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Sports

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## Viking Girls Top Crescent In 1-AA Play

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Emerald High School's girls basketball team wasted an 11-point lead going into the fourth quarter the first time it played Crescent, in January. The Vikings had no such unfortunate turn of events Tuesday as they overcame poor first-half shooting for a 50-39 victory over the Tigers in a Region 1-AA game at Westview Middle School. The victory for Emerald (13-9 overall, 4-3 region) had impact for the Vikings because of the fact it was senior night. "It's the only senior night that I get, so it was something where I had to do it big tonight," guard Amber Green said. "I just wanted to win this game."

Green, who had a game-high 16 points, put the Vikings in position to win the game during an 8-2 Emerald run in the third quarter in which she scored all of the team's points and put Emerald ahead 26-21. Many of those points came as result of the Vikings' increased pressure on defense causing turnovers. "It was more of a defensive game for us," Green said. "We realized they had a lot of fast breaks and were getting down the court, so we had to stop them."

Green's eight-point stretch put the Vikings ahead for good and Marissa Callaham kept Emerald in control with back-to-back 3-pointers from the top of the key early in the fourth quarter for a 32-23 lead. Then with 2:33 left in regulation and Emerald ahead by six, Aneisha Bell got a steal and drove down the court only to miss a layup. Callaham made a putback though and was subsequently fouled. She made the free throw to give Emerald a 41-32 lead. "Marissa hitting those two 3-pointers -- that was big," Emerald coach Anarie Duckett said. "And then she got the 3-pointer the old fashioned way."

Playing without point guards Terra Callaham and Courtney Scurry, who are both injured, the Vikings were out of sync on offense early and scored just two points in the first period, but only trailed 5-2. Emerald took control in the second with a 14-2 run for a 16-7 halftime lead. The Tigers then opened the second half on a 10-0 run to take a one-point lead before Green keyed

the Vikings' effort to move back in front. "I told them not to let up," Duckett said. "We weren't scoring a lot of points and we missed a lot of easy shots that we should've made and would've made a big difference. "I said 'We've got to play good defense, we've got to work hard on defense and we've got to make those easy shots.'"

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