

Kalida Girls, Queens of Ohio

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Two gold trophies; they both say a lot about what the Kalida girls' basketball team has done over the past two years.

In this instance gold symbolizes a winner and this is something very familiar to the Kalida girls. So familiar they have two gold trophies to show for the 54 straight wins they have recorded over the past two years.

The Wildcats picked up their second gold trophy Thursday night as they defeated Berlin Hiland 57-45 for their second straight Division IV state title. The win secured the number one ranked Wildcats second straight 27-0 season, an honor very few teams have accomplished.

Kalida became only the fourth team in the 14 year history of the girl's tournament to repeat.

Before Kalida could hoist another gold trophy into the air they first had to prove they were worthy of that honor. At times they didn't look like the state's number one ranked team, but in the end it was their talent which prevailed.

After the Wildcats 52-41 win over South Charleston Southeastern many gave Kalida the title since they had beaten the number two team in Ohio. But Hiland wasn't about to let the game slip away that easy.

Kalida held a 9-2 lead with 4:55 left in the quarter. Then two minutes in to the second quarter Hiland was within 13-12 as the Wildcats committed seven turnovers.

"It was anti-climatic," said Kalida Coach Frank Schroeder. "The thing we had to guard against was the fact we were playing a better team than we saw last night (in the semifinals against Arcadia). We didn't want to think we had it wrapped up too early. But we couldn't slam the door on them."

Leslie Stechschulte ignited a 15-6 run by Kalida with a jumper. Sondra Ehrnsberger followed with two baskets which would give the Wildcats a lead Hiland wouldn't overcome. At the break Kalida was up 28-18.

Kalida pushed the lead to 35-22 in the third quarter before the Wildcats had another streak of turnovers allowing Berlin to cut the lead to 35-28. Early in the fourth quarter Angie Schneider hit a basket which made the score 42-36.

Ehrnsberger then pushed the lead back to eight with a jumper, before Annette Trenkamp was fouled and made both free throws. Lori Trenkamp then stretched the lead to 48-36 with a basket set up by her sister, Annette. After that point Hiland never got closer than nine points.

"It's very unusual for a team to come down here two years in a row, and the fact we were undefeated both times is amazing," said Schroeder. "It seems these girls handled the pressure really well. This will be tough to duplicate. It's hard to compare this year to last year. Both years were really great."

Hiland, 24-3, a team not expected to make the final four could be pleased they gave the state ranked Wildcats a game.

"I don't think we have anything to be ashamed of," said Hiland coach Ora Shetler. "When Kalida was handed the trophy, I told our girls to stand and cheer."

"We ran out of gas in the end. The little things killed us. I felt we would play better after we settled down. In the first half they got some easy baskets off our turnovers."

Most of the attention this year has fallen on senior Annette Trenkamp, who was named Ohio's Division IV Player of the Year. In the final she tossed in 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, a great finish for the senior who watched the team wrap up a spot in the finals with her on the bench having fouled out.

"It was real important I play well," said Trenkamp; "especially after fouling out the last time. I set my goals high, but they were not personal goals. Once we got here it didn't matter what it took."

Trenkamp was especially pleased to see her younger sister play so well. Lori, a 5-10 sophomore, had 11 points and six rebounds after not being sure she wanted to play this season.

"It was great to see her do so well," said Annette. "At the beginning she wasn't even sure if she wanted to play, but I asked her to for me."

Schroeder also was happy Annette had talked her sister into playing. "She is not any happier than I am she talked her into playing," he said. "She really came down

here to play basketball. Lori was a big help to us all season, she is a special player."

In the fourth quarter the younger Trenkamp scored on two offensive rebounds which sparked the team on a 13-9 run. All of her points came in the second half.

As for the senior Ehrnsberger she finished a fine career with nine points and six rebounds. To her winning state for the second straight year was something very special.

"It was just a great year," said Ehrnsberger. "You don't expect to win it two years in a row. It's exciting; it's something you can't explain. This one is special being a senior and it is the last game you get to wear the uniform. It doesn't seem like it's over."

Leslie Stechschulte had eight assists for Kalida with eight points.

Julie Gerber had 16 points for Hiland and Angie Schneider added 10.

Berlin Hiland 19-52 0-3 7-11 45
Gerber 7-18 0-1 2-2 16; Mast 3-11 0-0 0-1 6; Jaberg 1-5 0-0 1-2 3; Schneider 5-7 0-0 0-0 10; Dunn 0-3 0-0 4-6 4; Phanththy 0-0 0-2 0-0 0; Weaver 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; Kandel 1-1 0-0 0-0 2; Brubacher 1-3 0-0 0-2 2; Weaver 0-1 0-0 0-0 0; Oswald 1-1 0-0 0-0 2; Yoder 0-0 0-0 0-0 0.

Kalida 23-47 1-7 10-17 57
Siebeneck 1-2 0-0 1-6 3; A. Trenkamp 8-12 0-1 6-7 22; Kortokrax 1-5 0-0 2-2 4; Stechschulte 4-7 0-0 0-0 8; S. Ehrnsberger 3-8 1-6 0-0 9; Reichart 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; Karhoff 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; L. Trenkamp 5-7 0-0 1-2 11; C. Ehrnsberger 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; Warnecke 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; Wurth 0-0 0-0 0-0 0; Foppe 0-0 0-0 0-0 0.

Hiland	8	10	16	11	45
Kalida	11	17	13	16	67

Rebounds: Hiland 25 (Schneider, Dunn 4); Kalida 36 (A. Trenkamp 11).