Minster defense stymies Lady Jays

Written by Jim Metcalfe Friday, January 11, 2013 1:37 PM -

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MINSTER — The Minster defense proved better than ever as the Lady Wildcats stymied St. John's 31-20 in Midwest Athletic Conference girls basketball action Thursday night at Minster Middle School.

The Lady Blue Jays 6-5, 1-3 MAC) shot a chilly 7-of-26 from the field (1-of-8 downtown) for 26.9 percent and added 22 miscues to the mix.

"You know when you play Minster, it's going to be low-scoring and tough going offensively. Both teams know each other so well and what they are going to do; nothing comes easy," Jays mentor Dan J. Grothouse noted. "Right now, we're not confident enough with the ball in our hands either handling it or shooting it. You need confidence going against a defensive team like this and we are struggling with that right now."

The Lady Wildcats (8-5, 3-2 MAC) were not on fire, to be sure — 11-of-29 from the floor (1-of-6 3-balls) for 38.9 percent.

The Lady Blue Jay offensive woes started from the beginning as the Lady Wildcats used their full-court pressure — either man-to-man or a trapping zone, all falling back into a man-to-man — forced either turnovers (5) or missed shots (1-of-7). The only bucket the Jays scored was on a short banker off a drive by junior Brooke Zuber at the 48-second mark. The Jays' man-to-man defensive scheme was pretty good as well, only giving up three fielders and forcing six errors (14 for the night). Zuber's basket made the score 6-2 in favor of Minster after eight minutes of play.

The defenses continued to rule the day in the second canto as neither offense could get much of anything going. Minster built a lead of 12-2 early on as Sara Dahlinghaus hit the second-of-2 free throws but the Jays staged a mini-comeback — a 5-0 span on a 3-ball by junior Emilie Fischbach at 4:30 and a putback by senior Katioe Vorst (9 points, 6 rebounds) at 31.2 ticks — to get within 12-7. A free throw by Claire Fischer with 1.1 ticks on the board made Minster's halftime edge 13-7.

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The Jays kept up some of their momentum into the third period, getting back-to-back baskets by Vorst on their first two possessions to get within 13-11 by the 6:09 mark. However, they could get no closer. The hosts rolled up a 10-3 advantage the rest of the canto as two Dahlinghaus singles with 1.9 seconds to go made their lead 23-14.

The Jays needed to get hot in the fourth period but against that Wildcat defense, it wasn't going to happen. Minster built up a 15-point spread — 31-16 — at the 3-minute mark before settling for the 11-point triumph.

"We're still figuring out where to get the ball in certain situations. Sometimes, we're not passing to the right spot," Grothouse added. "We'll keep working at it and simply have to get better at finding ways to create offense. Defensively, we were solid for the most part, outside of a couple of lapses where we gave up drives and layups when we shouldn't have. It came down to offense tonight."

In sum, St. John's was 5-of-7 at the line (71.4%); grabbed 21 rebounds (4 offensive) as freshman Sydney Fischbach added five; and added 15 fouls. They visit Ottawa-Glandorf for a high noon showdown Saturday.

Minster finished 8-of-18 at the line (44.4%); secured 23 caroms (6 offensive) as Bridget Geiger (8 points) had five; and 14 fouls. They host Russia 1 p.m. Saturday.

In junior varsity action, Minster improved to 10-2 (4-0 MAC) with a 32-18 victory. Lauren Roetgerman, Taylor Trego and Alicia Arling each had seven points for the victors. Sophomore Colleen Schulte paced the Lady Blue Jays (4-7, 1-3 MAC) with 10.

VARSITY

ST. JOHN'S (20)

Tara Vorst 0-2-2, Emilie Fischbach 1-0-3, Brooke Zuber 1-0-2, Rebekah Fischer 0-0-0, Katie Vorst 3-3-9, Erica Saine 0-0-0, Jessica Recker 1-0-2, Amanda Boberg 0-0-0, Sydney Fischbach 1-0-2. Totals 6-1-5/7-20.

MINSTER (31)

Claire Fischer 0-1-1, Kayla Richard 2-4-8, Taylor Arnold 0-0-0, Bridget Geiger 4-0-8, Megan Liening 1-0-2, Logan Arnold 1-0-2, Hannah Sherman 0-0-0, Sara Dahlinghaus 1-3-5, Kathy

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Prenger 0-0-0, Alexis Wuebker 2-0-5, Taylor Trego 0-0-0. Totals 10-1-8/18-31.

Score by Quarters:

St. John's 2 5 7 6 - 20 Minster 6 7 10 8 - 31

Three-point goals: St. John's, E. Fischbach; Minster, Wuebker.

JUNIOR VARSITY

ST. JOHN'S (18)

Rachel Pohlman 1-0-2, Emilie Grothouse 0-0-0, Olivia Kahny 0-1-1, Maddie Pohlman 0-0-0, Ashlyn Troyer 0-0-0, Halie Benavidez 0-0-0, Sam Kramer 1-0-2, Samantha Wehri 0-3-3, Colleen Schulte 2-4-10. Totals 2-2-8/18-18.

MINSTER (32)

Olivia Winner 0-0-0, Taylor Meiring 0-0-0, Mariah McKenzie 1-2-4, Alana Poeppelman 0-0-0, Lauren Roetgerman 3-0-7, Taylor Trego 2-3-7, Marissa Luthman 2-1-5, Alicia Arling 3-1-7, Leann Huelsman 0-0-0. Totals 11-1-7/14-32.

Score by Quarters:

St. John's 2 4 4 8 - 18 Minster 10 8 8 6 - 32

Three-point goals: St. John's, Schulte 2; Minster, Roetgerman.