

GIRLS 3A STATE TITLE GAME



PHOTOS BY DARRYL WEBB / SPECIAL FOR THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR
Sabino players celebrate their win over Page during their Class 3A championship game at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Saturday. The top-seeded Sabercats won 42-35.

Doty, Dorroh lead Sabercats to first state title in 30 years

By Dana Scott
ARIZONA REPUBLIC

PHOENIX — Sabino beat Page, 42-35, in the Class 3A girls basketball state championship at Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Saturday.

The top-seeded Sabercats (28-4) completed its season on a 17-game win streak and won its first state title since 1990.

It was redemption for Sabino after the Arizona Interscholastic Association called for a forfeiture of its run to the 3A semifinals one year ago, citing a “prior contact” recruitment violation of a former transfer player on its roster, according to Sabino assistant coach Jeremy Daniels.

Page (25-6) was the two-time defending champion and No. 2 seed in the 3A tournament. The Sand Devils had a 12-game win streak heading into the title game.

Sabino was led by junior point guard Kamryn Doty and junior forward Kiya Dorroh. Doty and Dorroh had game-highs of 15 points and 15 rebounds, respectively.

Page junior center Torrance Begay led the Sand Devils with team-highs in points (12) and rebounds (6).

It was a tight game from the



Sabino's Kamryn Doty gets an armful from Page's Miquedah Taliman during the title game Saturday. Doty had 15 points as the Sabercats kept Page from a three-peat with the 42-35 win in Phoenix.

start.

Sabino and Page traded one-point leads to end the first three quarters, (8-7, Sabino in the first;

18-17, Page in the second; 27-26, Sabino, in the third).

The final three minutes of the game were the most suspenseful



Sabino's Lauryn Manion puts up a shot against Page's Torrance Begay. The Sabercats finish the year at 28-4 and on a 17-game winning streak in capturing their first state championship since 1990.

of the game.

As Sabino was ahead 33-30, Dorroh tried to milk the clock near halfcourt with 1:22 remaining, but she was called for a five-second dribbling violation.

Page was later called for a critical five-second violation after it failed to inbound the ball in time under its own basket with 57 seconds left.

After Dorroh was fouled, she

was sent to the free throw line as the Sabercats were in the double bonus.

She hit both free throws to put Sabino up, 35-30.

On Page's following possession, Torrance Begay grabbed a rebound and scored a putback under the hoop.

Sabino's Ella Berg, Doty and Dorroh hit several free throws to seal the victory.

BOYS 3A STATE TITLE GAME

Cold-shooting Sabino falls to ALA in championship game

By Richard Obert
ARIZONA REPUBLIC

PHOENIX — Queen Creek American Leadership Academy had a goal once the calendar year flipped to a new decade: Don't lose a game.

The Patriots moved to 20-0 in 2020, with 6-foot-7 guard Devon Brooke igniting the offense and 6-9 center Dyson Lighthall clamping it down defensively late in a 54-42 victory over Sabino in Saturday night's Class 3A state title game at Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

It was the first time ALA-QC reached the state final in basketball, as it followed the football team to claim the 3A boys basketball state championship, as students came out in force to support them.

The school's football team captured the 3A state title in the fall. “Defense is what won us the



PATRICK BREEN / ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Queen Creek American Leadership Academy players celebrate their 54-42 win over Sabino in the state title game Saturday night in Phoenix.

game,” said Lighthall, a 6-foot-9 senior who didn't make a field goal in eight tries, but made eight free throws, grabbed 13 rebounds

and blocked three shots to go with three steals.

“Twenty-game win streak. We haven't lost in 2020. That's amaz-

ing basketball right there. I can't say anything more.”

ALA-QC (26-7) took its lumps early, losing five of its first six games, including losses to 6A playoff teams Chandler Hamilton and Gilbert Highland.

“The kids really bought into what we were trying to accomplish,” coach Ryan McCurdy said. “We challenged them early on. We struggled a little bit.

“But we stayed with it and the kids got it done.”

McCurdy felt the turning point came after the Christmas tournament, where the Patriots lost to 6A semifinalist Chandler and host Gilbert Williams Field.

They talked about those losses, and figured it out. They relied on their size with Lighthall and Brooke, who led the Patriots on Saturday with 17 points, including 3 of 9 3-pointers.

“We got on a winning streak

and didn't look back,” Brooke said. “We had faith. Faith over fear.”

It started with defense and guard Ben Strong, who held Cesar Saenz to seven points, forcing seven turnovers. Saenz, Sabino's top player, made 3 of 10 shots and only 1 of 5 3-pointers.

Sabino, which upset Surprise Paradise Honors in the semifinal and got past No. 1-seed Page by three points in the semifinals, shot only 35.4 percent in the game — including 8 of 28 3-pointers.

“If you hold them to 42, you're going to win that game,” Brooke said.

Tyler Holmes had 14 points and four assists for the Patriots, who won despite making only 29.5 percent of their field goals.

They forced Sabino into 17 turnovers and outrebounded the Sabercats 39-27.

“That was our strength, our size,” McCurdy said.