

Jan. 31 Girls Basketball



Erin Septer tallied 21 points tonight as Hamilton nearly upset once-beaten Hopewell Valley (Photo by Ken Weingartner).

Septer's explosion drives Hamilton to near-upset Hopewell Valley

Jan. 31: The Hamilton West girls' basketball team nearly pulled off the upset of the season in the Colonial Valley Conference before dropping a 63-61 decision to visiting Hopewell Valley tonight.

The Bulldogs (15-1) were coming off their first loss of the season to North Brunswick and may have been feeling a hangover as the Hornets (3-12) carried a 49-47 lead into the final quarter and kept it tight throughout the fourth before HoVal pulled it out.

The big news for Hamilton was the eruption of Erin Septer, who had been struggling offensively in recent weeks after carrying the team in Alexis Johnson's absence. Septer scored 21 points and hit a whopping five 3-pointers to keep Hamilton in it.

Johnson added 20 points and Courtney Adams chipped in with 15, but Kelly Williams continued to show she is one of the CVC's top guards by collecting 21 points and nine assists.

Steinert rally falls short at Notre Dame as winning streak comes to end

Trailing by 12 points in the third quarter, Steinert rallied to within one before Notre Dame regained its control and took a 39-32 victory in Lawrenceville.

The loss dropped a five-game winning streak by Steinert (10-7) while Notre Dame improved to 9-7. Notre Dame sank six free throws in the final 90 seconds to secure the victory.

Lindsay Usarzewicz had a rough shooting night but led Steinert with nine points, while Mackenzie Ewell and Lauren Matrisciano had six each.

Nottingham has improved effort but falls to Ewing

After a forgettable effort at Steinert Friday night, Nottingham put forth an improved effort tonight before dropping a 49-44 decision to Ewing.

Imani Alston led the way with 18 points while Dalia Lopez added 16 for the Hornets. Annisa Holman and Kelsey Ignace combined for the remaining 10 points.

"It was a much better effort," coach Lauren Kelly said. "But we still had little errors that killed us. If we clean up those mistakes, we come out on the other end of the score."