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NORCAL BASKETBALL: Berkeley 75, Oak Ridge 49

By **Stephanie Hammon**
Contra Costa Times
 Posted: 03/10/2011 10:14:43 PM PST

Top-seed Berkeley began its Northern California Division I playoff run by enacting a little revenge.

In a rematch of last season's NorCal final between the Yellowjackets (29-1) and defending state champion Oak Ridge-El Dorado Hills (21-11), it was the Trojans who had their season come to an end on Thursday night in Berkeley.

Though several impact players from that state champion Oak Ridge team have graduated, the significance of the NorCal quarterfinal win was not lost on the Yellowjackets.

"We were talking about it in the locker room that this was the team that got us out," said Berkeley's Brittany Boyd, who loaded the stat sheet with 20 points, 10 steals, nine rebounds and seven assists. "And I was remembering me fouling out and how that felt, so I had to come back and prove a point this game."

Behind Boyd, the Cal-bound point guard, the Yellowjackets got off to a hot start on offense and played high-intensity defense to take a 44-14 lead just 11 minutes into the game.

In that span, Boyd scored several fastbreak layups off steals and played the role of distributor, getting Chairese Culberson, Ashley Webster and Khristina Hunter involved inside. Elisha Davis also caught fire from beyond the arc, sinking three 3's, including two from NBA range.

But Berkeley hit a rough patch midway through the second quarter that extended throughout the third period. Berkeley's offense stalled and Oak Ridge's shooters got hot, closing in to 57-43 with 6:40 left in the game.

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That was as close as the Trojans got as the Yellowjackets then turned up the pressure and went on a 17-6 run to close the game.

"It was very frustrating because you never know what's going to happen, but I'm glad that the team pulled it together. That's all that counts," said Boyd.

Culberson added 23 points and 10 rebounds for Berkeley, and Davis had 17 points and five steals.

Katie Hoisington led Oak Ridge with 14 points.

The victory advances Berkeley to Saturday's NorCal semifinals. They will host Lincoln-Stockton at 7 p.m.

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