Lady Green stays perfect on the year

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btzweber@bright.net

BATH TOWNSHIP — The Lady Green of Ottoville put their undefeated record and #1 ranking in Division IV on the line when they traveled to Lima Bath Tuesday night for a showdown with the Wildkittens.

Both teams came into the night's contest with stellar programs throughout the years and excellent leadership from two veteran coaches, Greg Mauk (Wildkittens) and Dave Kleman (Lady Green).

The home Wildkittens came out strong in the first quarter but were outscored 27-8 in the second and third quarters by the Lady Green en route to an impressive 50-31 win over the hosts.

The first quarter saw the Lady Green strike first with a basket by senior Rachel Beining in the paint. However, the Wildkittens responded by connecting on the next six points of the contest to lead 6-2. Senior Taylor Dackin, junior Jenna Hollar and sophomore Madison Dackin led the home-team attack. The Lady Green fought right back with five straight points of their own to take the lead at the 1:45 mark, 7-6. The Wildkittens ended the quarter on a 5-0 run as a deuce by junior Audrey Brandon made it 8-7, followed by a long-range three by sophomore Cassie Best to give the Wildkittens an 11-7 lead after one quarter of play.

Lady Green head coach Dave Kleman knew he needed to change his strategy heading into the second quarter of play: "They were running us ragged in the first quarter as they are a very good shooting team and we were trying to take away the inside game. With them knocking down some shots early, we changed up some things at the quarter break that worked and helped us get back into the game."

The second quarter was all Ottoville as they outscored the Wildkittens 14-5 to take the lead into halftime 21-16. The Lady Green went 7-12 (58%) for the quarter on balanced scoring from senior Abby Siefker (6 points), junior Taylor Mangas off the bench with four and a basket each by Beining and junior Tonya Kaufman. The Wildkittens' five points all came from senior Emily Ruhe.

As play resumed in the second half, the Lady Green pushed their lead out even further behind a 13-3 scoring advantage over the Wildkittens and taking advantage of the home team's poor

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shooting in the quarter (1-12 for 8%) from the field. The Lady Green looked inside to Siefker and Beining, who responded with five and four points, respectively, during the quarter to extend the lead to 34-19 after three quarters of play.

The final eight minutes of play saw the Wildkittens trying to get back in the game by the 3-ball; however, they could only connect on 2-9 in the fourth and were 3-25 (12%) for the game behind the arc. Sophomore Alyssa Manley connected on both made threes for the home team.

The Lady Green outscored the Wildkittens in the fourth 16-12 to take a hard-fought convincing 19-point win and preserve their undefeated record on the year.

Coach Kleman was pleased with his team's handling of the Wildkitten's press in the second half: "We did a lot better job with handling their press in the second half as we made some adjustments at halftime that allowed us to get some easy baskets. Tonight was a very good game for us because Greg's team is very quick and have played a lot of very good quality teams (Wadsworth, Anna) this year. Their record is very deceiving. They're a nice team and when those young kids get a little more experience, just watch out how they will make a run like they did last year."

The Wildkittens (8-4) were led in scoring by Manley and Ruhe with eight and seven points, respectively. The Wildkittens were 13-50 (26%) from the field, 2-4 (50%) from the stripe, hauled down 19 rebounds and committed 16 turnovers.

The Lady Green (12-0) had three girls score in double figures on the evening. Siefker had a game-high 15, followed by Mangas and Beining with 13 and 12, respectively. The Lady Green had a good night shooting the rock by going 53 percent for the game on 18-34 shooting. From the stripe, they were 80 percent on 12-of-15 attempts.

Both teams will be back in action Thursday: Ottoville will host the Continental Pirates for a key PCL matchup starting with a 6 junior varsity start and Bath will host St. Marys in the WBL. The JV game went to the Wildkittens by a score of 47-34.

VARSITY Ottoville (50)

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Rachel Turnwald 0-0-1-1, Nicole Vorst 1-0-2-4, Tonya Kaufman 1-1-0-5, Rachel Beining 5-0-2-12, Abby Siefker 5-0-5-15, Taylor Mangas 4-1-2-13, Kendra Eickholt 0-0-0-0. Totals 16-2-12-50.

Bath (31)

Jenna Hollar 1-0-0-2, Alyssa Manley 1-2-0-8, Madison Dackin 1-0-0-2, Emily Ruhe 3-0-1-7, Taylor Dackin 1-0-0-2, Audrey Brandon 1-0-1-3, Tara Herr 1-0-0-2, Ellie Dackin 1-0-0-2. Totals 10-3-2-31.

Score by Quarters:

Ottoville 7- 14- 13- 16 — 50

Bath 11- 5- 3-12 — 31

JUNIOR VARSITY

Ottoville (34)

Monica Sarka 2-0-0-4, Courtney Von Sossan 1-0-0-2, Haley Landwehr 1-1-1-6, Annie Lindeman 0-2-1-7, Lexie Wannemacher 2-0-1-5, Lindsey Wannemacher 1-0-0-2, Nicole Kramer 0-2-2-8. Totals 7-5-5-34.

Bath (47)

Haylee Brener 2-1-2-9, McKenzie Perry 3-0-1-7, Courtny Johnson 2-0-0-4, Tara Herr 1-1-0-5, Brittanie Ulmer 2-1-1-8, Tori Whitaker 1-0-0-2, Sami Mosley 4-0-0-8, Elsie Dackin 2-0-0-4. Totals 17-3-4-47.

Score by Quarters:

Ottoville 7-4- 8-15 — 34

Bath 7- 9- 16- 15 — 47