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[Lockport wins big NFL girls hoops matchup with Grand Island](#)

By John D'Onofrio [Niagara Gazette](#)

LOCKPORT — The spotlight was rightfully on Grand Island's Kallie Banker on Tuesday night, but Lockport's Patti Burdick and her Lady Lions teammates stole the show — and the 2011-12 Niagara Frontier League girls basketball standings just got a whole lot more interesting.

Burdick played an outstanding defensive game against the league's best player, Banker, then drained four straight free-throws in the closing moments of the deciding fourth quarter as Lockport beat previously-unbeaten Grand Island, 44-39.

With the win, head coach Bill Shaw's Lady Lions improved to 6-1 in the NFL and 7-2 overall. Head coach Jenepher Banker's Lady Vikings dropped to 6-1 in the league.

Kenmore West's 59-30 win over visiting Kenmore East on Tuesday sets up a three-way tie for first in the NFL and sets the stage for Friday's big game in Lockport between the visiting Lady Blue Devils (6-1 NFL) and the Lady Lions.

"Patti had a huge defensive game for us, as did Maggie Glenn," Shaw said. "I thought we did a good job of shutting them down."

Banker's daughter, senior all-everything point guard Kallie, entered the game needing just 19 points to become her school's all-time scorer. But Burdick was relentless throughout, fighting through screens, to contain the athletic five-year starter, excellent ball handler and deadly shooter, "holding" her to just four points in the first half and 11 overall.

At the other end, Burdick had just enough offense, banking an outside jumper to open the scoring as LHS went on to lead 9-8 after one, then drained a clutch three-pointer just before halftime to give the hosts a 19-18 lead at intermission.

After another even third quarter and the teams tied 29-29 heading to the final eight minutes, Burdick closed the show, after GI was forced to foul, with four straight free-throws in the game's final 15.4 seconds.

"All I kept thinking about was Kallie Banker and that shot she made last year to beat us," Burdick said. "We wanted this bad. They're our rival and Kallie is an amazing player and unbelievably tough to guard."

Shaw said the ball was in the right hands at the charity stripe with the game on the line.

“Patti’s an excellent free-throw shooter, as is Marisa Guyton. We would have been happy to see either one of those two on the line like that. This was a big win for us and puts us right where we want to be.”

Lockport senior center Emma Sobieraski (six rebounds) led her team with 15 points and was also cool down the stretch, going 2-for-2 from the charity stripe in the fourth. Guyton (seven rebounds, 3 steals, 4 assists) had 11 points, Burdick nine and sophomore forward Sarah Franco added seven.

Junior center Cassie Oursler canned a game-high 18 points for the Lady Vikings, adding 10 boards and two blocks. Senior Megan Karpie added six points.

“I thought we played hard, but they just made more of their shots,” said Oursler, who drained six freethrows in the contest with a trademark, high-arc shot. “We needed to step up a little bit more. We’re a different team. We’re going to need to work harder and next time, take it to them.”

The Lady Vikings swept Lockport last year en route to winning the NFL title. They will meet again on Valentine’s Day, on Grand Island.

NOTES — Banker’s 11 points gives her 1,511 in her career. She now needs just eight points to surpass Carlin Hartman’s (1988-90) all time Lady Vikings career leader of 1,518 points. Carlin, former Tulane star and 1,000-point scorer, is the associate head coach at Columbia University.