



## Weibel powers Class AA to rout

By Matt Trowbridge

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

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ROCKTON — Courtney Weibel got an early taste of college Saturday night. With a pair of all-state centers inside in Devon Carbaugh (Sterling) and Paige Fiedorowicz (Johnsburg), Weibel had more room to shoot.

And she made the most of it. The Marquette-bound, Rockton Hononegah senior, who holds the national record for 3-pointers, scored 22 points on 8-for-10 shooting to lead the Class AA girls to a 103-71 blowout win over the Class A girls in the Rising Stars Classic.

Weibel made a trio of 3s to help the Class AA girls jump to a 17-1 lead and finished with six 3s to win MVP honors.

"They couldn't focus on me because everybody on our team could score," Weibel said.

Just like it might be at Marquette.

"Let's hope so," she said. "It was definitely a nice change. I'm not used to that. It was weird. Yeah, hopefully it will be like that. No way will a team be able to focus just on me in college, because everybody in college is so good."

It was hard to be any better than Weibel was Saturday.

"It's much better when she's not playing against us," Carbaugh (12 points) said. "I like that a lot. I'd have her on my team any day."

The Class A girls made a spirited 20-6 run to pull within 23-21. "It is hard to pick yourself up when you are down by that much," Byron's Caroline Folven (14 points) said.

Yet they did. Until the Class AA squad pounded the ball inside for eight close-in baskets in a 17-0 run. Class AA never led by less than 15 after taking that 40-21 lead.

"We had a fire in our gut, and then they took it at us," Forrester's Erin Butler (15 points) said.

Weibel opening the second-half with back-to-back 3s didn't help. "She can nail it from anywhere," Butler said.

When Carbaugh, Fiedorowicz and Rockford East's Tiffany Chatman (13 points) weren't hammering Class A inside and Weibel wasn't nailing 3s, Rockford Guilford's speedy Meaka Brents (12 points) slalomed past Class A defenders as if she were on a jet ski.

"She's unreal," Folven said.

"There's nothing you can do," Butler said. "You've just got to keep running after her."

While Weibel, Carbaugh (Lewis), Chatman (Sauk Valley), Folven (Minot State) and Butler (Rock Valley) have more basketball ahead, this was Brents' swan song.

"It was sooooo much fun," Brents said. "This is a nice way to end my season since I'm not playing college basketball. I loved it."

**Notes:** Freeport's Jackie Barton and 3-point shootout champ Sarah Halbrader of Boylan added 10 points for Class AA. ... Lanark Eastland's Calley Grisham scored 12 for Class A. ... Butler teamed with Winnebago's Brock Bosecker to win the two-ball title. ... Kelsey Wills (Stillman Valley) scored on a blind, over-the-shoulder flip at the first-half buzzer off a half-court bounce pass from Butler for the play of the game.

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Class AA player Tiffany Chatman of East (center) battles against Class A players Calley Grisham of Lanark Eastland (left) and Caroline Folven of Byron on Saturday at Hononegah in Rockton.

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