

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL, BAY 39, FAIRVIEW 29

Defense sends Rockets over the top against Warriors

By **BRIAN LOVE**

It was a complete defensive effort shown by the Bay Rockets as they took a 39-29 victory over Great Lakes Conference rival Fairview Park.

And meanwhile, the offense started off pretty well, scoring 19 points in the first quarter.

"That's a college score," Fairview Coach Dave Murphy said. "We have to do a better job than that."

While scoring the 19 points, the Rockets used defense to create turnovers, resulting in fast-break layups. Bay Coach Lauren Heldt pointed to two sophomore guards, Megan Maybaum and Grace Manoloff as being keys to the defense. The pair guarded the two best offensive players. While Leila Discenza scored 11 points, Maybaum made the senior earn the points, while Manoloff kept Gabby Davenport scoreless from the middle of the first quarter

until the fourth quarter. Davenport finished with 9 points.

"We had some defensive assignments," Heldt said. "Megan and Grace were on their two best offensive players and made them work to score."

"We tried to free up our best shooter Gabby Davenport," Murphy said. "So we try to free her up as much as possible. She had a couple tonight. Those are our two best players, but we got to get more people involved offensively."

In jumping out to a 14-2 lead in the first quarter, the Rockets lost junior center Lucy Bisson due to foul trouble.

"Some of our skilled players got into foul trouble," Heldt said. "They had to make their way to the bench. A couple of the fouls were coming down on the shooter. You have to be smart about that."

Sister Ruthie Bisson took up some of the slack.

"We had to use everyone else's strengths

to our advantage when she was out," Ruthie said. "I knew I had to come through a little bit. Everyone stepped up and did what they had to do."

Lucy Bisson did return in the final quarter and led the Rockets in scoring with 11 points, followed by sister Ruthie with and Maddie Bigler, each with 8. Maybaum had 5 points, Sophie Sharpnack had 3 and Quinn O'Leary had 2 points.

For Fairview, Discenza's 11 led the way, followed by 9 by Davenport. Rebecca Carey had 6 points, Maddie Eckert had 2 and Elise Walters had 1 point.

Bay (5-10, 3-5 in the GLC) plays host at 7:30 p.m. today against North Olmsted before traveling to Elyria Catholic on Monday.

Fairview (3-9, 0-8) plays at 6:30 today against Rocky River and then plays host to Westlake at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Contact sports at sports@westlifeneews.com or 440-871-5797.