

Kirkwood women fall in tourney finals

Written by Metro Sports Report
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EAST PEORIA, Ill. - The top-ranked Kirkwood Eagles lost to 10th-ranked Illinois Central, 80-74, in overtime in the championship round of the 38th Annual Cougar Holiday Tournament Monday.

Kirkwood blasted Illinois Central, 74-45, when they met Nov. 16 in the Kirkwood Classic in Cedar Rapids, but the rematch was completely different.

There was a big discrepancy in free throws Monday. Illinois Central was 25 for 40 at the foul line, while Kirkwood was 10 of 17. Illinois Central was called for 16 fouls, while Kirkwood was whistled for 28 personal fouls.

Kirkwood rallied in the fourth quarter to tie the game, 64-64, and force overtime, but Illinois Central prevailed in the extra session 16-10.

The Eagles suffered their first loss and fell to 15-1. Illinois Central raised its mark to 10-4 with three straight victories in its own holiday tournament.

Paige Bradford led Kirkwood with 22 points and eight rebounds, but committed seven turnovers and fouled out. Kortney Drake hit three 3-pointers and scored 11 points. Tatiana Hodges-Johnson finished with eight points, seven rebounds and six assists.

Summer Stoewer scored 23 points for Illinois Central.

KIRKWOOD (74): Paige Bradford 8-14 3-4 22, Tatiana Hodges-Johnson 4-5 0-0 8, Ju Gaston 3-12 2-2 9, Amara Lipsey 0-5 0-0 0, Marissa Metz 1-6 0-1 2, Delani Harris 2-3 0-2 4, Jheda Kennedy 2-2 1-2 7, Kortney Drake 3-4 2-2 11, Addison Rath 0-0 0-0 0, Natalie Tomaszewski 2-4 2-2 7, Kemara Watson 2-6 0-2 4. Totals 27-61 10-17 74.

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ILLINOIS CENTRAL (80): Josi Becker 4-6 8-12 18, Moriah Ward 3-11 0-2 6, Summer Stoewer 7-17 6-8 23, Camryn Stafford 4-9 1-1 9, Maia Marshall 0-6 4-6 4, Jordyn Hare 3-6 0-1 6, Sh'coria Metts 1-2 0-0 2, Courtney Heffren 2-5 2-2 6, Ayanna Gibbs 1-6 4-8 6. Totals 25-68 25-40 80.

Halftime - Illinois Central 33, Kirkwood 29. 3-point goals - Kirkwood 10-27 (Bradford 3-4, Drake 3-4, Kennedy 2-2, Tomaszewski 1-1, Gaston 1-5, Harris 0-1, Lipsey 0-5, Metz 0-5), Illinois Central 5-17 (Stoewer 3-8, Becker 2-2, Ward 0-1, Metts 0-1, Heffren 0-1, Stafford 0-2, Marshall 0-2).