

No.2 Kirkwood drubs Southwestern, 85-20

Written by Don Taylor

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Southwestern was no match for the No.2 ranked Kirkwood Eagles on Wednesday night at Johnson Hall. Kirkwood (26-3, 15-0) pummeled the Spartans, 85-20.

An aggressive full-court pressure defense forced 14 turnovers and only allowed one field goal in 19 attempts in the entire first half as the Eagles built a 42-7 halftime lead.

Substituting generously in each half, the Eagles held Southwestern (0-29, 0-15) to just 5 of 39 shooting for the game while forcing 23 turnovers.

Kirkwood put four players in double figures. Kianna Jacobs and Alexis Fitzpatrick each had 13 to lead the way. Friday Chuol added 12 and Tara Gray chipped in 10 off the bench.

"I really try to make plays for other people and when it's my turn, I just knock it down," said Fitzpatrick. "When we get the lead, we have to keep up our intensity. If the situation is good or bad we still play hard."

Chuol contributed a double-double as she grabbed 13 rebounds to go with her 12 points.

"I just started out with a lot of energy and kept it up the entire game," said Chuol. "Coach always tells me to use my length and height and I really took advantage of the opportunity tonight."

"To be fair to Southwestern, they were missing their best player," said Kirkwood Coach Kim Muhl. "We just worked on half-court stuff in the second half. There is never any intent to embarrass anyone."

The game was Kirkwood's home finale. The Eagles have one game left in the regular season, against DMACC at Boone on Saturday. The regional tournament starts Tuesday and the Eagles will play at home.

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"Our goal is to develop a three-headed monster," Muhl said. "We would like be able to handle the ball, shoot effectively, and take care of the middle.

"We get a little help off the bench and we are pretty balanced. We have matured as the season has developed."

SOUTHWESTERN (20): Folkerts 0 1-3 1, Zimmerman 0 5-6 5, Knorr 0 0-0 0, Clark 1 0-0 2, Polson 3 3-4 9, Williams 0 0-0 0, Stumpf 0 0-0 0, Wagler 1 0-3 3. Totals 5 9-16 20.

KIRKWOOD (85): Dufelmeier 4 0-0 9, Jacobs 5 3-4 13, Rohrbach 3 0-0 6, Fitzpatrick 5 0-0 13, Chuol 6 0-2 12, Henderson 4 0-2 8, Hobbs 1 0-0 2, Fallon 0 0-0 0, Tow 4 0-0 8, Faber 2 0-0 4, Gray 3 3-3 10. Totals 37 6-11 85.

Halftime - Kirkwood 42, Southwestern 7. 3-point goals – Southwestern 1 (Wagler 1), Kirkwood 5 (Dufelmeier 1, Fitzpatrick 3, Gray 1). Fouled out - None.