

## Zoned Out

### Mount Carmel defense shuts down Warrior Run

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By Barb Krohn

TURBOTVILLE—Saturday night the Warrior Run and Mount Carmel girls basketball teams met in a battle for the top of the Heartland Athletic Conference Division-II and District 4 Class AA.

Going into the game the Defenders had just suffered its first loss of the season—an overtime heartbreaker to Central Columbia—but the Red Tornadoes had two losses, albeit non-league.

After a close first half, Mount Carmel's zone defense shut down Warrior Run in the second and as they have so often in the past few years, the Red Tornadoes went on to win 47-37.

With the loss Warrior Run dropped to 8-2, 3-2 HAC-II. Mount Carmel improved to 9-2, 5-0.

In truth, it never really seemed like the Defenders' night. Although Warrior Run got up early, the Defenders' leading scorer, Steph Shamburg picked up two quick fouls forcing coach Jon Weaver to sit her.

Freshman Madi Welliver did a good job subbing in for the senior and Warrior Run led 11-10 after the first quarter, a lead they continued to hold through much of the round until Mount Carmel Ali Varano started to go to town off turnovers piling up 13 second-stanza points and giving the Tornadoes a small 29-25 lead going into halftime.

"Warrior Run is a really nice team and they're well coached," said Mount Carmel coach Lisa Varano. "Playing the first half (even) with them gave us confidence."

And that turned out to be a very bad thing for the Defenders as the Tornadoes seemed to amp up their 2-3 zone making it virtually impossible for Shamburg or Abby Fisher to score. The home team put just three points on the scoreboard in the third quarter.

"The girls worked hard at that," said the Mount Carmel coach. "We don't always play that."

Adding to the Defenders woes was more foul trouble. Fisher picked up her fourth foul early in the third stanza.

"When Abby got in foul trouble, we were in trouble," said Weaver.

Warrior Run got a bit of offensive rhythm back in the fourth quarter, but it was too little too late.

"Coming in we knew we had to take care of the ball and box out," said the Defenders mentor. "I'd love to know how many second-chance points they had."

Weaver though was quick to give credit to Varano's charges.

"They play hard and they're smart—they're good. They're quick and they're physical."

As for his own team, "I thought we went cold, but we fought."

And Weaver said his team is in good shape overall, "We're fine. We're tied for second in the district."

Mount Carmel 47

Warrior Run 37



Warrior Run's Abby Fisher puts up a shot over the Mount Carmel defense Saturday night.