

Freshmen guide WW to first win

Written by Administrator

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It didn't take long for former Salem girls' basketball Head Coach Wade Tomlinson to get his first win in the same role at West Washington.

The Lady Senators opened the season on Nov. 9 with a loss 47-39 loss to Borden, but regrouped on Nov. 11 to pick up a 69-53 victory over Clarksville.

Tomlinson said it felt good to get the first one out of the way.

"It feels real good," he said. "We were needing the first one and I am glad it was sooner, rather than later."

Tomlinson's first win at the helm of the Lady Senators wasn't the only significant number. The victory was the first time West Washington had beaten someone other than Medora or Cannelton since the 2005-2006 season.

It was also the Lady Senators first victory over an opponent from the Mid Southern Conference since the 2003-04 season when they beat Tomlinson and his Lady Lions.

"It's weird to be on the other end of that," he said.

Freshman forward Shana Keller scored 19 points and freshman guard Shelby Springer added 18 for West Washington.

"Shana struggled in the first half," Tomlinson said. "In the second half I took her out, let her regain her composure and get some rest. When she reentered the game, she played awesome."

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Springer gets a lot of attention from opponents, but Tomlinson said Kellar is every bit as dangerous.

“Shana plays extremely hard,” he said. “She is a really good rebounder for her size and a really good ball handler, too.”

While the freshman handled the scoring, some older players contributed, as well. Tomlinson said the team's lone senior, Whitley Fisher, had a solid game as did junior Emily Wise.

“Whitley gave us some rebounding and really good defense and made a couple of baskets,” he said. “Emily didn't play against Borden and got in late in the second quarter and played most of the second half. She ended up with nine points. She had a great night rebounding and finishing underneath the basket.”

West Washington is 1-1 and while there looks like some winnable games on the horizon, with a young team Tomlinson isn't taking anything for granted.

He said not only is his young team adjusting to the varsity level, but he is adjusting to playing some schools he is not familiar with.

West Washington took on Lanesville Monday and will host Medora Thursday.

Tomlinson said he isn't going to gauge success only by wins and losses with this year's team.

“The main goal is daily improvement,” Tomlinson said. “If we can do that, everything else will take care of itself. Learning how to practice hard and daily improvement are our main two goals.”

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