

# Who had the top prep basketball performances of the week?

[Kevin Schmit](#)



Montini's Nikki Kerstein breaks through the double-team defense of Neuqua Valley's Taylor Dobry and Quinn Segal, right, in a girls basketball game earlier this season in Lombard. *John Starks/jstarks@dailyherald.com*

Not so fast, playoff basketball.

Even though the pairings for the IHSA girls tournament were released last week — and the boys pairings soon will follow — we've still got unfinished business in the regular season.

This edition of the High Five looks at the top prep basketball performances from last week.

### **5. Ashley Mahlum, Barrington**

After Barrington dropped a 47-42 Mid-Suburban West game to Conant earlier in the season, Mahlum led last week's payback game, a 40-30 victory.

The 5-foot-11 senior forward, who recently committed to Illinois Wesleyan University, poured in a career-high 26 points against the Cougars. She got the Fillies off to a great start by knocking down a pair of first-half 3-pointers and tallying her team's first 8 points of the second quarter.

Mahlum added 6 rebounds and 2 steals in the win.

### **4. David Taiwo, Neuqua Valley**

While freshman Cole Kelly continues to do his thing, nearly notching a triple double in last week's 94-64 nonconference win over Yorkville Christian, Taiwo dazzled his way to a career-high performance.

The 6-foot-2 guard scored a game-high 30 points, including 16 second-quarter points, as the Wildcats quickly built a double-digit lead. Taiwo added 4 rebounds and 4 assists.

### **3. Ian Miletic, Rolling Meadows**

Miletic scored 31 points as the Mustangs sealed a fifth straight MSL East championship with a 63-57 victory over Hersey.

The 6-foot-7 senior guard, committed to Marquette, added 10 rebounds while racing the Mustangs to a strong start with 15 first-quarter points including three 3-pointers. Miletic scored 7 points during a 9-0 third-quarter run to extend the Mustangs' lead to double-digits.

Miletic added a team-high 15 points the next night in a 48-36 loss to Lake Forest.

## **2. Hudson Kirby, Geneva**

The Vikings earned a season sweep of DuKane Conference rival Batavia for the first time since the 2018-19 season with a 68-44 victory over the Bulldogs.

After scoring a team-high 18 points in the first meeting, Kirby tallied a game-high 31 points in last week's rematch to keep Geneva unbeaten in the DuKane.

The 6-foot-6 senior forward, who will play his college ball at UW-Parkside, came through with the game-winning bucket three nights earlier. Kirby took a long pass from teammate Gabe Jensen and one-touched a layup as time expired to give Geneva a 52-50 overtime victory at Glenbard North.

## **1. Nikki Kerstein, Montini**

A slew of area players this season hit the 1,000-point milestone for their prep career. But how many reach 2,000?

We have one in Lombard. Kerstein, a 5-foot-8 senior point guard committed to Missouri, surpassed the lofty mark with 22 points in a 54-20 victory over De La Salle in the opening round of the GCAC tournament.

The four-year starter also scored 23 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, had 5

steals and blocked a shot in the Broncos' 58-44 victory over Mother McAuley.