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Sports

Viking Girls Roll Past Abbeville

By KEVIN FIORENZO/Index-Journal sports writer

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Emerald High School's Courtney Scurry scored a season-high 15 points Friday, but it was the point guard and her teammates' play on defense that stood out above anything else. The Vikings allowed just two field goals to Abbeville in the first half and rolled easily to a 55-30 Region 1-AA victory at Westview Middle School. The win moved Emerald (12-7 overall, 2-2 region) back to .500 in region play with just six games remaining, while Abbeville (0-11, 0-4) is still seeking its first entry in the win column. "I thought we played pretty well, and I told the kids, 'You actually looked like a basketball team tonight,'" Emerald coach Anarie Duckett said.

Abbeville was plagued by turnovers the entire game, giving up 33 in all, and the Vikings converted on those mistakes by picking up 22 steals, including five from Scurry. "Our defense definitely created (turnovers)," Duckett said. "Courtney got a lot of steals and then layups, Amber (Green) got a lot of steals and I thought Marissa (Callaham) played good defense."

Playing in place of starting point guard Terra Callaham, who is out until Feb. 9 with a broken finger, Scurry made the most of her increased role. "I just had to come in and do what I had to do because without (Callaham), it was only me left," Scurry said. A junior this season, Scurry will be getting more minutes over the next few weeks and that time on the court will prepare her for next season. "I'm real pleased with the way she played tonight. She's not able to go full speed for a real long time because she has asthma, but she sucked it up and played for as long as she could," Duckett said. "She's going to be a real big asset to us next year, especially once Terra graduates."

Ahead 4-2 early in the first quarter, Emerald went on a 9-0 run to take a commanding lead and Callaham capped the period with a 3-pointer that gave the Vikings a 17-4 lead. It made four free throws in the first period, but Abbeville didn't hit its first field goal until 4:13 remained in the second quarter. Emerald allowed first two field goals in the first half as the Panthers continually turned the ball over. "That's been the story of our season - turnovers - and in the first half, defense was just non-existent," Abbeville coach Brenda Jackson said.

ABBEVILLE (30): Victoria Woods 5, Brittany Owens 10, Jonetta Miller 2, Robin Elmore 5, Shay Rayford 2, Brittany Coleman 2, Jessica Moore 2, Amber McCier 2.

EMERALD (55): Courtney Scurry 15, Aneisha Bell 12, Jordan Smeal 2, Marissa Callaham 12, Amber Green 6, Kalla Flynn 2, Ashley Norton 2, Abbe Cannon 4.

Abbeville 4 4 6 16 - 30

Emerald 17 15 13 10 - 55

3-point goals -- Emerald 2 (Callaham 2). Fouled out -- None. Technical fouls -- None.

Records: A (0-11 overall, 0-4 Region 1-AA); E (12-7, 2-2).

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