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Carbaugh s 31 send Titans home

By Reed Schreck

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

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ROCHELLE — As far as Sterling senior Devon Carbaugh can figure, her 31 points against Rockford Boylan was a career high.

There was also something else she had more than ever. In all her previous games, she said she never had that much fun. That happens, when you help your team prevail 60-57 in overtime in the IHSA Class AA Rochelle girls basketball sectional Monday night.

I m excited, she said. There aren t words to describe the feeling in the locker room.

She s a ton, Sterling coach Bruce Scheidegger said of Carbaugh, who picked up her fourth foul with 5:20 left in the fourth quarter. That s who got us here. It s one of those games that will be remembered for a long time — at least in Sterling.

Boylan trailed by seven early on, then led by four at stages in the second half.

Carbaugh hit two free throws with 26.6 seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Carbaugh and Jackie Howze each had four points in overtime to lead the Golden Warriors (26-7), who will face Freeport on Thursday night for the sectional title.

The Pretzels (27-4) rolled to a 46-26 triumph over Huntley in the first game, as the Red Raiders had more turnovers (28) than points.

We always try at some point to rely on our defense, said Freeport senior Jackie Barton, who led her team with 17 points.

That s probably why there was such a big point differential, said sophomore Kelsey Hoefler, who had 12 points.

Streaking to a 16-6 lead, then going into halftime ahead 25-11, also helped.

The quick start helps us relax and play our game, Barton said.

It felt really good to get off the good start, Hoefler said. Confidence comes from that.

Freeport coach Ryan Pierce said that was the last thing I expected when it came to shutting down Huntley s offense.

It might have looked easy, but it wasn't. I classified them as a defensive team coming in, but I don't necessarily know if I'd classify us as one. But it looked that way tonight.

Said Huntley coach Steve Raethz: We just didn't have any answers at both ends of the floor. We never were able to get into a flow.

Huntley (25-6) finished 19-of-31 (.290) from the field — the same numbers Sterling had at halftime. But the Warriors owned a 23-17 advantage at the time.

What kept Boylan (26-5) going was that Sarah Halbrader never lost her confidence — while Sarah Schmeling and Maria Ludeke off the bench had their confidence all night.

Halbrader nailed four 3-pointers in the second half after going 0-for-5 in the first half to total 15 points. Ludeke (nine points) and Schmeling (six) helped offset Brittany Boeke (11 points) and Stephanie Cliff (five points, eight rebounds) fouling out.

It was an outstanding game, Boylan coach Kim Connell said. But we had a chance to win it in regulation. We couldn't knock down free throws.


What's more amazing is we stayed in the game without Boeke and Cliff.

Containing Carbaugh was a nightlong problem with no solution ever arising.

We knew she was the one we needed to stop, Connell said. If she was going to get her points, we had to stop the others from getting theirs.

Staff writer Reed Schreck can be reached at 815-987-1381 or at rschreck@rrstar.com.

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