

Explorers' defense takes its toll on Shells, Roxana falls at home 63-23

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ROXANA – The Roxana Shells had trouble keeping the energy alive against the **Marquette Catholic Explorers** Friday night.

After breaking out early with some big shots, Marquette built a large cushion for their team and took their time keeping an eye on their defense. Ultimately, the Explorers defeated the Shells 63-23.

“It’s hard to play with energy when you’re not playing so well on the offensive end,” **Roxana head coach Mark Briggs** said. “Marquette is so good defensively. We knew that would be tough coming into it. They have a lot of weapons.”

Those weapons, including **Sammy Green, Reagan Snider and Nick Hemann**, put pressure on Roxana’s **Zach Golenor**, suppressing his scoring over the course of the game.

“I thought we defended very well and we played hard” **Marquette coach Steve Medford** said. “The highest compliment you can get is when you walk out into that court and see your kids play like that. They get after it and it’s a good effort from them.”

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, Marquette Catholic, who are seeded second only to Pickneyville in their 2A sub-sectional, will face off against the winner of Monday night's game between Dupo and Sparta.

Roxana will compete in the 3A sub-sectional along with Civic Memorial, Jersey, Triad, Columbia, Freeburg and Waterloo. Brackets and game schedules will be announced around 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17.



