

Woolfolk helps Eagles rip Joliet

Written by Don Taylor

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It was the Danielle Woolfolk show at the Clarion-Kirkwood Classic at Kirkwood Friday night.

The diminutive point guard scored 18 points, dealt four assists and collected four steals for a complete performance. She ran the offense and spearheaded the Eagles' swarming full-court trapping press.

"I think this is really great," said Woolfolk, who stands 5-foot-3. "I am blessed to get to work with these girls. I am usually the littlest player on the court, but it's my heart that takes me where I want to go."

Kirkwood led 29-21 with about seven minutes left in the first half when its pressure defense began to take a toll on the Wolves. The Eagles built a 44-25 halftime lead and never looked back.

"Part of what we try to do is get our kids to buy into the pressure defense," said Kirkwood Coach Kim Muhl. "Our energy level wasn't quite where we needed it to be when the game began, but we finally began to take advantage of our pressure. Then things went pretty well."

Post player Ariel Sneed chipped in with 14 points and nine rebounds for Kirkwood (3-0) and Tyra Polite knocked in 12 points coming off the bench.

"I felt like I was struggling all night on offense," said Sneed. "I just need to continue to make adjustments to my game and keep improving."

Kirkwood dominated the boards by out-rebounding Joliet, 51-30. Cassidy Clark led the Eagles with 10 rebounds.

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"This group of kids seems to be a little bit different," said Muhl. "They work hard and really listen to what we are telling them. We are 3-0 so far and having a lot of fun."

Kirkwood will face a talented Kishwaukee College team Saturday at 3 p.m. Kishwaukee defeated Iowa Central in the first game Friday, 85-75, in overtime.

JOLIET (43): Campbell 1 2-2 2, Wurtz 3 0-0 9, Williams 1 0-1 2, Averhart 3 1-1 8, McWaine 3 2-5 8, Oglesby 2 0-0 4, Baker 1 3-4 5, Taylor 0 0-0 0, Banks 1 0-0 3, Vasquez 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 2-2 2, Lofton 0 0-0 0, Cruickshank 0 0-1 0. Totals 14 10-16 43.

KIRKWOOD (85): Sneed 5 4-4 14, Woolfolk 7 2-2 18, Tuttle 0 0-2 0, Fallon 2 0-0 4, Clark 3 1-2 7, Hall 1 2-2 5, Silva 2 4-4 8, Polite 4 4-4 12, Larson 1 2-2 5, Haynes 0 0-0 0, Martensen 1 1-1 3, Kelso 4 1-2 9. Totals 30 21-23 85.

Halftime – Kirkwood 44, Joliet 25. 3-point goals – Kirkwood 4 (Woolfolk 2, Hall 1, Larson 1), Joliet 5 (Wurtz 3, Averhart 1, Banks 1). Fouled out – none.