

Jacobs helps Kirkwood women slay Moberly

Written by Jim Ecker

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Kianna "Kiki" Jacobs is not insulted when you say she plays basketball like a guy.

"That's a compliment towards me," she said.

She's tough, physical, aggressive and doesn't mind contact under the basket.

Jacobs displayed all her skills Saturday afternoon as Kirkwood handed 17th-ranked Moberly (Mo.) its first loss of the season, 63-44, on the final day of the Kirkwood Classic.

Jacobs finished with 19 points, five rebounds, three assists, two steals and one blocked shot as the Eagles (7-2) completed an outstanding weekend. Kirkwood handed Northeast (Neb.) its first loss of the season Friday night, then did the same to Moberly.

Northeast and Moberly are both NJCAA Division I clubs. Kirkwood is Division II, with a smaller budget and less scholarship money, but the Eagles came away with two victories.

"I thought we played well," said Jacobs.

Jacobs is a 6-foot sophomore from Milwaukee. She's left-handed and does most of her damage with strong moves to the basket, but also has a nice touch from outside.

Most of all, she's a banger.

"I'm a very physical player," she said. "I'm not afraid of contact. I can get bumped in the head like I did at the end and get right back up and play."

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"I like contact."

Jacobs got fouled numerous times Saturday and cashed 11 of 13 free throws.

There's a reason Jacobs plays like a guy. She's practiced against guys to refine her skills, and she also played with and against guys in a recreation league in Milwaukee, raising money for charity.

"She's tough to guard, because she's left-handed," said Kirkwood Coach Kim Muhl. "She's a lot stronger than she looks. Very strong kid.

"She's matured this year," he said. "She's not as pouty. Her biggest problem right now, I think, she tries to do too much sometimes."

Jacobs is averaging 14.4 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.1 steals and 2.0 assists. She filled up the boxscore against Moberly and got ample help from her teammates.

Bianca Dufelmeier drained three 3-pointers and scored 17 points for Kirkwood. Nobody else reached double figures, but Muhl used all 14 of his players again and 12 of them scored.

"We made them guard us. That's what we wanted to do," he said. "And I thought we guarded really well. And I thought our depth paid off again.

"They're starting to understand, if you get two minutes, give us two good minutes. Don't complain about time. You might get four (minutes) if you play well."

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Marida Lewis led Moberly (11-1) with 12 points.

Kirkwood plays at Ellsworth Tuesday night.

MOBERLY (44): Newbolt 1 0-2 2, Holden 1 1-2 3, Williams 1 3-4 6, Rowell 1 2-2 4, Brown 1 0-0 2, Rucker 0 0-0 0, Lewis 5 1-2 12, Mihocic 2 1-2 5, Woods 2 2-4 6, Vaughan 0 0-0 0, Wright 2 0-0 4, Nessling 0 0-0 0. Totals 16 10-18 44.

KIRKWOOD (63): Jacobs 4 11-13 19, Chuol 0 1-2 1, Dufelmeier 4 6-6 17, Rohrbach 1 1-1 3, Fitzpatrick 1 0-0 3, Williams 1 0-0 2, Fallon 1 0-0 2, Hobbs 1 2-2 5, Gray 0 0-0 0, Hawkins 1 0-0 2, Faber 1 1-2 3, Henderson 1 0-0 2, Tow 0 0-0 0, Chambers 1 2-2 4. Totals 17 24-28 63.

Halftime - Kirkwood 30, Moberly 21. 3-point goals - Moberly 2 (Williams 1, Lewis 1), Kirkwood 5 (Dufelmeier 3, Fitzpatrick 1, Hobbs 1). Fouled out - Brown. Technical foul - Moberly Coach Chad Killinger.