

# Blistering third-quarter blitz lifts Linden Hall past Columbia girls in nonleague clash



• [JEFF REINHART | Sports Writer](#)



Linden Hall's girls' basketball team is in the midst of a really nice run.

Two years ago the Lions went to the District Three Class 1A semifinals, and last winter Linden Hall advanced to the D3-1A title game. The Lions fell to Lebanon Catholic both times.

With a rock-solid nucleus returning from those Final Four clubs, Linden Hall has the weapons — and the motivation — to finally clear the district hurdle and win gold, this time up in Class 2A, where the Lions are situated for the next two-year cycle.

Linden Hall continued its hot start, and continued its ascent to the top of the district rankings, with a nonleague win over a Lancaster-Lebanon League club on Monday night.

Marta Celebic popped in 14 points, Jumoke Adaramoye had 13 points, six rebounds and three blocked shots, and the Lions used a piping-hot 20-0 third-quarter spree on the way to a 67-32 victory over Columbia in Lititz.

“We’re excited,” said Linden Hall coach Bob Kauffman, whose team improved to 8-2. “We knew we could play in Class 2A, just like we did in 1A. So we put together a really tough schedule so we could be battle-tested and battle-hardened for when things really, really matter.”

Celebic, a Belgrade, Serbia native, kickstarted the Lions’ offense on Monday with three first-quarter buckets in a row, including a transition layup, which put Linden Hall ahead 12-3. But Columbia closed to within 12-8 when freshman MacKenzie Burke beat the first-quarter horn with a top-of-the-key 3-pointer.



Burke 3 at horn for Columbia, but Linden Hall has 12-8 lead after Q1 [#LLsports](#) [#PaGirlsHoops](#)

Burke hit another trey and Morgan Bigler, another freshman, had a lane bucket to keep the Crimson Tide in it. But Linden Hall grabbed a 24-18 lead at the break thanks to a pair of buckets each from Celebic and Mercy Ademusayo, a 6-5 sophomore.

Linden Hall found another gear in the third quarter, forcing nine turnovers, feasting in transition, and using a punishing 20-0 run to grab a 44-18 lead. Adaramoye, a 6-foot senior, keyed the blitz with two layups, a stick-back off an offensive board, a jumper and a deep 3-pointer, which gave the Lions a 29-18 lead.

“In the third we came out and played together as a team,” Celebic said. “We came out of the locker room with the mindset that we were going to play better as a team than we did in the first half. We supported each other, did play better, and it turned out great.”

Later in the third, Celebic had another run-out layup, Anna Smale and Tahri Phillips had two buckets apiece, and Drexel recruit Hetta Saatman hit a wing 3-pointer and then she beat the third-quarter buzzer with a bucket to ice Linden Hall’s 27-4 third-quarter blitz, and the Lions were large and in charge, up 51-22.

“We talked about ratcheting up the defense,” Kauffman said. “We had to go after the passing lanes and put more pressure on them.”

It worked. Columbia, which dipped to 4-7, turned the ball over 24 times in all, as the Tide is making due with a roster of seven total players.