MVP Larson leads Kirkwood to title

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PEORIA, III. - Kirsten Larson popped in six 3-pointers in the first half Tuesday as Kirkwood jumped to a big lead and drubbed Sauk Valley, 76-44, in the championship game of the Illinois Central Classic.

Larson played sparingly in the second half with Kirkwood cruising and finished with 18 points. She was named the Most Valuable Player of the eight-tournament that featured several ranked teams.

Peyton Bockholt contributed 12 points as the seventh-ranked Eagles raised their record to 11-4. Tyra Polite finished with eight points and six assists. Anna Martensen grabbed eight rebounds.

Kirkwood finished 14 of 29 on 3-pointers, including a sizzling 11-of-20 in the first half.

Jordan Giddings scored 16 points for Sauk Valley (12-4).

SAUK VALLEY (44): Giddings 7 0-1 16, Hammelman 1 3-4 5, Harris 2 3-7 8, Hurd 0 2-4 2, Matson 0 2-2 2, Nehrkorn 3 0-0 7, Smith 0 0-0 0, Terrock 1 1-2 4. Totals 14 11-20 44.

KIRKWOOD (76): Sneed 2 2-2 7, Downs 0 0-0 0, Isaac 1 0-0 2, Silva 2 0-0 5, Oberman 2 0-0 6, Sudduth 1 0-0 2, Polite 3 0-0 8, Larson 6 0-0 18, Hutchins 2 1-2 7, Martensen 2 0-0 4, Bockholt 4 4-5 12, Kallenberger 0 0-0 0, Clark 1 0-0 2, Wood 1 1-4 3. Totals 27 8-13 76.

Halftime - Kirkwood 45, Sauk Valley 23. 3-point goals - Sauk Valley 5 (Giddings 2, Harris 1, Nehrkorn 1, Terrock 1), Kirkwood 14 (Larson 6, Oberman 2, Hutchins 2, Polite 2, Sneed 1, Silva 1).