

## Lady Braves season ends with tough loss at Regional

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The Borden Lady Braves basketball season ended at the West Washington Regional Saturday morning, February 22nd. Borden was unable find a way to defeat the #4 ranked 1A team in the state from Vincennes Rivet losing the game 52-41. Vincennes Rivet went on to defeat Wood Memorial, 56-38, later that evening to claim the Regional Championship and advance to next week's Semi State game. Vincennes Rivet came out with a strong offensive game plan scoring layups by Bailey Dreiman and Katie Donovan. The Lady Braves had trouble getting their offense going against Vincennes Rivet's stingy defense. The Lady Braves only score of the quarter was by Natalie Ruedinger when she was able to pull down an offensive rebound and put it in at the 4:50 mark. Borden trailed 2-12 at the end of the first quarter. Borden was unable to cut into the lead in the second quarter. Donovan continued her strong inside play for Vincennes Rivet scoring layups and follow up shots from offensive rebounds. Senior Carson Casey added a couple of 2 point shots for Borden and Ruedinger another basket for the Lady Braves. Vincennes Rivet was able to extend their lead to 24-8 by the end of the half.

Borden continued to come out and play hard in the second half. An early 3 point shot by Ruedinger gave the Lady Braves a good start to the quarter. The Lady Braves stepped up their defense and forced Vincennes Rivet to miss shots and turn the ball over. Borden was unable to convert on the scoring opportunities the defense created. Vincennes Rivet was able to maintain a double digit 34-21 lead at the end of the third quarter.

The teams traded baskets for much of the fourth quarter with Borden unable to get within striking distance. Vincennes Rivet held a double digit lead for the rest of the game. A made free throw and a late 3 point shot by Lady Brave Paige Schindler cut the Vincennes Rivet lead to 11 points and made the final score 52-41.

The Lady Braves finished the season with a 17-3 record. They were SAC Champions and the New Washington Sectional 62 Champions. Borden will be losing a group of talented seniors including Abby Ellis, Carson Casey, Shelby Kirchgessner, and Sarah Hurst. Returning players, junior Kristen Nestor and sophomore Natalie Ruedinger, will be a strong base for next year's team. The loss of four experienced seniors from the lineup will allow openings for a large group of young players to step up with the hopes of returning the Lady Braves to the Regionals once again next year.

Scoring - Borden 41 - Vincennes Rivet 52

Borden - Natalie Ruedinger-15, Carson Casey-8, Abby Ellis-4, Sarah Hurst-4, Paige Schindler-4, Shelby Kirchgessner-3, Kristen Nestor-3.

Vincennes Rivet - Katie Donovan-16, Bailey Dreiman-12, Lauren Hermann-9, Kelsey Ivers-9, Carly Waggoner-2, Melanie Heinz-2, Bailey Niehaus-2.