

Balanced Warriors stroll by Saints

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 09 January 2014 23:35 -

The Franklin & Hobbs Show had a stronger supporting cast for the Washington girls basketball team Thursday night.

It helped immensely.

Twelve players scored points for the Warriors as they bumped off the Xavier Saints, 69-47, in a Mississippi Valley Conference game at Washington.

Dani Franklin netted 22 points and Aleena Hobbs had 15, but the Warriors got another 32 points from the rest of the club to win easily.

"I think it really helps us when we're well-balanced," said Hobbs. "It's nice. And it's nice for them (the other girls) to have scoring opportunities too."

Nobody else scored a lot of points, but they were well-distributed. MJ Kamin and Kandis O'Donnell had six points apiece, Sophie Ochs had five points and Anne Visser had four points. Callie Cook, who has been injured much of the season, and Allie Semrau scored their first points of the season.

Franklin and Hobbs normally account for 66.2 percent of Washington's points. This time, they had to produce only 53.6 percent of the markers while playing a normal amount of time.

"I think it helps a lot," said Franklin, a 6-foot-1 senior who leads the MVC in scoring at 22.3 points per game. "When we all come together like that passing-wise and getting each other the ball and everyone is scoring, I think it helps a lot and brings us all together as a team."

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Washington Coach Frank Howell liked the widespread distribution of points.

"That kind of jumped out at me. I noticed it right away," he said. "I think maybe in the first three minutes of the game, we had four of our five kids that had scored.

"If we can continue to get some production from some other kids, that will make us a lot better and tonight they produced really well offensively."

Franklin and Hobbs did much more than combine for 37 points. Franklin had five blocked shots, four rebounds, three steals and two assists, while Hobbs collected 12 rebounds, three blocks, three assists and three steals.

Howell called them "stat sheet stuffers."

"It's not just about the offensive production. It's everything else too," he said. "They've both been really sound players and very versatile players. They can do more than just score. No doubt."

Franklin will play Division I basketball at Valparaiso University. Hobbs has been fielding offers from Division II and Division III schools and plans to pick a college by the end of the season.

Hobbs played three or four different positions for the Warriors Thursday, including taking a few shifts at point guard. "I think he (Howell) can count on me to fill in any position if he needs someone," she said. "I don't mind it at all."

Washington raised its records to 7-2 overall and 5-1 in the conference. The Saints, ranked No.5 in Class 4A, fell to 6-4 overall and 4-3 in the league.

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Xavier Coach Tom Lilly, unhappy with the way his team was responding to Washington's full-court pressure, called two timeouts in the first two minutes of the game to try and fix the problem. The Saints never really succeeded in handling the pressure and committed a string of turnovers.

"I thought their press got to us physically and psychologically," said Lilly. "We had a lot of kids playing just a hair faster than what they needed to play."

Hayley Deutmeyer scored 12 points for Xavier and Maddie Bertsch had 11.

Both teams have tough assignments Saturday. The Saints play Class 5A No.2 West Des Moines Valley in a Rivalry Saturday game at the U.S. Cellular Center and Washington entertains eighth-ranked Des Moines East.

XAVIER (47): Breitbach 0 4-6 4, Bailey 1 4-6 6, Deutmeyer 4 4-8 12, Christianson 0 0-0 0, Dickes 2 2-3 6, Watson 1 0-0 2, Bertsch 4 3-6 11, Nelson 0 0-0 0, Bastian 0 0-0 0, Drahozal 2 0-0 4, Joens 0 2-2 2, Tritle 0 0-0 0, Stanek 0 0-0 0. Totals 14 19-31 47.

WASHINGTON (69): Clark 1 0-0 2, Cook 1 0-0 2, Hobbs 6 3-6 15, Jones 1 0-0 2, Semrau 0 1-2 1, Hartman 0 0-3 0, Squires 1 0-0 2, Nelson 0 0-0 0, West-Doyle 1 0-0 2, Franklin 8 4-4 22, O'Donnell 2 2-3 6, Kamin 3 0-0 6, Angellotti 0 0-0 0, Ochs 2 0-0 5, Cullen 0 0-0 0, Visser 1 2-3 4, Johnson 0 0-0 0. Totals 27 12-21 69.

Halftime - Washington 37, Xavier 24. 3-point goals - Xavier none, Washington 3 (Franklin 2, Ochs 1).