

Tornados Win Showdown

Mount Carmel take two-game lead in HAC-II over Warrior Run

Standard Journal

By Barb Krohn

MOUNT CARMEL—In the first meeting between Heartland Athletic Conference Division II girls basketball heavyweights Warrior Run and Mount Carmel the Red Tornados, mainly in the person of Ali Varano, had beaten the Defenders on breakaways created by Warrior Run misses.

Tuesday night Warrior Run coach Jon Weaver told his team that to win the game they had to win the rebounds.

"I said if we can win the boards we can stop the turnovers."

And win the boards they did, with the Defenders collecting 23 caroms to the Tornados 11. What Weaver didn't count on, and couldn't even conceive of, however, was that his team would repeatedly turn the ball over.

The result was a 40-31 loss to Mount Carmel which all but guaranteed the Red Tornados sole possession of the HAC-II regular season title.

Warrior Run dropped to 15-3, 9-3 while Mount Carmel improved to 17-3, 11-1.

"The turnovers absolutely killed us," said Weaver. "We went over it (with the team). We said, 'Don't dribble to (Varano),' but we did. She's quick and her hands are quick."

After a slow first quarter where both teams seemed to be probing each other Warrior Run led 8-6 but in the second the Red Tornados zone seemed to collapse on every Defenders player with the ball and the pressure created several empty possessions for Warrior Run. On the other end of the court Mount Carmel was getting its offense in gear going into the intermission with a 19-11 lead.

Despite outscoring their opponents in the third quarter the Defenders could never get over the hump coming closest in the fourth quarter when they narrowed it to three. But the Tornados made their foul shots in the closing minutes to put the game away.

Shining despite the loss was Madi Welliver who had a double double with 13 points and 15 rebounds.

"As a freshman to step up like that is phenomenal," said Weaver.

"She's really come along since the last time we saw her," said Mount Carmel coach Lisa Varano. "She gets after it."

Ali Varano led all scorers with 14 points and teammate Maura Fiamoncini chipped in 11.

"It was a good win," said the Red Tornados mentor. "It was a very good defensive effort by my girls. That's what made the difference. That and the foul shooting at the end."

"You have to give it to them," said Weaver. "They play hard."

Warrior Run 31

Mount Carmel 40



Warrior Run's Chloe Eisenhuth (11) is surrounded by the Mount Carmel defense Tuesday night.



Warrior Run's Steph Shamburg, center, muscles her way through a pair of Mount Carmel defenders on her way to the basket.

Mount Carmel 40

Warrior Run 31

Warrior Run (15-3) 8 3-8 12—31

Mount Carmel (17-3) 6 13-6 15—40

Warrior Run (31)

Abby Fisher 1 2-3 5, Chloe Eisenhuth 1 0-2 2, Emily Webb 1 0-0 2, Steph Shamburg 4 1-2 9, Madi Welliver 5 3-3 13.

Totals: 12 6-8 31.

3-pointers: Fisher.

Fouled out: Eisenhuth.

Played but did not score: Laura Bastian.

Mount Carmel (40)

Jennifer Bolick 1 1-2 3, Isabella Stellar 4 4-4 4, Ali Varano 5 4-8 14, Brianna Lutz 3 0-0-6, Allison Parker 1 0-0 2, Maura Fiamoncini 3 5-5 11. Totals 13 17-22 40.

3-pointers: None.

Fouled out: None.

Played but did not score: Paige Homung, Jordan Winhofer.

JV Score: Mount Carmel 36-23.