

King's rally sends Grafton girls to 3rd straight defeat

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A solid start didn't help the Grafton girls' basketball team snap a losing streak Monday night.

After grabbing a 16-14 lead over Milwaukee King in the first quarter, the host Black Hawks fell victim to several scoring droughts on the way to a 48-37 loss in a nonconference game.

The defeat was the defending WIAA Division 2 champion's third straight and dropped them to 3-3 overall.

King (2-2) used a 16-5 run in the second quarter to take a 30-21 lead into halftime.

Grafton trimmed the deficit several times in the second half, including 35-33 early in the fourth period, but couldn't pull even.

Sophomore forward Hannah Eichler did her best to keep the Hawks in the game by scoring a team-high 14 points, including eight in the first quarter.

Kim Schacht added eight points for Grafton.

King got a game-high 17 points from sophomore guard Alexis Eckles.

Helping to keep the game close was poor free-throw shooting by the Generals, who made just 11 of 30 attempts at the line.

The Hawks will try to get back on the winning track Dec. 29 and 30 when they play in the four-team Badger Invitational in Lake Geneva.

Grafton's first game will be at 6 p.m. Dec. 29 against Brodhead. The winner will face the winner of the East Troy-Badger semifinal in the title game at 7:45 p.m. Dec. 30.

Nicolet 59, Grafton 38

The visiting Knights showed why they're the title favorite in the North Shore Conference this season by breaking open a close game in the fourth quarter last Friday.

Nicolet went on an 18-5 run in the fourth quarter that gave it control of a showdown between the league's defending co-champions.

"Nicolet is an outstanding team," Grafton coach Bob Maronde said. "I was very concerned going into the game about how we would handle them, and they were every bit as good as I thought."

The Knights (3-0 in league play) jumped to a 14-7 lead in the first quarter and never trailed again.

Grafton (1-2) stayed within 41-33 after three periods before Nicolet settled the outcome.

Ashley Green scored a game-high 20 points for the Knights, who also got 14 points from Rachel

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Travia.

No one scored in double figures for Grafton, which was led by Eichler with nine points.

Cedarburg 31, Grafton 26

A cold-shooting night cost the Hawks in a frustrating conference loss at home Dec. 15.

Although Grafton stayed in contention, it played catch-up throughout the night, thanks to 20% floor shooting (nine of 45) and poor rebounding.

“We just got killed on the boards, and that really hurt us,” Maronde said. “Cedarburg had a good game plan and slowed the pace, and we didn’t adjust very well.”

The Bulldogs held a 13-11 lead at the end of a low-scoring first half and maintained a 23-21 edge after three quarters. Although they managed just eight points in the final period, Grafton had only five.

Eichler led the Hawks with 12 points.

Kelly Doedens and Alyssa Wisk paced Cedarburg with 12 and eight points, respectively.