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[Grand Island girls repeat as sectional champions](#)

By Doug Smith Niagara Gazette

SANBORN — Forgotten Viking Megan Karpie gave Pioneer something to remember her by Tuesday night.

While fouls and double teams diverted her more publicized mates, Karpie played the half of her life as Grand Island powered past the Panthers, 56-38, for its second consecutive Section VI Class A title.

With 6-for-8 shooting and an assist besides, Karpie launched the Blue & White to a 19-4 lead, then helped hold the fort when Kallie Banker, Cassie Oursler and Kassie Bennett all took seats with two early fouls.

“We just weren’t moving our feet right,” said both Kallie Banker and Coach Jenepher Banker, interviewed separately on opposite sides of the Niagara County Community College press room. Pioneer scored the first half’s last six points, cutting the Isle advantage to 25-18 at halftime.

The regulars restored order in the third, leading mostly in double digits, even though the Panthers located their shooting eye. Jacque Law and Shannon Rogers lobbed consecutive threes from practically out of the lobby. Grace Olzewski’s two free throws helped the Vikings maintain momentum as the fourth began.

Then, with 3:15 remaining, Banker zipped a B-mail to Stephanie Knight, with a copy to Oursler. And when Oursler canned two free throws for a 52-36 lead, over in the Pioneer section, painted Panthers put their shirts back on.

Except for the absence of the false fire alarm, the game bore many similarities to last year’s pairing of the same two teams. As then, Grand Island rolled to an enormous lead as Pioneer missed 17 consecutive shots from the floor.

On a 14-point run from 5-4, Karpie scored, then Banker, then Knight on a pass from Banker, Banker on a remarkable press-break, Bennett on a follow, Karpie from the side on a Banker feed and, finally, Karpie on a pass from Steph Senn.

“Karpie really stepped up,” said Coach Banker, “but she does. She did a nice job finishing for us. They (Pioneer) were running a three-high at Kallie, and in came Karpie.”

Winning the title two years in a row “feels good,” said Coach Banker, “but I’m not thrilled with the way we played. I’m just hard to please.”

TOSS UPS: Grand Island did not make a three-point shot, surviving on 22 deuces (out of 44 attempts). ... Pioneer’s Mikaela Connelly showed exceptional sportsmanship in giving Banker a hand after the two had almost clawed each other’s faces off in pursuit of a loose ball. ... Pioneer shot just 12 of 53 from the field... Banker had seven assists and most other Vikings one. ... Olean outrolled Southwestern 37-33 in the Class B final... Grand Island will take on Rochester East Saturday at noon in the Far West Regional at Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, 87 miles to the east, this stat from a guy whose daughter got married there.