

Jan. 14 Girls Basketball



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Steinert's Adrianna "Boosh" Boucher drives to the hoop against South Brunswick's Ally Berger during today's game (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing jbsportsphoto@aol.com).

South Brunswick tops Steinert to continue domination of township teams

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Jan. 14: If Hamilton Township girls' basketball teams don't see South Brunswick any time soon, no one will be complaining.

For the second straight Saturday, the state-ranked Vikings absolutely dismantled a township team, taking a 55-24 win at Steinert this morning. Last week, the Vikings rocked Hamilton, 61-19.

Viking coach Beth Barrio played the good sport, noting that Hamilton didn't have Alexis Johnson, and Steinert had to play at 10 a.m. today after losing a buzzer beater Friday night.

"That's a tough turnaround for them, and we haven't played since Thursday," Barrio said.

It was indeed, and it was especially tough since some shaky calls cost Steinert against Ewing on Friday night. That's a tough hangover to overcome right away.

But what had coach Bryan Rogers unhappy is that South Brunswick seemed to outthrustle Steinert most of the game.

"That's unacceptable," Rogers said. "They beat us to a lot of loose balls, they were quicker than us.

"That's a very good team. Their (10-1) record and their ranking speaks for themselves. They're a very good team but you always gotta come out with energy and we just didn't do that today."

The game was actually tied at 4-4 before a 26-2 run blew it open early in the second quarter. The Spartans trailed 44-11 after three quarters and were never in the game against one of the best teams they will see all season.

That made it three straight losses for Steinert (5-5). The first two were heart-breakers in which Steinert blew a big lead, then lost at the buzzer.

"I think we're gonna learn from these games, especially the last few games against Ewing and West Windsor (South) where they were close games and we had an opportunity to win and fell a little short," Rogers said. "I mean, we just ran into a buzzsaw today, they're good.

"Hopefully we're learning and obviously we need to improve as the season progresses, and we will. I've seen improvement at the foul line, especially yesterday. We've made improvements and the girls will continue to learn. We're only 10 games into the season there's no hitting the panic button."

Rogers recalled last year when Steinert dropped six straight in January and then pulled out of it.

"We have the talent and the girls that can do it," he said. "We've had some girls do some good jobs so we're able to go a little deeper and give some people some breathers."

Such as?

"Gabi (Bennett) has been doing a good job all year," Rogers said. "Kaitlyn Wolfsgruber, Rachel Rivera, Kaitlyn Fedor have all been coming in and doing a pretty good job.

"We just got Taylor Wright back on Wednesday, she's another senior that could help us, she's still working her way back in. There have been positive contributions."

In other words, there is still a long way to go, and losing big to a team like the Vikings is certainly no disgrace at this stage of the season.

