

April 1, 2019

Bengals stun Blue Devils

It's been a long time coming, with a couple of close games haunting the Bengals squad that was still in search of their first win of the season. After Monday evening, the search was over, as they put a complete game together, stunning the Blue Devils with a 16-10 victory to seal their first win of the season and a trip to the championship.

It was an ominous start for the Bengals who quickly fell to a 6-0 deficit after Haley Geartz tallied a pair of baskets thanks to nice assists from Emily Desiderio and Penny Vester. Victoria Kowalewski splashed home a mid-range jumper and mid-way through the first quarter it appeared that the rout was on.

The Bengals who are no strangers to early deficits, did what they do best, and kept scratching, clawing and working hard to get back into the game. Emma Bush found teammate Adalyn Devonshire open, and Devonshire drained the basket to get the Bengals on the board. Ellie Fox got free under the basket and made a basket of her own, and just like that the Bengals were on the move.

Fox and Bush turned up the defensive pressure using their size and instincts to keep the Blue Devils off the scoreboard for the next two quarters. Grace and Ashlyn Gabel were flying all over the court hounding the opposing ball handlers, and Avery Devonshire came up with a pair of steals as the Bengals collectively held the Blue Devils offense in check. Meanwhile, the Bengals received an offensive spark from the hands of Madison Mascardo who calmly made three baskets while Emma Bush added a nice jumper to put the Bengals up 10-6 by the end of the third quarter.

The Blue Devils did their best to mount a comeback as Emily Desiderio recorded 5 steals, as did teammate Gabby Schmidt. Lilian Specht added 4 steals and Haley Geartz carried the offensive load scoring 4 of her team-high 8 points in the final quarter; however the Bengals used great ball movement to find open teammates, and create baskets as Mascardo, Bush and Fox finished the quarter with baskets to lift the Bengals to their first win of the season.

In the losing effort, Maddie Caron added 2 steals and 3 rebounds, while doing a great job of dribbling through defenders on her way to the basket. Madeline O'Sullivan provided a solid defensive presence and Geartz added 10 rebounds to go along with her 8 points. In the win, Jordynn Szczensiak had a career high 5 rebounds for the Bengals.