After opening the season with two losses, the unranked Cedar Rapids Washington Warrior girls are on a roll.

They soundly demolished previously unbeaten Iowa City Regina, 61-33, at home Tuesday night. The drubbing of the Class 2A 13th-ranked Regals was Washington's sixth straight victory.

"Our goal is to go seven in a row into the (holiday) break," said spitfire senior guard Colby Bjornsen. "Tonight, we came out and played hard right from the start.

"It's all about defense, using our quickness to steal the ball and getting rebounds."

Their next test comes Friday night when they host crosstown rival Jefferson.

The Warriors should be well-rested, since even the third wave of Warrior reserves saw considerable action Tuesday against the overmatched small-school visitors.

It was really no contest from the get-go as the Warriors raced off to a 10-0 lead and never looked back.

The Regals came into the game as the best shooting team in the state, knocking down more than 50 percent of both their total shots and 3-point attempts in their first seven victories.

The tenacious Washington defenders made it hard for them to shoot by forcing 10 turnovers in each half. When the Regals were able to get a shot off, they mostly missed.

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Regina managed to make only 21 percent of its field goal tries. And while they had been averaging 53 percent from long range, they sank 1 of 13 against Washington.

“Our big concern was that we knew they have some good shooters,” said Warrior Coach Frank Howell. “But I thought we did a really good job paying attention to their shooters and making it tough for them to catch the ball.

“And we did a pretty good off the boards. We got a lot of second-shot opportunities and gave them very few second opportunities.”

Washington’s do-it-all Dani Franklin pulled down 15 rebounds of her own along with leading all scorers with 22 points.

“They’re obviously a great team,” said Regina Coach Clark Anderson. “They’re big and physical. They have some players. And they play fast.

“We’re not used to playing a team at that level, and they exposed a lot of our weaknesses. But it was a good experience. We will learn from it.”

It took the Regals nearly four minutes to score their first points. And with Washington employing a ferocious pressing man-to-man defense, the points came few and far between.

Meanwhile, the running Warriors kept pouring it on.

Madison Kramer hit her second trey of the game at the buzzer to give her team a 34-18 lead at half. When Bjornsen lofted in a high-arching bomb midway in the third quarter it doubled the margin at 44-22.

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Rugged Warrior post player Abby Herb stretched the lead to 30 with a tip-in at the 4:38 mark in the final quarter.

"It was a fast-paced game," said Herb, who was also in double figures with 11 points. "We pushed the ball up the court, and we did a nice job passing the ball and getting nice shots.

"That's our game: Rebound and run."

IOWA CITY REGINA (33): J.Wick 1 0-0 2, K.Wick 2 0-0 4, Decker 1 0-0 3, Dutchik 0 1-2 1, Je.Lehman 5 0-0 10, Jo.Lehman 1 1-4 3, Fackler 3 2-5 8, Stein 1 0-0 2. Totals 14 4-13 33.

WASHINGTON (61): Herb 4 2-4 11, Malcolm 0 0-0 0, Hobbs 1 3-3 5, Bjornsen 1 2-6 5, Glenski 1 0-0 2, Kramer 3 0-0 8, West-Doyle 2 0-0 4, Franklin 10 0-1 22, Kamin 0 0-0 0, Angellotti 0 0-0 0, Ochs 0 0-0 0, Cook 0 0-0 0, Jones 1 0-0 2, O'Donnell 1 0-0 2. Totals 24 7-11 61.

Halftime - Washington 34, Regina 18. 3-point goals - Regina 1 (Decker 1), Washington 6 (Kramer 2, Franklin 2, Herb 1, Bjornsen 1).