

## Sherwood girls basketball 'not what it used to be'

### Balance helps Warriors oust Watkins Mill, earn third victory

by Dan Greenberg | Staff Writer

The Sherwood girls basketball team has no one player who can take over a game. This is what makes them dangerous.

Three Warriors scored double figures in a heart-stopping, 49-44 home win over Watkins Mill Friday. Now at 3-1, they are looking to change the culture in Sandy Spring; the team has not finished above .500 in the 21st century.

"We want to show people that Sherwood basketball is not what it used to be," center Katie Ruth said. "We've been down ... We can be really good, most definitely."

Ruth is part of the reason why, as are fellow rising juniors Meghan McDonald and Amanda Harrington. All played roles in a game the Warriors never trailed.

Ruth and McDonald finished with double-doubles. The former hit her first four shots, totaling 11 points and 10 rebounds overall. The latter was even more dominant inside with 13 and 16, including a huge offensive board and putback in the final two minutes, stretching her team's lead to five.

After the Wolverines tied the game with a 9-0 run in the third quarter, Harrington hit a long wing jumper to give Sherwood a lead it would not lose again.

Conversely, the Wolverines (2-2) too often relied on guard Jasmine McRoy to get buckets. While forwards Josepha Mbouma and Janessa Fauntroy (17 points, 20 rebounds combined) did offer support, the 2010 All-Gazette first teamer kept the game close. McRoy finished with a triple-double (21 points, 11 rebounds, 10 steals), and her three from the right corner set up a wild finish.

With the Warriors ahead, 47-44, Watkins Mill point guard Jartu Toweh stole an inbounds pass with just over 20 seconds remaining. She missed badly on a three-point attempt, but McRoy scrapped away the rebound and eventually got the ball in her sweet spot: From the same spot she hit her shot seconds earlier, McRoy took another for the tie, but it only went halfway down before rimming out.

Sherwood senior Kendall Thomas (team-high 15 points) grabbed the rebound and hit two free throws, effectively ending the game.

"We do need [one more shooter], but we have 18, 19 more games to get there," Watkins Mill coach Ivan Hicks said. "And we will. Game 15, that's when we want to hit our stride."

Meanwhile, with experienced seniors Thomas and Abby Iacangelo, and the already-proven junior class, the Warriors may not have to wait.