

Kalida: Girls Division IV State Champs

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – March 23, 1988

If you travel to Kalida this week and find 12 young ladies and two men who want to do nothing more than talk about basketball, please let them, because they deserve to tell all.

For they probably are members of the Kalida Wildcat girls basketball team which gave Putnam County its first ever girls state basketball title Saturday afternoon.

Using a tenacious defense and strong inside scoring punch of junior Annette Trenkamp and senior Marci Bendele, along with junior Sondra Ehrnsberger from the outside the Wildcats rolled to a 62-51 win over South Charlestown Southeastern in St. John's Arena.

This solidifies the Wildcats number one ranking in Division IV and gives them a perfect 27-0 mark. Southeastern finished the season at 26-1.

And since it was Putnam County's and Kalida's first ever girls state championship emotions were very hard to control Saturday afternoon.

"This is a great moment for Putnam County," Frank Schroeder said right after the game. "Even though the trophy will reside in Kalida, we did it all for all of Putnam County. It's the greatest feeling that could ever happen. I guess I thought it was possible (a state championship) but I didn't know whether the dream would come true, I just didn't know."

Kalida fans started to realize near the end of the second quarter the state championship could be theirs. Trailing 23-20 with 4:41 in the quarter, the Wildcats outscored the Trojans 12-3 to take a 32-26 lead into the intermission.

The 12-3 run was helped along as Kalida went into a 1-2-2 half court trap which forced seven Southeastern turnovers. Meanwhile on offense Kalida was converting those turnovers thanks to junior Trenkamp and Ehrnsberger who combined for ten points in the final four minutes.

"We went into the trap to try and make the number 22 (Debbie Fredrick) go to her right," said Schroeder. "Once we got the ball out of her hands, we were able to pick it off. We wanted to press them, but we wanted to make sure it worked. Our press was definitely the difference in this game."

Southeastern coach Kirk Martin said his team had prepared for the half court trap, but when Kalida went to it the press seemed to rattle his team.

"We prepared for it," said Martin. "But we just didn't get the girls where they needed to be. I think we were shook by it and they were able to make their move. It's obvious the trap hurt us, because the momentum definitely switched."

The momentum continued into the third quarter as Ehrnsberger and Trenkamp both hit jumpers to make it 36-26. Just three minutes later the lead was 19 points (46-27) as Kalida was scoring at will from inside.

"The second half we wanted to go inside more," said Schroeder. "We felt we could go inside to Trenkamp or Peck and if not rotate the ball around outside to Dawn Miller or Ehrnsberger. Trenkamp is a fine inside player and she's not afraid to take it inside. We also wanted to establish the outside game and I felt at first we

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were out of our range and we told the girls to move in a step or two and they would fall.”

Ehrnsberger said her shooting had been off in previous games, but she was able to regain her soft shooting touch in the state championship game. She hit 9 of 21 shots from the floor with four of those shots falling in the pivotal second quarter.

Said Ehrnsberger,” My shooting had been a little off, but today I just went out there and had confidence in my shots. When I hit one to start the second half it really helped me.”

Even though Kalida seemed in complete control with a 16 point (52-36) lead, Southeastern prepared for a final run. They cut the lead to seven at 54-47, but when Trenkamp hit a nice reverse lay up and Peck canned two free throws the lead was never under 11 again.

The Trojans came into the game with a reputation for pressing, but it never rattled Kalida as they committed only 17 turnovers. On the other hand the Kalida press forced Southeastern into 26 turnovers, 18 of those in the first half.

“We hadn’t faced pressure like that all year,” said Martin. “But then we hadn’t faced a team quite like theirs all season long. Their quickness did a nice job in not allowing us to establish the inside game. Their half court trap seemed to push them giving them the intensity and momentum they needed. We having nothing to hang our heads about, because we knew coming in one undefeated team had to fall,” Martin concluded.

“When they came back we told the girls to settle down and play good defense,” Schroeder said. “We felt if they scored a bucket they would get their confidence back and they did when Annette scored. It’s a great feeling to be the Division IV champs. We played a lot of great teams to get here and along the way we had some luck on our side.”

Trenkamp paced the Wildcats with 21 points and nine rebounds (six offensive), five assists and four steals, while Ehrnsberger had 18 point and five rebounds. Bendele and Miller each added eight points, while Bendele had eight rebounds and Miller had four assists.

Fredrick had 19 points to lead Southeastern, 11 of those in the first half. Jeannine Ferguson had 12 and Sonia Dunsmore added 10. The Trojans out rebounded Kalida 35-34 as Sonia Dunsmore pulled in 11. Kalida shot 45 percents for the game (25 of 55) while Southeastern hit 38 percent (19 of 50).

Kalida 25-55 12-22 62

Bendele 3-8 2-5 8; A. Trenkamp 8-10 5-9 21; Peck 0-5 5-6 5; Miller 4-7 0-2 8; Ehrnsberger 9-21 0-0 18; Kortokrax 0-0 0-0 0; Schroeder 0-0 0-0 0; Reichhart 0-0 0-0 0; Hoffman 0-0 0-0 0; Stechschulte 0-0 0-0 0; L. Trenkamp 0-0 0-0 0; Siebeneck 1-3 0-0 2.

Southeastern 19-50 12-22 51

Ferguson 5-10 2-2 12; Fulton 2-6 2-4 6; S. Dunsmore 4-7 2-6 10; T. Dumsore 0-0 0-0 0; Fredrick 8-25 2-4 19; Roberts 0-0 0-0 0; Selden 0-0 0-0 0; Phillips 0-1 0-1 0; Goodbar 0-1 2-2 2; Smith 0-0 0-0 0; L. Ferguson 0-0 0-0 0; Minnick 0-0 2-2 2;

Kalida	13	19	14	16	62
Southeastern	17	9	9	16	51

Three point goals: Kalida 0-2 (Miller 0-1, Ehrnsberger 0-1); Southeastern 1-6 (Fredrick 1-5, Phillips 0-1).

Attendance: 5,291.