

Ottoville's Kleman Gets 500th Win

Putnam County Sentinel – Joe Dray, DHI Media Correspondent – February 14, 2018

The Delphos St. John Lady Jays walked into a hornet's nest on Saturday night at the L. W. Heckman Gymnasium as they visited the state ranked Ottoville Big Green.

Ottoville head coach David Kleman reached career win number 500 as his team dismantled the Blue Jays 60-20 in a one-sided contest.

Kleman has been at the helm of the girls' basketball program since 1992 and experienced a lot in those 26 years, but Saturday night was special for the tenured coach as he reached 500 wins with a lop-sided victory over St John's. He is now 500-121 in his career at Ottoville as his second ranked Big Green moved to 20-1 on the season.

Kleman had several people to thank for this achievement after the game. "Deb Lindeman and Vaughn Horstman have been my assistants for years, all the coaches that have helped with the younger grades and the junior high. They are all part of this system. I want to thank the players as well. I wouldn't do it if I didn't enjoy being around the kids. I especially want to thank my wife for putting up with this for 26 years. I have a wonderful wife and family and couldn't ask for a better life."

Also honored at the game was Ottoville assistant coach Deb Lindeman. She was a graduate of Delphos St. John's and will be inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame later this year.

The Lady Green wasted no time racking up points in the first quarter. Abi Hilvers knocked down a set of threes and Kasey Knippen tacked on one from the top of the key to push Ottoville's lead to 13 points. The Lady Green was dominant under the glass and out rebounded St. John's 7-3. Paige Gaynier sunk a jump shot late in the opening quarter but Ottoville had the Jays seeing Green at the end of one leading 15-5.

Ottoville turned up the heat in the second quarter and opened on a 16-0 run. Superior defense by the Big Green lead to eight Blue Jay turnovers as St. John's struggled to control the ball under pressure. Senior standout Bridget Landin had 7-points in the quarter and finished with a team high of 19. The Jays finally put an end to the scoring streak with only 1:22 remaining in the half. Hannah Will hit a three and made it 31-8. St. John's made another three-ball, but Emily Landin found nothing but net from long-range as time expired and the Lady Green held the lead at halftime 37-11.

The Ottoville defense remained in high gear for the second half. They held St. John's to just one-point while forcing seven turnovers. The Jays went 0-for-5 from the field and had no answers for the speed and awareness of the Lady Green. Bridget Landin had a fantastic steal and went coast-to-coast for the layup and it was all Ottoville after three, 50-12.

The style and pace of the game changed in the fourth quarter as the starters took a rest. St. John's showed more discipline handling the ball and stopped the turnovers. It all began to work for the Jays, but the deficit was insurmountable and time was not on their side.

As time expired, the gymnasium erupted with applause from both sides as the celebration began on the court for Kleman's 500th win.

Delphos St. Johns 4-2-6-20

L. Hays 0-0-3-3. Zuber 0-1-0-3. Will 0-1-0-3. H. Hays 0-0-0-0. Gaynier 2-0-1-5. Csukker 1-0-2-4. Bockey 0-0-0-0. Wrasman 1-0-0-2.

Ottoville 16-7-7-60

Kemper 2-0-0-4. Hanneman 2-0-0-4. B. Landin 5-1-6-19. Hoersten 1-0-0-2. Schlagbaum 3-0-1-7. Miller 1-0-0-2. K. Knippen 1-2-0-8. E. Landin 0-1-0-3. Hilvers 0-3-0-9. Hoersten 1-0-0-2. Geise 0-0-0-0. N. Knippen 0-0-0-0.