

Black & Gold

Girls finish as Holiday Hoopla runner-up

By Daniel L. Chamness
 There are not too many schools with an enrollment of 193 that can claim four females that are 6 feet tall. Negoa, who managed to top the Tuscola Lady Warriors 49-36 in the title game of the Monticello Holiday Hoopla, has four. Ok, only two are 6-0, but two other freshmen are 5-11, which is close enough and a staggering height for a small school.

That size, along with switching defenses on Tuscola, allowed them to out rebound the Warriors.

"That and we struggled to hit shots," added Tim Kohlbecker, Tuscola's veteran head coach. "I had seen the Indians play one previous game. I knew going in what we were up against. They had tremendous size, they are well coached and they really knew their roles, especially defensively. We struggled with their defenses at times. They presented several different defensive schemes, especially that triangle and two defense."

The breaking point for the Warriors occurred in the third quarter, in the first four minutes of the second half. The Indians opened the second half by going on a 13-0 run. Within the first 19 seconds of the third quarter starting, Sydney

Richards, a 6-0 junior, and Trista Moore, a sophomore, had both scored. The six-point lead that the Warriors held at halftime, was quickly evaporating. When Avery Fearday hit a regulation bucket at 7:08, the score was knotted at 29-29.

It did not end there. Haylee Campbell struck at 5:12 with an assist from Richards. The junior then hit an old fashioned three pointer at 4:36. Tuscola broke their scoring drought when Molly Macaulay hit a bucket at 4:01. It would be the only bucket the Lady Warriors would score in the third quarter. The other two points came from a pair of free throws netted by Sophie Kremitzki with 1:30 to play.

At the opening of the second quarter, the Lady Warriors appeared to be running away with the game. Sydney Moss and Izzy Wilcox scored the first five points of the second quarter, as Moss got an assist from Willcox to hit a regulation bucket. Less than a minute later, at the 6:08 mark of the second quarter, Wilcox bombed away from the right corner. With the three-ball, Tuscola took an 18-10 lead.

When Moss nailed a bucket at 3:38, the Warriors led by double digits, 24-13.

The Indians managed to

stay one step ahead of the Warriors during the fourth quarter. Moss led the Warriors in scoring. The three-sport athlete scored 12 points. She was almost flawless from the floor, nailing 6-of-7. The sophomore also had a team-high five rebounds and two steals. She was joined in double figures by Ella Boyer, who had 11. She scored her points by hitting four field goals, three of which were from beyond the arc.

A total of seven Lady Warriors scored in the contest. Maddie Stahler scored four points, while Wilcox had three points. Macaulay, Kremitzki and Ava Boyer each had two points.

The Lady Warriors are scheduled to play Fisher on Thursday night. The junior varsity game is scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. followed immediately by the varsity game. The Lady Warriors will also be on the road Saturday, playing at Tolono Unity. Game time for the Saturday affair, featuring junior varsity and varsity, is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. The varsity girls will follow.

The Warriors enter the 2022 portion of the 2021-2022 season with a 12-6 overall record. They boast a 2-1 mark in the Central Illinois Conference.



TUSCOLA SOPHOMORE SYDNEY MOSS keeps a close eye on her defender, Stark County freshman Lauren Orwig, in the opener of the Monticello Holiday Hoopla. The Lady Warriors posted a 3-0 record in pool play and played Negoa for the championship. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



UP, UP AND AWAY. Tuscola junior Ella Boyer, leaves the ground and goes to the air, in the opening game of the Holiday Hoopla. The 5-foot-3 junior guard was one of two Warriors named to the Holiday Hoopla All-Tournament Team. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



EASTON CUNNINGHAM, a Tuscola junior, keeps the ball away from an unidentified Monticello defender. The two teams faced off for the Holiday Hoopla Championship, with the undefeated Monticello Sages, who hosted the tournament, won a 50-34 decision over the Warriors. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

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