

Feb. 3 Girls Basketball



Nottingham's Imani Alston gets ready to drive into a swarm of Hornets during tonight's game at the Nest (Photo by Ken Weingartner).

Johnson and Adams explode as Hornets roll past Nottingham

By Ken Weingartner

Fish4scores.com

Feb. 3: Hamilton West's girls basketball team was unable to knock off powerful Hopewell Valley earlier this week, falling by two points, but the Hornets used the effort as a springboard to victory tonight against Nottingham.

Alexis Johnson scored 33 points, connecting on five 3-pointers in the process, and Courtney Adams added 20 points as West snapped a three-game skid with a 65-38 win at the Hornets Nest.

"It's nice to have a win," West coach Karla Peroni said. "The girls need it. They need that confidence back, especially coming off Tuesday. We played tough against Hopewell, so it was nice to continue that intensity and that fire. We worked hard tonight."

Hamilton led by three, 11-8, at the end of the first quarter, but Johnson and Adams combined for 18 points in the second period as the Hornets extended their advantage to 30-12 at the break.

"Courtney had a great game on the inside, Alexis did her thing tonight, and Erin Septer handled the ball well," Peroni said. "That's what we're looking for: those three to really work together and I think they did that tonight. That was nice to see."

The Hornets improved to 5-13 with the win as they try to improve their position for the state tournament prior to Saturday's cutoff date.

Annisa Holman led Nottingham, which dropped to 2-13, with 13 points while Imani Alston and Dalia Lopez added nine each.

“There are things we need to work on offensively, but we have four days to do that before we see Hamilton again,” Northstars coach Lauren Kelly said. “We have a lot of learning to do, but we’re getting there. My girls don’t give up. They don’t ever stop, no matter what the score is. That’s the biggest positive of the entire season.”

Powerful Hopewell Valley makes Spartans its 16th victim

There could be something special brewing up in Hopewell, as Steinert found out tonight.

The Spartans played a tough first half but could not hang in after intermission as the Bulldogs pulled away for a 46-34 win in Pennington.

Steinert (10-8) trailed 22-20 at halftime, but inconsistent offense plagued the Spartans. A four-point first quarter was followed by a 16-point second quarter, which was followed by a four-point third quarter as the Bulldogs (16-1) broke it open.

Lindsay Usarzewicz led the Spartans with 12 while Mackenzie Phillips had eight.