

Tigers hold league title hopes in their own hands after impressive win over Citrus Hill:

San Jacinto: 19-12-13-18=62 (11-6 Overall, 4-0 Mountain Pass League)

Citrus Hill: 03-07-11-15=36 (8-9 Overall, 2-2 Mountain Pass League)

San Jacinto, CA-

By: Derryl Trujillo

Inland Sports Senior Writer

One of the biggest worries coaches at any level face is an emotional letdown after a huge win. This was the worry facing San Jacinto High School coach Tiffany White after her Tigers needed overtime to defeat Hemet on Wednesday evening. However there was no sign of letdown from her young charges as the Tigers used a early 15-0 first quarter run covering 5:45 to take control en route to an 62-36 win over Citrus Hill on Friday evening. San Jacinto will either hold a one game lead over Tahquitz or be two games clear of four teams (Tahquitz, Citrus Hill, Beaumont, and Hemet) pending Friday's other results.

Defense led to offense early on for the Tigers who recorded three steals that they converted into fast break layups. Amaya Crouch had a steal which she converted into two of her five first quarter points with 6:51 left giving San Jacinto an early 2-0 lead. Aleghana Mejia got into the act with one at 6:26 left pushing their lead to 4-0. Jhesimae Artagame also had one at 3:24 left making it 12-0 Tigers. Citrus Hill did not record their first field goal until under two minutes left when Kimberly Xiong banked in a three pointer which made the Hawks deficit 15-3 at that point. Ashley Van Sanford (layup) & Artagame (floater) recorded baskets to finish the quarter with San Jacinto ahead 19-3.

Sydney Woodley got into the act recording four of her game high twenty four points in a forty second span first converting a layup then hitting a mid range elbow jumper making it 19-3 Tigers with 7:03 till intermission. Xiong hit her second three pointer with ninety seconds left in the half bringing Citrus Hill to a twenty one point deficit at 31-10 which would be the score at intermission.

Coming out of the half Citrus Hill was looking to make a quick dent in their massive deficit. However the Tigers had other ideas with five straight points out of halftime on a Artagame three pointer & Woodley layup stretching the San Jacinto lead to 36-10 with 7:10 left in third quarter play. Damaris Alvarado's three pointer a minute later made it 36-13 Tigers in front. With 5:40 remaining in the third quarter Xiong connected on another three pointer (her fourth) bringing the Hawks within twenty points at 36-16. Citrus Hill got the deficit down to 19 points at 40-21 with 2:35 left. However consecutive scores from Artagame closed the quarter and made San Jacinto's lead 44-21 after twenty four minutes. The Tigers lead never got smaller than 19 points in that final quarter.

Tigers coach Tiffany White spoke afterwards after the victory and said “Defense is always our focus and the girls are finally beginning to buy into that end of the floor and take pride there. I told the girls in our postgame that we've got a target now as this league's only undefeated team & every game is a big game because people are going to give us their best shots moving

Meanwhile her counterpart Hawks coach Mike Herring remarked after the loss “There's no excuse for coming out as flat as we did with what was on the line. Once we fell behind we just didn't have the mental toughness to pick ourselves up and make a game of it. We're going to learn from this and get better going forward.”

Tiger Notables:

Sydney Woodley>>24 points (Game High)

Jhesimae Artagame>>12 points

Aleghana Mejia>>10 points

Hawks Notables:

Kimberly Xiong>>16 points

Around the Corner:

San Jacinto @ Tahquitz 445pm Wednesday

Citrus Hill @ Beaumont 6pm Wednesday.