

'Twin Towers' post career highs for Warriors

Written by Carl Gonder

Wednesday, 30 November 2011 00:38 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 November 2011 01:15



WATERLOO - Let's call them the "Twin Towers."

Abby Herb and Kelli Klaus were an unstoppable two-girl wrecking crew with career-highs in both points and rebounds Tuesday night as No. 7 Washington rolled by Waterloo East, 89-32, in an easy Mississippi Valley Conference opener in Waterloo.

Herb, a 6-footer, went inside and outside to hit 12 of 17 shots for a career-best 25 points and 14 rebounds. The junior forward scored 14 of her team's first 16 points as the Warriors raced to a 21-2 lead.

"That is the most I have ever scored in a half," Herb said after collecting 21 points in the first two quarters. "I was excited to play and my teammates fed me the ball."

Herb added three assists and four steals in her best varsity performance.

Klaus, a rangy 6-foot-2 senior who has signed to play basketball at Division II Colorado Christian University, was a headache inside for the Trojans with 15 points and eight boards, also both career marks. She hit 5 of 12 shots from the floor and 3 of 4 free throws.

"It is a big team and it is encouraging that Coach (Frank Howell) plays everyone," Klaus said. "I think we are going to do really well this season. We have a good feel for each other and we all get along."

"We went out there with energy the whole time and didn't give up," she said.

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Washington boasts seven players who stand 6 feet or taller, and Howell started four of them.

“That is probably the biggest starting lineup I have ever had across the board,” he said. “We have a lot of length out there and hopefully that leads to a lot of deflections, but we could go small and quick too, so we have some versatility.”

Waterloo East, with 20 consecutive losing seasons in varsity girls basketball, hit the game’s first basket and led 2-0. The Warriors then rattled off 27 unanswered points and led 30-4 after the first quarter.

Herb scored nearly half of her team’s points in the first half on an array of putbacks, layups and jump shots from the free throw line.

The Warriors led 48-13 at intermission and 75-21 after three periods. All 14 players scored.

“I felt really good about it,” Howell said. “Fourteen kids got in and 14 scored. We played hard.

“I really liked what we did on the offensive boards. The ‘bigs’ came in and did a nice job of giving second and third shot opportunities.”

Washington outrebounded Waterloo East, 48-20.

Howell thought Herb was impressive.

“She played really well and that is what we needed,” he said. “Abby found the hot hand and she knocked down some elbow shots and got some stick-backs and played a good floor game overall. She plays hard.”

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Washington had 23 steals and forced the Trojans into 33 turnovers. Kia Frazier led Waterloo East with 16 points.

The Warriors hit 37 of 71 from 2-point range (52 percent) and 11 of 24 free throws (46 percent), but hit just 1 of 18 from behind the 3-point arc.

Waterloo East shot 9 of 37 from 2-point range (24 percent), netted 14 of 19 free throws (74 percent) and missed all six of its 3-point goal attempts.

WASHINGTON (89): Jazz Royster 2 2-2 6, Madison Kramer 1 0-0 2, Kelli Klaus 6 3-4 15, Abby Herb 12 1-1 25, Brooke Foreman 2 0-0 4, Lauren Goodlove 1 0-0 2, Callie Stone 0 2-4 2, Shanay Gonder 1 0-0 2, Renae Runge 1 0-0 2, Sophie Malcolm 0 1-4 1, Devin Glenski 3 0-0 6, Aleena Hobbs 3 2-3 8, Kolby Bjornson 2 0-0 5, Danielle Franklin 3 1-2 7. Totals 37 11-24 89.

WATERLOO EAST (32): Amari Williams 1 0-0 2, Shania Robinson 2 0-0 4, Margot Advice 0 0-0 0, Shakari Baker-Bruce 3 0-0 6, Kia Frazier 3 10-12 16, Brinesha McKinney 0 1-2 1, Aryona Umoren 0 0-0 0, Hiliary Servantz 0 0-0 0, Nyosha Alexander 0 0-0 0, Fredericka Forest 0 0-0 0. Totals 9 14-19 32.

Halftime - Washington 48, Waterloo East 13. 3-point goals - Washington 1 (Bjornson).