

Black & Gold



SOPHIE KREMITZKI (32) DRIVES down the basketball court as Clinton's Mallory Cyrulik (4) watches her driving. The Warriors upset the top seeded Maroons on Thursday night to win the CIC Championship Tournament, which was held at Tuscola Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



ELLA BOYER DRIVES the baseline in the game against Clinton. The junior guard helped the Warriors win the CIC Tournament Title. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

Girls top Meridian, Shelbyville in quarterfinals and semifinals

By Daniel L. Chamness

The Tuscola Lady Warriors opened the tournament in championship style, thumping the Meridian Hawks 61-24 on Saturday, January 22.

The Warriors raced out to a 9-0 lead on their home court in the 6 p.m. contest as Ella Boyer started the three-point band early, hitting three treys in the first three minutes of the game. Boyer opened the scoring in the first 30 seconds of the game, at the 7:32 mark to be exact, just 28 seconds in, nailing one from the right corner. At 5:12, she would again strike from the right corner as the

rout was on.

"We have been working on sharing the ball in practice," said Boyer. "I am pretty positive when I release a three-pointer, if it is going in or not. I was on from the outside tonight, but I want to work on driving the middle better. The good thing about tonight is the dishing of the ball put many of us in good shooting positions."

Meridian junior Emma Babb scored the first point for the Lady Hawks. They would get their first field goal from Aleita Hale with 4:08 to play in the first quarter. They would get another bucket from Babb,

but not before Tuscola would real off 11 consecutive points, courtesy of Izzy Wilcox, Taylor Musgrave and Sydney Moss. By the time the first quarter ended, Tuscola boasted a 15-point, 20-5 lead.

They would increase that lead to 22 points, 33-11, by halftime. They entered the fourth quarter with a 43-23 lead and eventually the clock was running steadily as the Warriors outscored the Hawks 18-1 in the final stanza.

Kremitzki poured in 19 points, nailing three regulation buckets and three treys. She would also hit 4-of-5 from the

free throw line. Kremitzki nailed all of her three-pointers in the final quarter. Boyer was also in double figures in the contest, scoring 14 points. She finished with a team-leading four three pointers.

"After the St. Teresa game on Thursday night, we emphasized getting to the high post," said Michael Rosenbaum, who was coaching in his second game as the head coach while Tim Kohlbecker is out. Our outside shooting forced them to go to a man-to-man defense. Defensively, we want to force teams into turnovers and create more possessions for us.

Ella got the offense rolling tonight."

A total of nine Lady Warriors scored in the contest. Other than the afore mentioned Kremitzki and Boyer, Musgrave finished with eight points and Moss had seven. Wilcox added five. Lia Patterson, Molly Macauley, Ava Boyer and Harley Woodard had two points each.

The win over Meridian earned the Lady Warriors the right to face the Shelbyville Lady Rams in the semifinals. They would top Shelbyville 52-41 as Kremitzki led the way with 22 points. Of her 22 points, 14 were from the charity

stripe. The senior missed only two free throws on the night. Junior guard Ella Boyer popped for 18 points, sizzling the nets with three treys on the night. The Warrior scoring in the semifinal was rounded out by Moss (six points), Macauley (four) and Woodard (two).

The two wins set up the championship contest on Thursday night between the top seeded Clinton Maroons, who would enter the game with a 24-4 mark and a win over the Lady Warriors in conference action, and Tuscola, who was playing the title game on their home floor.

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