

**Jan. 10 Girls Basketball**



*Lindsay Usarzewicz keeps the ball away from a WWPS defender during tonight's game in the Pirates' Cove (Photo by Ken Weingartner).*

## Steinert lets 18-point lead slip away in tough setback to WW-P South

By Ken Weingartner  
Fish4scores.com

**Jan. 10:** For all that went right for Steinert High's girls basketball team in the first half of its game tonight at West Windsor-Plainsboro South, just a little bit more went wrong in the final two quarters.

The Spartans dominated into the early minutes of the third period, opening up a 30-12 lead, but WWPS rallied by scoring 31 of the game's final 39 points to hand Steinert a 43-38 setback.

Steinert, which dropped to 5-3, shot 6-for-16 from the foul line while the Pirates, who improved to 6-2, were 13-for-15.

Gabbi Bennett led the Spartans with nine points and Lauren Matrisciano added eight.

Alyssa Gilman led WWPS with 13 points, nine in the second half, and was 6-for-6 on free throws in the fourth period. Her two foul shots with 40 seconds to play gave the Pirates the lead for good, 39-38. She added two more free throws 10 seconds later after South tied up a loose ball with the possession arrow in its favor. Megan Fitzpatrick made two free throws in the waning seconds to ice the game.

After falling behind early, 5-2, the Spartans dominated the first half. They came away with nearly every loose ball, rebounded well and beat WWPS down the floor in transition, leading to layups or fouls. When Kaitlyn Fedor connected on a shot from near the top of the key with 2:20 to go in the second quarter it capped a 22-2 run for Steinert.

The Spartans, who led 26-12 at the break, had six players score in the first half.

"We played very well in the first half," Steinert coach Bryan Rogers said. "We executed offensively and we didn't turn the ball over as much. We shot well. In the second half, we didn't do any of it. They came out with pressure and we didn't handle it. When we turn the ball over, bad things happen."

Mackenzie Ewell became the seventh Spartan to find the scoring column when she opened the second half with a basket. Matrisciano scored to increase Steinert's lead to 30-12, but that is when South began to rally. The Pirates closed the gap to 34-31 at the end of the third quarter.

"We just couldn't answer with a basket," Rogers said. "When you turn the ball over, you don't really have them get in a set offense and set up our defense; it's tough. Unfortunately, we couldn't pull it out."

Steinert returns to action at 7 p.m. Friday when it hosts Ewing.

"We'll see how we bounce back; it's a tough loss," Rogers said. "(WWPS) is a very good team and we knew it was going to be a tough game coming in. We put together a pretty good game plan and executed at the beginning; we just didn't take care of the ball enough to win this game."

## Undefeated Hopewell rolls past a Northstars' team in transition

You gotta feel for Lauren Kelly.

After being made the Nottingham head varsity coach last Friday morning and having about five hours to prepare for her debut, Kelly got through that day.

So with a whole weekend to prepare, who does she get as the next opponent.

A runaway express, which is what Hopewell Valley is these days. The Bulldogs moved to 8-0 with a 62-31 victory over the Northstars.

HoVal led 19-8 after one quarter and 34-14 at halftime. Dalia Lopez led the Northstars with 12 points.

## **Robbinsville hands Hamilton its seventh straight setback**

Erin Septer is trying to pick up the slack for Alexis Johnson, but Hamilton West is still struggling.

With Johnson still sidelined with a knee injury, the Hornets fell 57-46 at Robbinsville. It marked the seventh straight loss for Hamilton since an opening-day win, and came on the heels of a 61-19 setback at South Brunswick.

Septer led the attack with 18 points, while Courtney Adams chipped in with 16 points.