

Joens blisters No.8 Cougars with 42

Written by Jim Ecker

Friday, 05 December 2014 23:19 -



Iowa City High junior Courtney Joens had a bag of ice attached to her knee after Friday's game at Kennedy, but that ice was the only thing that cooled her off all night.

Joens was not merely hot against the Cougars. She absolutely sizzled.

Joens popped in eight 3-pointers and collected 42 points with a dazzling performance as the Little Hawks knocked off the eighth-ranked Cougars, 76-59, in a Mississippi Valley Conference game.

City High Coach Bill McTaggart thought the eight 3-pointers and 42 points were school records, but was not absolutely sure. She missed only one 3-pointer all night, going 8-for-9 from long range.

"She was just phenomenal," said vanquished Kennedy Coach Tony Vis.

Joens, a 5-foot-11 guard, suffered a partial tear of an MCL knee ligament in October and missed the first two games of the season. She played sparingly against Dubuque Senior Tuesday night and missed all four of her 3-pointers, but she was absolutely on fire against Kennedy.

Joens took a short break in the first half, but otherwise played the entire game and looked terrific for the Little Hawks (3-1).

"We didn't think she'd play this amount of minutes tonight," said McTaggart. "We kept asking

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her, 'Are you all right, Are you all right, Are you all right?' She said, 'Yes, Yes, Yes.'

"We had no idea she'd have a monster game like she did."

Joens, who has committed to Illinois, said her knee felt good.

"I haven't played in like a month, so I wanted to get out there again," she said. "That's a good team we played. My teammates really helped by getting the ball to me. That helps a lot."

Joens popped in six 3-pointers in the first half and hit two more triples in the third quarter. Kennedy began the game in a zone defense, but she simply shot over it. And when Kennedy switched to man-to-man, she drove past defenders for layups.

"I don't know if I've had a kid play better against me, and it's not like I haven't coached against good kids before," said Vis. "She had an answer for everything we threw at her tonight. She played really well."



Joens averaged 14.6 points last season for Iowa City High as a sophomore when the Little Hawks finished 24-1 and reached the semifinals of the Class 5A state tournament. The Little Hawks belted Kennedy, 68-34, in the opening round of the 2014 state tournament and were the superior team again Friday.

City High freshman Ashley Joens - Courtney's sister - scored 19 points Friday, which means the Joens sisters personally outscored the Cougars 61-59. By the way, there are three more Joens sisters in the 7th grade, 4th grade and one who is three years old.

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City High erupted for 32 points in the second quarter, wiping out an early 9-2 deficit and grabbing a 46-32 lead at halftime. The Joens sisters accounted for 24 of those 32 points in the second period, with Courtney netting 16 and Ashley eight.

City High surged to 20-point leads in the third quarter and Kennedy was not able to fully mount a comeback.

The Cougars (2-1) hurt themselves with a string of careless turnovers in the game, as well as springing major leaks on defense.

Lela Sellers led Kennedy with 18 points, but she fouled out with 3:30 left in the game after trying to guard Courtney Joens. Stephanie Botkin scored 15 points, Sydney Hayden had 13 and Abby Hellweg netted 10.

IOWA CITY HIGH (76): Plock 1 0-0 2, Sam Blowers 0 2-2 2, Schroder 0 0-0 0, A Joens 5 8-10 19, Sara Blowers 1 0-0 3, C Joens 12 10-13 42, Earl 1 3-4 6, Christophersen 1 0-0 2. Totals 21 23-29 76.

KENNEDY (59): Dye 1 0-0 2, Hamilton 0 0-1 0, Hayden 4 2-4 13, Sellers 7 3-4 18, Hellweg 4 2-4 10, Meyer 0 0-0 0, Meier 0 1-2 1, Runels 0 0-0 0, Botkin 6 3-3 15. Totals 22 11-18 59.

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Halftime - Iowa City High 46, Kennedy 32. 3-point goals - Iowa City High 11 (C Joens 8, A Joens 1, Sara Blowers 1, Earl 1), Kennedy 4 (Hayden 3, Sellers 1).