

## Warrior Run girls move closer to D4 AA top seed

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By Chris Masse

TURBOTVILLE—Abby Fisher really did not experience a vacation last summer. School was out, but the basketball court became her new class room.

The Warrior Run junior forward never rested, playing every day. Fisher sensed something big could happen this season and she paid the price. Now she is experiencing some glory.

Fisher played an excellent all-around game Saturday against St. John Neumann, matching a career-high with 24 points while grabbing nine rebounds and leading Warrior Run to a hard-fought 55-44 win. The Defenders (17-3) moved a step closer to earning District 4 Class AA's top seed and earning a spot in the Heartland Conference Tournament. Fisher is a big reason why.

"It was every day, all day, seven days a week, all the time (last summer)," Fisher said. "Whenever I could I was playing. Now it's pretty fun. I'm enjoying it."

"Because of her hard work, Abby was able to step up when we needed her," Warrior Run coach Jon Weaver said. "If somebody doesn't put the time in that she does maybe she can't handle that. She's willing to put the hard work in and it's paying off."

Fisher was at her best in the fourth quarter. Neumann (14-7) never went away and cut an 11-point deficit to 39-36 on an Emily Sholder drive midway through the fourth. Fisher then started taking over, scoring seven points down the stretch while hurting Neumann with her penetration, her outside shooting and her foul shooting.

A Fisher spin move and layup in the paint put Warrior Run ahead by eight with 2:35 remaining and she, Steph Shamburg and Emily Webb then hit six straight foul shots to clinch the win. It was the second straight strong performance from Fisher, who struggled in last Tuesday's loss to Mount Carmel. Rather than stewing about that loss, Fisher has simply worked harder and bounced back stronger.

"I was pretty zoned in on the game trying to come back from that Mount Carmel game and trying to play how I'm supposed to play to help the team out," Fisher said. "I know the team needs me. It definitely motivated me to play a lot harder than I did that night."

"I told Abby after that game you have to pick it up. If we want to win playoff games you have to be a part of this," Weaver said. "Down the stretch today I wanted to see her handle the ball and she did a much better job and got to the rack a few times and got some layups by penetrating."

Warrior Run needed Fisher to deliver a strong performance since Neumann pushed it hard and was on the verge of recording the upset. The Knights handled Warrior Run's pressure well but missed an excellent chance to possibly be winning instead of down by seven at halftime after missing 8 of 11 foul shots.

The Defenders pushed their lead to 11 early in the third quarter, but the Knights stormed back, twice pulling within three. All-state guard Meghan Trenholm was a force and was the catalyst for the comeback, doing a little bit of everything.

Trenholm finished with a game-high 25 points, 14 rebounds, four blocks and three steals. She also hit 13 straight foul shots from the second quarter on.

## Warrior Run 55

St. John Neumann 44

"Meghan just let the game come to her and was very aggressive," Neumann coach Steve Sholder said. "She did a great job rebounding and he was all over the court. She came through for us big-time."

Neumann concluded a tough week that featured three games against three potential District 4 Class AA playoff qualifiers. The Knights might have lost out on hosting a quarterfinal playoff game because of yesterday's loss but this week could provide an even bigger benefit.

"I'm proud of them. They played tough all week," Sholder said "If we start hitting a little more of our shots I'll play anyone in Class A in the district right now and like our chances. We might have to travel now but so what?"

Shamburg had a double-double for Warrior Run, scoring 12 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while also dealing five assists and making four steals. Madi Welliver had 11 rebounds and five blocks while Laura Bastian was big off the bench, scoring eight second-half points. Chloe Eisenhuth dealt four third-quarter assists.

#### NEUMANN (44)

Meghan Trenholm 5 14-18 25, Emily Sholder 3 1-4 7, Megan Helminiak 1 1-2 4, Baylie Gerrity 3 0-1 6, Stephanie Fernandez 1 0-0 2, Rachel Danneker 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 16-25 44.

#### WARRIOR RUN (55)

Steph Shamburg 3 6-6 12, Abby Fisher 9 5-6 24, Emily Webb 1 2-2 5, Madi Welliver 0 2-4 2, Laura Bastian 3 2-4 8, Chloe Eisenhuth 1 0-0 2, Mackenzie Hayes 1 0-2 2, Maddie Beyer. Totals 18 17-24 55.

Neumann 7 11-10 16—44

Warrior Run 12 13-10 20—55

3-pointers: Neumann 2 (Trenholm, Helminiak); Warrior Run 2 (Fisher, Webb).

Records: Warrior Run 17-3. Neumann 14-7.

JV Score: Warrior Run 45-23.