



Pocahontas' front court (from left): Donna Clark, 6 feet tall; Darla Henrichsen, 5-11, and Karen Johnson, 5-5.

Pocahontas Switch Brings More Points

By Jim Moackler
(Tribune Sports Writer)

POCAHONTAS, IA.—Charles Weatherwax has made his move with the Pocahontas girls basketball team, getting ready for the

tournament schedule opening in mid-February.

Weatherwax, who took Pocahontas to the state tournament in Des Moines last year and earlier directed three Blakesburg squads in the big show, expects this squad to make the grade, too.

"If these girls keep improving, they'll be as good as any team I've coached," he says.

Switches Forwards

He's switched two of his forwards to improve the offense, moving Donna Clark to the front and installing Darla Henrichsen in the post. The move paid off in more points, with Clark averaging about 24 and Henrichsen 20.

The offensive average has jumped to around 70.

Teaming with Clark, who is 6 feet, and Henrichsen, just an inch shorter, in the front court, is Karen Johnson, 5-5 sophomore who is averaging about 10.

"We're starting to roll now," says Weatherwax, whose girls have won 13 games and lost two—both to Albert City-Truesdale, by two points and one point.

Since the switch, Poca-

hontas has whipped Laurens, 65-32. The first time Pocahontas met Laurens, Poky won by a point, 39-38.

"The defensive average is coming down, too," says Weatherwax. The last four foes have averaged only 33 points, with Havelock-Plover being held to 29.

Pocahontas won the Pocahontas County tourney last week, whipping Palmer, 62-34, in the final.

Top Guard

The chief performer in the guard court is Georgie Ryan, who moved here from Rolfe two seasons ago.

She moves quickly. Annette Almquist, 5-10, is the rebounding leader in the defensive court. The other guard, in her first season as a starter, is Judy Steege, 5-9 sophomore.

Both Weatherwax and his players are optimistic about a third meeting with Albert City-Truesdale, which would be in the sectional final at Pocahontas.

Weatherwax believes his girls will be primed to avenge the losses should the two teams gain the championship round.



Pocahontas Champs

The Pocahontas girls won the Pocahontas girls county basketball title Friday night at Palmer by beating Palmer, 62-34 in the final. Pocahontas' girls are now 12-2 for the season and are ranked No. 11 in the state rankings. Front row, left to right, Judy Stegge, Anette Almquist and Georgie Ryan. Back row, Darla Henrichsen, Karen Johnson and Donna Clark. —Messenger Sportsphoto