

Dec. 30 ESCIT Girls Basketball

Usarzewicz 'nose' what she's doing in Spartans win; Johnson hurts knee

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Dec. 30: Hmm, perhaps coach Bryan Rogers should just take Adrianna "Boosh" Boucher's head and ram it into Lindsay Usarzewicz's nose the day before every game.

Usarzewicz exploded for 26 points today, including five 3-pointers, to help the Spartans to a 58-49 win over Hamilton West in an ESCIT Renee Keister Flight consolation game.

A day earlier, Usarzewicz had a nose that nearly matched the size of that of assistant coach Jim "Jules" Giglio after colliding with Boucher's forehead during a first-round game with Conwell-Egan. But she came out today without any face protection and lit up the Hornets.

"Lindsay stepped up, and we got solid contributions from everyone," Rogers said. "We played well. There are still some facets of the game we need to work on and tighten up but it was a nice win rebounding from yesterday's loss.

"We shot the ball much better while knocking down seven three-point shots. We played with more energy and took care of the ball better."

Steinert (3-2) led 32-26 at halftime and extended its lead until Hamilton battled back to stay within striking distance. Gabi Bennett tallied 10 points for the Spartans while Ashley Gonzalez chipped in with eight.

While Usarzewicz's injury may not be as serious as first thought, the Hornets could have major concerns with their superstar. Alexis Johnson, arguably the Colonial Valley Conference's best player, left with a knee injury late in the first half and never returned.

Johnson hurt herself driving for a lay-up. She finished with 13 points, while Courtney Adams added 12 for Hamilton (1-4).

While Johnson's loss obviously affected the second half, the Hornets main concern is that she is able to return to the lineup soon.