

# THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Sports

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## Emerald Girls Fall In Region 1-AA Contest

By KEVIN FIORENZO/Index-Journal sports writer

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A little more time on the clock would have benefited Emerald High School's girls basketball team Tuesday. The Vikings made a furious fourth quarter tally, but ultimately fell 57-54 to Walhalla in a Region 1-AA matchup at Westview Middle School. "We started too late and some of the kids just told me they felt real sluggish in the warm-up" Emerald coach Anarie Duckett said. "It showed. The first three quarters we didn't play extremely well. We played OK, but we didn't play extremely well. We just fell short."

Emerald trailed by nine with fewer than two minutes remaining, but Walhalla missed a number of free throws down the stretch that could have put the game out of reach and Jordan Smeal hit a jumper with 30 seconds left to make it 55-52 in the Razorbacks' favor.

Walhalla's Tish Winchester made two free throws when Emerald finally fouled after letting the clock run down to just over eight seconds, Marissa Callaham put up a desperation 3-pointer as time expired, but it was off the mark. Emerald was forced to play catch-up because of poor shooting prior to the fourth quarter. The Vikings scored 19 points in the first half and struggled to make easy buckets.

In contrast, Walhalla was able to consistently run pick-and-rolls to get open shots inside the paint for layups. "They ran that pick-and-roll, and we just didn't adjust to it," Duckett said. "We didn't switch on the pick, and they'd beat us to the basket." After getting down 4-0 to open the game, Emerald went on an 8-0 run keyed by two 3-pointers from Callaham to take the lead. The Razorbacks answered with an 8-0 run and never relinquished the lead. "I was pleased offensively with how we used our picks," Walhalla coach Cheryl Murphy said. "We made a lot of good passes to find the open man, so I was pleased with that."

Trailing by 10 to start the fourth quarter and without starting point guard Courtney Scurry, who injured her knee in the second quarter, Emerald opened the period on a 7-2 run and kept Walhall scoreless for the first five minutes of the period. Walhalla managed to build the lead back to nine, but struggled to make free throws down the stretch. "They gave us opportunities to keep it a 10-point lead, and we missed most of our free throws," Murphy said. "That really ended up hurting us."

WALHALLA (57): Tish Winchester 14, Shanna Pearce 10, Donna Thompson 6, Erika Dodgins 2, Morgan Bryant 2, Brooklyn Watt 4, Samantha Galbreath 4, Liz Barker 2, Halie Chambers 4, Ashley Planck 2, Ashlee Smith 2.

EMERALD (54): Marissa Callaham 16, Aneisha Bell 6, Abbe Cannon 10, Courtney Scurry 2, Amber Green 17, Jordan Smeal 2.

Walhalla 15 11 16 15 - 57  
Emerald 10 9 13 22 - 54

3-point goals – Walhalla 4 (Winchester 2, Galbreath 1, Smith 1); Emerald 4 (Callaham 2, Green 2); Fouled out -- None. Technical fouls – None.

Records: W (10-8 overall, 3-2 Region 1-AA); E (12-8, 2-3).

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