

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Newsome, Clark spark Tucson High to overtime victory

Badgers survive in 'rough game'

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It was anybody's guess as to why the shots weren't falling.

RaTanya Newsome blamed nerves, Christine Clark blamed the size of the arena, and Tucson coach Paul Reed simply described it as "a rough game."

The shooting was woeful for both teams, but it was Tucson that finished a little stronger.

The Badgers forced overtime and pulled away to 49-39 victory over Cienega in the showcase girls game of the MLK Basketball Classic at McKale Center.

"I think it definitely makes a difference, shooting in this big arena," Clark said of McKale. "It's a different perspective than a little high school gym, so that might have thrown us off a little bit."

Clark, a Harvard signee who averages 16.9 points per game, was held to only two points in the first half but had had five points in overtime to put the game away.

Newsome also had five during an overtime the Badgers began on a 10-0 run.

Cienega's Brooklyn Oceguela hit a long jumper with under a minute remaining in regulation to give the Bobcats a 37-35 lead, but Newsome drove and made a layup with eight seconds left in regulation to force the extra session.

"Everything is a learning experience," Newsome said. "I'm happy we're getting it now, instead of in the state playoffs or something."

"Now we know what we have to do in OT so we can do it whenever it comes."

Newsome and Clark both finished with 15 points.

The teams combined for just 26 total points in the first half. Clark said Cienega took the Badgers out of their game plan early, which threw off the vibe.

"They broke our press (defense) right at the beginning so we ended up dropping up half court and our press is really our bread-and-butter," Clark said. "Usually, we get almost all of our points off of it."

Shooting percentages improved for both teams in the second, but not by much.

Clark drained a three and converted a three-point play in the third quarter, while the Bobcats hit three threes in the period to keep pace.

Deal had a game-high 16 in the loss for Cienega, all of which came in regulation.

- Sahuaro 53, Sabino 37: Playing in her father's former haunts, Sahuaro shooting guard Cashala Thompson - the daughter of ex-Arizona Wildcat Harvey Thompson - scored eight of her 15 points in the second half as the Cougars routed east-side rival Sabino.

Her three-pointer at the end of the third quarter extended Sahuaro's lead to seven at 38-31, and started starting a 14-4 run that iced the contest.

"I just tried to keep shooting until I found my shot, and that one really picked me up," said Thompson, who is averaging over 16 points per game. "That brought up my confidence."

Alysia Gooden scored 21 for Sabino, her 16 first half points keeping the Sabercats within striking distance at the half, trailing just 25-24.

But she was held to five in the second half as Sahuaro coach Steve Botkin remained unbeaten against Sabino in his eight years leading the program.

Michael J. Craven Casey Crowe