

MIAA GIRLS' BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

No. 15 Franklin leans on Liz Newman to post a Division 1 first-round victory over No. 18 Newton South

By **Ryan Martin** Globe Correspondent, Updated March 2, 2023, 11:12 p.m.

Neither side could sustain a first-half lead, but the Franklin girls' basketball team leaned on its dominant frontcourt play in the final 16 minutes of a 62-50 victory over Newton South in the first round of the MIAA Division 1 tournament in Franklin.

Liz Newman, a senior 6-foot center, scored 10 of her career-high 19 points in a decisive third quarter for the 15th-seeded Panthers (17-4).

"I saw the middle wide open," Newman said. "We were able to find their weakness inside and attack."

Newman scored the first seven points out of halftime for the hosts, nailing a 3-pointer from the left corner and attacking the paint.

"Her height advantage is a huge advantage," said Franklin coach John Leighton. "She's a cerebral kid when it comes to the game, and offensively, she's willing to take what's there."

Playing from behind, No. 18 Newton South (11-10) received contributions from senior captains Maddy Genser (19 points) and Tatum Murray (18).

"At some point, the size wore us down," said Newton South coach Joe Rodgers. "They were just bigger and stronger than us . . . If we were going to hang against a team like that, we needed to execute better."