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Carbaugh leads Sterling into state tourney

By Jay Taft

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR

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		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	Total
DEKALB — Devon Carbaugh and the Sterling Golden Warriors fended off a few Maine West attacks, and a slow start of their own, Monday to haul in a 61-47 Class AA supersectional win — and a state tournament berth.	Sterling	11	16	16	18	0	61
	school937	9	16	15	7	0	47

Game Information

 Feb. 26 Sterling VS. school937 61 - 47

Carbaugh, who was named third-team Associated Press All-State earlier in the day, finished with a game-high 28 points and 10 rebounds. And her 8-for-12 effort from the free throw line, including a 4 of 4 stretch in the last five minutes, helped ice the win.

I don't think my heart has ever beaten this fast before. And it started when I looked up with about 50 seconds to go and we pretty much had it. I don't know when it will stop, said Carbaugh, who came in averaging 17.0 points and 9.5 rebounds a game. Somehow we worked out those jitters — and I know we all had them. I did. I mean, come on, it was the supersectional, with a chance to go to state on the line.

Carbaugh, and Sterling as a team, started off ice cold. The Golden Warriors missed on their first seven shots, while the 6-foot center/forward started off 0-for-2 with two turnovers. But the Golden Warriors never trailed by more than four in the first quarter, and Sterling (28-7) never trailed after that, leading 26-22 at the break.

They also got both of the Maine West (26-9) post players — Brittany Begrowicz and Mary Kusner — into foul trouble early. Kusner had four fouls at the halftime.

Getting them into foul trouble was key. And getting Devon going a little was nice, too, said Sterling coach Bruce Scheidegger, who got his team back to the state tourney for the first time since 1983.

That's the Devon Carbaugh we're used to.

That's how she's always played for us, and we expected it in our biggest game yet.

Sterling opened the second half by hitting five of its first seven shots. Although Maine missed only two of its first six shots of the half, it never regained the lead.


When Carbaugh's 10-foot spinning jumper rimmed in with 5:45 left in the game, and her putback of her own miss fell through less than a minute later, Sterling had its second 10-point lead of the game, and was in command as the game wound down.

Once they got the lead up there, we just couldn't foul them, said Caitlin Rehder, who led Maine West with 15 points and four rebounds. We couldn't cause they made like every free throw they shot.

Sterling actually missed a couple, but did finish 10-for-14 in the final five minutes.

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