

Shamburg carries Defenders to win

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By Marion Valanoski

TURBOTVILLE—Steph Shamburg has been a go-to player for Warrior Run since she walked onto the court her freshman year. On a night when the Defenders had problems holding onto the basketball, the 1,000-point performer provided her usual steady play in the team's critical third-quarter breakaway to wrest control of a key Heartland-II game.

Shamburg tallied nine of her game-high 20 points in the third to lead Warrior Run past Southern Columbia, 50-31, Tuesday and stay a game behind Mount Carmel in the HAC-II race.

The Defenders (14-2, 8-2) were guilty of 33 turnovers in the victory.

During a stretch of the third quarter, the Tigers (12-6, 5-5) took advantage of the home team's miscues to cut a 10-point deficit (29-19) to five. They capitalized on a five-point outburst by Shannon Daubert to climb within striking distance, 29-24, but that was the closest Southern Columbia could get in its comeback effort.



Warrior Run's Abby Fisher goes up for a layup while being defended by Southern Columbia's Reba Lyash on Tuesday night at the Warrior Run High School.

Warrior Run 50

Southern Columbia 31



Warrior Run's Chloe Eisenhuth guards Southern Columbia's Mackenzie Clark during an inbound attempt on Tuesday night at the Warrior Run High School.

Shamburg converted twice from the foul line before Abby Fisher collected four points. Then Shamburg responded with another pair from the charity stripe as the Defenders went on a 9-0 run that all but ended the Tigers' chances of an upset.

"This is nothing surprising for us because Steph has done this throughout her career," Warrior Run coach Jon Weaver said. "When we need a big basket she usually will come through and that's what happened in the third quarter when she was able to take control on the inside and drew fouls or scored on an easy layup."

The Tigers hurt themselves to start the game by missing their first 11 attempts from the field finishing the stanza an icy 2-of-16. The Defenders, despite their propensity for turning the ball over, used four points by Fisher and three on the inside from freshman Madi Welliver to finish the quarter with a 10-4 advantage.

Southern slowly began to find the range and converted some steals into points and with Mackenzie Chaundy (four) and Reba Lyash (two) combining for six points the Tigers crept to within three of a tie, 14-11.

Shamburg accounted for three points and Mackenzie Hayes added a deuce to stretch the home team lead to 19-13. A buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Fisher injected some momentum into the Defenders going into the break.

"It seems like we were in too much of a hurry when we were running," Weaver said. "We were getting great looks but often lost the ball in transition and found ourselves going in the other direction. When we were able to run our half-court offense, we settled down and were able to get the ball inside and score.

"You also must give credit to the defense because to turn the ball over as much as we did and still only allow 31 points says something about their effort."

Fisher contributed 16 points to the win, while Welliver, who was saddled with foul trouble, chipped in seven.

The Tigers lone player in double figures was Daubert with 10 points, followed by Chaundy with six. Lyash and Ha-ley Levan both tallied four.