

Kirkwood women top South Australia

Written by Jim Ecker

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Kirkwood sophomore Bianca Dufelmeier felt right at home Tuesday night when the Eagles played a touring club team from South Australia at Johnson Hall.

Dufelmeier was born and raised in Australia and has dual citizenship in Australia and the United States. She moved to Iowa in 2010 when she was 17 and attended Ames High School so she could further her basketball career and play in college.

She played for Kirkwood last season and was delighted to see the South Australian team on the schedule this year.

"I got excited," she said. "If we had played them last year I probably would have known a couple of players. It was exciting to play them."

Kianna Jacobs poured in 23 points as the Eagles topped the Australians, 72-49.

Dufelmeier filled up the boxscore for Kirkwood (5-2) with nine assists, eight points, seven rebounds and six steals.

Dufelmeier's parents are both Americans. Her father, Tad, played pro basketball in Australia and that's where she was born. "He played until he got old," she joked.

Both of her parents still live in Australia and are educators in elementary schools there.

Dufelmeier has dual citizenship because her parents are native Americans and she was born in Australia. She'd like to play pro basketball in Europe some day, which might make her a citizen of the world.

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"That would be awesome," she said.

Alexis Fitzpatrick scored 11 points for Kirkwood and had five assists. Whitney Rohrbach contributed 10 points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals.

Abbie Martin led the Australians with 10 points.

Kirkwood will host Northeast, Neb., on Nov. 30 in its next game.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (49): Hatchard 3 0-0 7, Johnson 2 0-0 6, Thacker 1 2-2 4, Martin 2 6-7 10, Brine 2 0-0 4, Pearce 1 0-0 3, Herriman 1 0-0 2, Lappin 4 0-0 8, Luders 1 0-0 2. Totals 18 8-9 49.

KIRKWOOD (72): Jacobs 9 5-6 23, Chuol 0 0-0 0, Dufelmeier 3 0-0 8, Rohrbach 4 0-0 10, Fitzpatrick 4 0-0 11, Williams 0 0-0 0, Fallon 0 0-0 0, Hobbs 1 1-33, Gray 1 0-0 2, Faber 2 0-0 4, Henderson 1 0-0 2, Tow 2 0-0 4, Chambers 1 3-3 5. Totals 28 9-12 72.

Halftime - Kirkwood 38, South Australia 23. 3-point goals - South Australia 5 (Johnson 2, Hatchard 1, Pearce 1, Lappin 1), Kirkwood 7 (Fitzpatrick 3, Dufelmeier 2, Rohrbach 2).