

Black & Gold

Lady Warriors top Sullivan in second to last home game

By Daniel L. Chamness
When the Tuscola Lady Warrior transition game gets rolling, the overall team and individual players benefit.

On Saturday, the clear benefactor of that transition game was sophomore Sydney Moss. The 5-foot-10 post player powered them to a 44-27 victory over the Sullivan Redskins.

While she was not within three feet of the basket the entire game when she was usually scoring. It did not seem to matter if she was wide open or if she had two players physically challenging her either while shooting or driving to the basket.

"I just kept pushing to get up the court when we stole the ball, force a bad pass, grab a rebound or create some other type of turnover," stated Moss. "I wanted to get close to the basket and be open when I was. I want to work on my ball control a little bit as the season continues. I also need to work on staying calm on the court. Sometimes, I will act too

quickly and make mistakes. Tuscola entered the second half with a slim four-point lead. Sophie Kremitzki opened the Warrior scoring with a three-ball from the left corner at the 6:23 mark of the third quarter. It was the first of three unanswered buckets. Before the third quarter reached its midway point, Taylor Musgrave and Harley Woodard, each hit two-point buckets. Musgrave grabbed an offensive rebound and scored at the 4:50 mark, while Woodard hit a layup with 4:08 to play in the stanza.

"I felt like we were really focused after halftime," said Woodard, who scored seven points in the first half. "We meshed together so well and made some key moves that allowed us to pull away. I felt pretty good in the first half. Our bench had so much energy and that really motivated me. For me, it was just a fun game."

After three points by Sullivan, Moss started her tear. With 57 ticks left until the final quarter, the post player had

her own rebound and bucket. She opened the fourth quarter with the first of seven points by hitting 1-of-2 free throws with 7:47 to play. Musgrave would hit a trey from the left wing and lay up. Moss would follow that with a single handed shot and a lay up, hit respectively at 5:43 and 5:19. While the Warriors constantly lead at the upper end of single digits, the sophomore athlete was putting the game out of reach. She would score again to 3:29 to play.

"We thought if we could get the ball down the court, before they dropped into their defense, it would turn out well for us," said Kremitzki. "We have been jelling together very well as the regular season comes to a close. I just want to get through the regular season and win a regional title. If we do that, it will give us another opportunity to play in this gym in the post season."

Moss was the only Warrior in double figures, finishing with 13 points. She would finish

the game with six two-point buckets and one free throw.

"Sydney was a major factor," said Tim Kohlbecker, Tuscola's head coach, regarding the win. "Our entire team played well defensively in the second half. We attacked their defense (1-3-1 zone). It feels great to be back. It was tortuous to be out and or be here only part time."

Six Lady Warriors hit the scoreboard. Other than the double digit scoring Moss, Woodard finished with nine points and Musgrave finished with eight. Kremitzki finished with six points, while Ella Boyer and Maddie Stahler each had four.

No Redskin athlete scored in double figures. They would also only hit 4-of-16 free throw opportunities.

"I think had we hit our free throws, especially at key times, like the fourth quarter, it would have been a different game," said Sullivan Coach Sheri McCain. "They wanted to win badly. Worse than we did.

Every time we missed a free throw, you could feel the air coming out a little and the momentum switching in favor of

Tuscola. We just were not mentally tough tonight. We needed athletes to step up and it did not happen."



TAYLOR MUSGRAVE DRIBBLES with her right hand and keeps the ball away from an Arthur Christian player. The Lady Warrior coaching staff honored three players and one manager, who will be graduating in the spring. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.



MADDIE STAHLER PREPARES to shoot a free throw on Monday night against Arthur Christian. Stahler was one of the seniors that finished her time at Tuscola and helped them down Arthur Christian. Photo by Daniel L. Chamness.

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