

Kennedy girls knock off J-Hawks

Written by Jim Ecker

Friday, 01 February 2013 22:53 -

Tony Vis has been looking for consistency and balance from his girls basketball team at Kennedy High School this year.

He found it Friday night.

Jordan Holmes led four Cougars in double figures as Kennedy dumped Jefferson, 64-43, in a Mississippi Valley Conference game at Kennedy.

Paige Hendrickson scored 16 points, Madison Meier collected 14 points and Stephanie Botkin added 10 as the Cougars (11-7, 7-4) played one of their most complete games of the year.

"We had good balance, moved the ball well, got them in transition, shot it well from the outside," said Vis, in his first year at Kennedy.

Holmes and Meier were "Miss Outside" for the Cougars as they combined for seven 3-pointers. Hendrickson and Botkin were "Miss Inside" as they scored most of their points near the basket.

"When you play the game that way and you get balance, it makes it really hard to guard," said Vis. "Four kids in double figures ... You really, really root for three, and if you can get four it's unbelievable."

Kennedy has run hot and cold this season. The Cougars have played well in stretches, but have squandered leads in the fourth quarter with weak finishes.

Not this time.

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Kennedy scored 17 points in the first quarter, 17 in the second quarter and 18 in the third quarter to take control at 52-31. The Cougars scored only 12 points in the final stanza, but the game had been decided by then.

"We made it clear in the locker room, we're playing the full 32 minutes," said Holmes, a 5-foot-5 junior. "No matter what, we're going to give it our all."

Jefferson trailed by four points late in the first half at 26-22, but the Cougars finished the second quarter with an 8-0 run to grab a 34-22 lead at halftime. It got worse for the J-Hawks (8-11, 5-7) in the third quarter.

Meier buried three 3-pointers in the early stages of the quarter as the Cougars opened a 51-27 bulge, finishing a 25-5 barrage that spanned the halves.

Kennedy grabbed its biggest lead of the night at 57-31 on another 3-pointer by Holmes.

Taylor Jacobson led Jefferson with nine points.

Morgan Martin, a 6-foot-1 junior for Kennedy, said after the game that she will not play again this season due to a lingering knee injury. Martin was an all-state player at Quincy (Ill.) Notre Dame last season before transferring to Kennedy. She appeared in only two games this season.

JEFFERSON (43): Starks 0 0-0 0, Davidson 3 0-0 8, Blietz 2 1-2 5, Stromert 1 0-0 2, Jacobson 4 1-2 9, Broghammer 2 0-0 4, Brathwaite 0 0-0 0, Koolbeck 1 1-1 3, Ollinger 3 0-0 7, Timmerman 2 0-1 5. Totals 18 3-6 43.

KENNEDY (64): Meier 5 0-0 14, DeLong 0 0-0 0, Holmes 7 0-0 17, B.Vis 0 3-4 3, Hellweg 0 1-2 1, Wagner 0 2-2 2, M.Vis 0 0-0 0, Milbrath 0 0-0 0, Hendrickson 7 2-2 16, Botkin 4 2-4 10, Zinser 0 1-2 1. Totals 23 11-16 64.

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Halftime - Kennedy 34, Jefferson 22. 3-point goals - Jefferson 4 (Davidson 2, Ollinger 1, Timmerman 1), Kennedy 7 (Meier 4, Holmes 3).