

District basketball notebook: WMST senior Sade Fykes turns defense into offense; SEED speeds into playoffs

By [Eric Goldwein](#) February 13



Senior guard Sade Fykes (1, with ball) uses her quick hands and feet generate steals and transition baskets for upstart Washington Math and Science. (Photo by Lonnie Williams)

For Sade Fykes, the best offense is a good defense.

The [Washington Math and Science](#) senior feasts on ballhandlers, hounding them until they cough up the ball, and then taking it in solo for a layup.

Fykes gets about 10 steals per game, sometimes more, Coach Jackie Tucker said. That, more than

anything else, is how the 5-foot-6 combo guard continues posting historic scoring numbers at the school, where she's averaging 30.5 points this winter.

"They're just fast points," Fykes said. "You don't have to work hard for them because it's fast breaks."

A two-time player of the year for the Public Charter School Athletic Association Red Division, Fykes is leading WMST (11-5) on both ends of the court. She scored 39 in Thursday's 54-37 win over [Maya Angelou](#) and posted a season-high 49 earlier this season.

[\[Washington Math and Science roster, schedule, results and statistics\]](#)

Fykes began playing basketball in middle school, developing her defensive and scoring prowess in a recreation league. She has since become a basketball junkie, spending entire days outside playing pickup, staying after games and practices to watch the boys' team play, or studying clips of professional players such as Cleveland Cavaliers star Kyrie Irving.

"She really has a passion for the game," Tucker said. "She wants to win, and she has the will to win."

Fykes has led the team on the perimeter, while junior Tori Walker has emerged as a dominant interior presence, collecting 20 rebounds in the win over Maya Angelou. That inside-outside presence has helped WMST remain unbeaten on the court

this winter; all five losses have been forfeits due to lack of players, according to Tucker.

“We just have the mind-set to go out on the court and play hard to be successful,” Walker said.

Fykes said she wants to continue playing in college but is focused on ending her senior season on a high note.

“We’re gonna win a championship and we’re gonna bring home a trophy [WMST] has never seen before,” Fykes said.