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Sports

BEARCAT CLASSIC: Greenwood Rebounding Bests Vikes

By SCOTT J. BRYAN/Index-Journal sports editor
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Greenwood High School's girls basketball team has a penchant for scoring points off its vaunted full-court press. On Monday in the Bearcat Classic finals, the Eagles instead used dominance under the basket to cruise to another tournament championship. Greenwood outrebounded Emerald by 17 boards, and the Eagles rolled to a 70-34 victory at Lander's Finis Horne Arena.

The Eagles (8-1 overall) outrebounded Emerald 42-25, but the more telling statistic was Greenwood's 27 offensive rebounds. "I'm glad about that," said Greenwood coach Susan Thompson, whose team has won 11 consecutive tournament titles in the Bearcat Classic. "We talked before the game about that, because the other night against Calhoun Falls we had some girls who didn't have any rebounds. "Whether we win by 10 or we win by 2, we've got to hit the boards. I think they did a good job tonight."

Leading the way under the boards was Shaniqua Hunter, who pulled down a game-high nine rebounds while chipping in nine points. The Eagles' leading scorer was Syteria Robinson, who totaled 28 points, including 22 in the first half. Robinson, who plays the three position for Greenwood, also had eight rebounds. "Sy is a big three," Thompson said. "She's very deceiving the way she's built. "When she gets on the court, she'll give it out. She's not selfish. None of them are. They're not worried about how many points they're going to score."

All total, 10 of Greenwood's players collected two or more rebounds. Along with Robinson's 28 points, Shay Andrews scored 17 points, including three 3-pointers.

Emerald (7-2) opened the game with a 6-2 lead on the strength of two transition layups, before Thompson called a timeout to fire up her charges. After the 30-second break, Greenwood produced a 10-0 run -- jumpstarted by Shay Andrews' 3-pointer -- and never looked back. "We started out real strong," Emerald coach Anarie Duckett. "I don't know if they were taking us lightly there at the beginning of the game or not, but we started out real strong. We were determined that we were going to play better than we did last time. The score doesn't indicate that, but I think we played better. "We still didn't block out, and they definitely beat us on the boards, especially on the offensive end."

Emerald and Greenwood are scheduled to meet again at 6 p.m. Jan. 5 at Finis Horne Arena.

Robinson was selected as the tournament's MVP, while Hunter and Andrews, of Greenwood, were named to the all-tournament team. Emerald's Aneisha Bell and Amber Green were the

Vikings' selections to the all-tournament team. Other players named to the all-tournament team were Brittany Obot (Calhoun Falls), Jewel Hendrix (Liberty), Sireena Boyd (Ninety Six), Kim Springs (Saluda) and Birdie Keller (Ware Shoals).

GREENWOOD (70): Syteria Robinson 28, Shay Andrews 17, Shaniqua Hunter 9, Miranda Stockman 4, Jasmine Aull 3, Maranda Ethridge 3, Melekia Simpson 2, Courtney Raiford 2, Sheka Moseley 2.

EMERALD (34): Amber Green 12, Marissa Callaham 8, Courtney Scurry 6, Aneisha Bell 5, Abbe Cannon 2, Kalla Flynn 1.

Greenwood 21 25 10 14 ♦ 70

Emerald 11 9 9 5 ♦ 34

3-point goals ♦ Greenwood 4 (Andrews 3, Robinson 1).

Record: G (8-1); E (7-2).