Edison's Entertainment Complex Female Athlete Of The Month For Tigers: Kennedy Gieseking Is Key Player For Tigers Girls Basketball Team

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TIGERS
BASKETBALL



EDWARDSVILLE - Kennedy Gieseking is a four-year senior player for the Edwardsville High girls basketball team and was a major contributor to the Tigers' 60-54 overtime win over Pleasant Plains on Nov. 19, as she scored 13 points in the come-from-behind win over the Cardinals, and was also a major catalyst in a 9-2 run that helped give the Tigers the lead late in the game.

In the opening three games of the season, Gieseking has scored a total of 37 points, with 19 rebounds, seven assists, and seven steals in the Tigers' 1-2 start. In a postgame interview that followed the win over Pleasant Plains, she agreed that is was a great feeling to get the first win of the season after a tough season-opening loss to Calhoun 67-60 on Nov. 16.

Kennedy is an Edison's Entertainment Center Female Athlete Of The Month for the Tigers.

"Yeah, it's great," Gieseking said. "I'm really so proud of our team for really coming out with that win. We weren't really leading in that game much, but at the end, we really did come out and win."

The Tigers went on their 9-2 run late to take a 45-40 lead before the Cardinals stormed back and took the lead, only to see Kaylee Hauschild tie the game at the buzzer 50-50 on a clutch shot, then took control in the overtime, outscoring Pleasant Plains 10-4 to take the win.

"I was feeling great," Gieseking said. "I wouldn't have wanted anybody else to take that shot, honestly. I was like, if I wanted anyone to take it, I hope Kaylee takes it, because I know she's going to make it. And she did. I'm so proud of her for that."

The preseason practice sessions went very well for the Tigers, where the players developed their bonds and chemistry with each other, and Gieseking feels that it will be a key factor in the success of the team this season.

"It's pretty good," Gieseking said. "We do a lot of teaching, and we do a lot of running through things. We do a lot of scrimmaging just like live stuff, to be able to work on the things we need to work on."

The Southwestern Conference season begins for Edwardsville this coming week, and it's something she's looking forward to.

"Yes, it is," Gieseking said. "I'm ready to compete against our conference. Granite City, Triad, and Mascoutah are joining, and I'm ready to see some new competition this year."

The expansion of the SWC will make things much more interesting this season, and Gieseking is ready for it to start.

"It definitely will," Gieseking said. "It adds new competition, it adds new variety to our competition, and I'm really excited to play them."

Her goals and ambitions for the season are very much team-oriented.

"I'm really hoping to be just a great teammate," Gieseking said, "lead by example. I'm really hoping to be able to look for my teammates, and hoping they look for me, too, and I'm hoping to get a couple of wins this year."