

Lady Wildcats turn over Raiders in rout

Written by Jim Metcalfe

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DELPHOS — Jefferson entered Tuesday night's non-conference hardwood clash with Wayne Trace at Jefferson High School at a distinct size disadvantage, with the Lady Raiders sporting 6-2 junior Sylvia Young and 5-11 senior Tanya Sinn.

Lady Wildcat mentor Dave Hoffman turned to an old stand-by — pressure — to counteract that reality.

Did it ever work.

The hosts turned Wayne Trace over 38 times and used an aggressive approach offensively to grab a 64-43 victory.

"We had to apply full-court pressure; we knew we couldn't match up with them in a half-court game with their size. We wanted to get the game into a faster pace and I like the effort we gave; that has not been an issue all year," Hoffman explained. "We've been pretty aggressive all season defensively and have managed to get a lot of turnovers from the other team; tonight, it got us a lot of layups and free throws because we were getting to the basket."

The Lady 'Cats (5-11) didn't shoot particularly well — 18-of-57 from the field, including 2-of-9 downtown, for 31.6 percent — but they used 26-of-37 shooting from charity (70.3%) to help off-set the shooting. The hosts added up 22 steals, led by junior Rilei Stockwell (6 points, 8 boards, 3 assists) and sophomore Brooke Culp (11 markers, 3 dimes) with six each and junior

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Hannah Sensibaugh (game-high 16 points, 4 boards) with five.

“We had 38 turnovers tonight and 37 the other night. We had 50 shots, so that’s still a lot of possessions we aren’t getting any chances,” Wayne Trace coach Gus Davis commented. “That’s way too many — you won’t beat a good team doing that — but it’s something we’ve struggled with all season. Like tonight, that’s a potential 76 points we aren’t getting. When we fell behind, it meant we also had to go full-court trap to try and get back in the game, which isn’t our strong suit. Jefferson’s pressure was too good.” The hosts used their pressure — mainly a 2-2-1 3/4-court look that dropped into a 1-3-1 trap half-court — from the start, forcing 14 Wayne Trace (4-11) miscues in the opening period. The Wildcats only shot 5-of-17 from the field but got to the line nine times, downing six. The only Raider points came on fielders from Erin Mohr (4:32) and Krystal Wannemacher (12 seconds). Jefferson had six players score at least two points and when junior Katie Goergens drilled a 3-ball from the left wing that beat the buzzer, their lead was 17-4.

The turnover-fest by the Raiders continued in the second period with 10 more miscues — they simply struggled handling the basketball. The Wildcats matched their shooting from the first period and went 4-of-7 at the line. They also had six of their 22 turnovers in the period to keep them from building a bigger lead, which did reach 19 twice. They featured five girls with at least a point as they continued balanced scoring and when Culp downed a triple from the left side with 15 ticks on the clock, their lead was 32-15.

If the visitors had any hopes of a second-half rally, 12 miscues in the third period short-circuited those hopes. As well, they were foul-prone as well with the infractions piling up and the Wildcats taking advantage — 11-of-15 from the stripe in the stanza. Sensibaugh in particular had a good span, scoring eight points to pace the Wildcats as their margin was as high as 26 — 53-27 on her steal and layin-and-1 that beat the horn.

With the doubt as to which team was going to win gone in the finale, both Hoffman and Davis went to their deep reserves to finish out the contest.

“We didn’t shoot real well — which has been a struggle all season — but we were getting layups that helped our percentage,” Hoffman added. “I thought our ball movement was excellent, making the extra pass to get better shots. We had great balance as well.”

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In sum, Wayne Trace canned 19-of-50 shots (2-of-10 3-pointers) for 38 percent and 3-of-9 singles (33.3%): Young led the effort with 10 points (5 boards, 3 blocks) and Mohr added nine. They concluded with 47 caroms, 17 offensive, as Mohr added eight and Tanya Sinn and Rylee Zartman seven each; and 23 fouls. They play Hicksville for a varsity-only clash 6 p.m. Thursday. Jefferson secured 34 off the boards (17 offensive) as Goergens added four; and finished with 10 fouls. They visit Paulding 6 p.m. Thursday. Their game at home versus Ottoville set for 1 p.m. Saturday is at the Jefferson Middle School.

In junior varsity action, Brooke Wilcox netted 12 to pace Wayne Trace (13-3) to a 36-26 victory.

Freshman Bailey Gorman countered with 12 for the home team (4-11).

VARSITY

WAYNE TRACE (43)

Krystal Wannemacher 1-0-2, Rylee Zartman 1-0-3, Erin Mohr 4-1-9, Shayna Temple 0-1-1, Karena Egnor 0-0-0, Natalie Sinn 1-0-3, Brenda Feasby 1-0-2, Taylor Grant 1-1-3, Madison Poiling 1-0-2, Sylvia Young 5-0-10, Tanya Sinn 2-0-4, Dannielle Kortokrax 2-0-4. Totals 17-2-3/9-43.

JEFFERSON (64)

Taylor Stroh 1-0-2, Heather Pohlman 0-0-0, Brooke Culp 2-6-11, Lindsay Deuel 0-0-0, Katie Goergens 3-5-12, Rileigh Stockwell 1-4-6, Hannah Sensibaugh 5-6-16, Gabby Pimpas 0-0-0, Shelby Koenig 1-0-2, Makayla Binkley 0-2-2, Brooke Hesseling 2-2-6, Jasmine McDougall 3-1-7. Totals 16-2-26/37-64.

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Score By Quarters:

Wayne Trace 4 11 12 16 – 43

Jefferson 17 15 21 11 – 64

Three-point goals: Wayne Trace, N. Sinn, Zartman; Jefferson, Culp, Goergens.

JUNIOR VARSITY

WAYNE TRACE (36)

Maddi Baumle 1-1-3, Erin Jewell 0-0-0, Brooke Wilcox 5-2-12, Leah Sinn 3-0-6, Madi Poling 0-6-6, Dannielle Kortokrax 2-2-6, Brianna Sinn 1-0-2, Courtney Mead 0-0-0, Hollie Wannemacher 0-1-1, Estie Sinn 0-0-0. Totals 12-0-12/19-36.

JEFFERSON (26)

Taylor Stroh 0-2-2, Heather Pohlman 1-2-5, Lindsay Deuel 2-0-5, Brooke Gallmeier 0-0-0, Shelby Koenig 0-0-0, Tori Black 0-0-0, Jessica Pimpas 1-0-2, Bailey Gorman 5-2-12. Totals 7-2-6/6-26.

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Score by Quarters:

Wayne Trace 12 9 6 9 - 36

Jefferson 2 10 7 7 - 26

Three-point goals: Wayne Trace, none; Jefferson, Pohlman, Deuel.