

Ozaukee girls hit the court in a sprint

Written by DEBBIE HAMM

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Fast start fuels easy win for Warriors over Cedar Grove-Belgium

Hot shooting gave the Ozaukee girls' basketball team a fast start to the new year when it hosted Cedar Grove-Belgium last Saturday.



Racing to a 14-1 lead by the end of the first quarter, the Warriors were never in trouble on the way to a 45-28 win in Central Lakeshore Conference play.

"We played well defensively both individually and as a team," said Ozaukee coach Lee LeMahieu, whose team posted its sixth straight victory.

"We shot 50% in the first quarter, including three threes, to get the lead. We also did a good job of taking care of the ball with only 12 turnovers (for the game)."

The Warriors got three-pointers from Katie Bares, Emily Thome and Bailey Johnson to take control in the opening period.

Ozaukee cooled off in the second quarter, when Cedar Grove-Belgium used a 6-4 advantage to pull within 18-7 by halftime.

However, the Warriors ended the suspense with a 17-5 run in the third quarter and took a 35-12 lead into the final eight minutes.

"Overall, I thought we played pretty good, but we didn't shoot very well," Cedar Grove-Belgium coach Nate DePagter said.

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“We had a lot of good looks, but we couldn’t put the ball in the basket. Ozaukee shot well and played good defense.”

The Rockets finished just 21% from the field (9 for 42) compared to Ozaukee’s 35% (15 of 43).

The Warriors, who improved to 7-2 overall and 5-2 in the conference, were led by Thome with 14 points. She also had five rebounds.

Dieringer had eight points and seven rebounds, and Janke had seven points.

Cedar Grove-Belgium was paced by Alyssa Schmitt with 13 points and Lydia Legler with 11, but their teammates combined for just four.

The Rockets, who had a three-game winning streak snapped, fell to 4-2 in the conference and 5-3 overall.

In Tuesday league games this week, Ozaukee played Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah while Cedar Grove-Belgium faced Howards Grove.

On Friday, the Rockets will travel to Oostburg for a 7:30 p.m. contest.

In 7:30 p.m. nonconference games Jan. 14, Ozaukee will play at Horicon while Cedar Grove-Belgium hosts Kewaskum.

Image Information: OZAUKEE’S EMILY THOME ignored defensive pressure from Rocket Kasie Fiend before unleashing a shot.

Photo by Sam Arendt