

## BASKETBALL WILDCATS FINISH 2016 WITH A 90-64 WIN OVER NEW HAVEN

The Montgomery County R-2 Basketball Wildcats played their last game before the Christmas Break on December 19, as they hosted New Haven in a non-conference game and came away with a 90-64 win. The Jr. Varsity Wildcats lost their game by the score of 52-36.

With this win, the Varsity Wildcats finish the 2016 part of the season with an overall record of 6 wins and 1 loss. Their Eastern Missouri (EMO) Conference record is 1-0. The Jr. Varsity record is 2-2.

### NEW HAVEN GAME

The action and scoring of the first quarter in this game was definitely "back and forth", as the teams exchanged scoring runs and there were 4 lead changes in the last 3 minutes of the quarter. Montgomery County started the game with a 4-0 run, but New Haven responded with a 4-0 run of its own to tie the game at 4-4 with 5:20 left in the quarter.

The Wildcats then scored 5 points in the next minute of play to take a 9-4 lead, only to have NH come back with a 6-0 run over the next 1½ minutes to take a 10-9 lead with 2:43 left in the quarter. After trading baskets (causing 2 more lead changes in the next minute), Montgomery County took the lead at 13-12 (4<sup>th</sup> lead change) with 1:35 left in the quarter.

Each team made 2 baskets over the rest of the quarter, and the Wildcats led NH 17-16 at the end of the quarter. 6 Wildcats scored at least 2 points in the quarter, with Chase Parrish and Chris Harrison leading the way with 4 points each.

New Haven made the first basket of the second quarter to retake the lead (5<sup>th</sup> lead change) at 18-17, only to have Montgomery County go on a 5-0 scoring run to take the lead for good at 22-18 (6<sup>th</sup> lead change in 4 minutes) with 7:07 left in the half. Over the next 4 minutes, the Wildcats outscored NH 15-8 to extend their lead to 37-26 with 3:18 left in the half.

NH responded with a 4-0 scoring run to cut the Wildcats lead to 37-30 with 1:58 left in the half, but Montgomery County ended the half with a 6-0 scoring run to take a 43-30 lead into the halftime. Again, 6 Wildcats scored at least 1 point in this quarter, with Harrison, Aubrey Nelson and Corey Kroll leading the way with 7 points, 6 points, and 5 points, respectively.

The teams literally exchanged possessions in which they scored through the first 4 minutes of the first half. However, Montgomery County made four 3-pointers during that time, while NH had two possessions in which they made only 1 free throw. As a result, the Wildcats held a 59-40 lead half way through the quarter.

New Haven went on a 5-0 scoring run over the next 2 minutes to cut Montgomery County's lead to 59-45. The Wildcats then outscored NH 5-4 over the rest of the quarter to lead NH 64-49 going into the final quarter. Tim Hall led the scoring for the Wildcats with 7 points, followed by Parrish with 6 points.

Montgomery County put the game away in the first 3 minutes of the fourth quarter by outscoring NH 14-4 to take a 78-53 lead with 4:50 left in the game. NH then outscored the Wildcats 11-7 over the next 3 minutes to make the score 85-64. However, the Wildcats finished the game with a 5-0 scoring run and came away with the 90-64 win. Parrish led the Wildcats in scoring in this quarter with 7 points, followed by Harrison and Kroll with 5 points each.

Parrish and Harrison led the Wildcats in scoring with 20 points each (Parrish 2 field goals/FGs, 5 3-pointers, 1 of 2 free throws/FTs; Harrison 7 FGs, 1 3-pointer, 3 of 4 FTs). They were followed in the scoring by Nelson with 15 points (5 3-pointers); Kroll with 13 points (3 FGs, 2 3-pointers, 1 of 2 FTs); Hall with 9 points (3 FGs, 1 3-pointer); Skyler Hutcheson with 6 points (3 FGs); John Shaw with 4 points (2 FGs); Cole Curry with 2 points (2 of 2 FTs); and Logan Henke with 1 point (1 of 2 FTs). Brendan Their also played in the game, but did not score.

Other statistics for this game were as follows:

Rebounds: Kroll and Harrison 7 each; Hutcheson 5; Parrish and Shaw 3 each; Hall, Henke and Nelson 2 each; and Curry 1

Assists: Nelson 6; Hall 5; Parrish, Henke, Harrison, Hutcheson and Shaw 1 each

Steals: Shaw and Curry 2 each; Parrish, Henke and Nelson 1 each

### THIS WEEK'S GAMES

The Wildcats will start 2017 with 2 games this week. On Tuesday, January 3, they will play at Centralia in a non-conference game. Then on Friday, January 6, they will host North Callaway in an Eastern Missouri (EMO) Conference game. On both nights the Jr. Varsity game will be played first, starting at 6:00, followed by the Varsity game at 7:30.

Next week, January 9-14, the Varsity Wildcats will play 3 games in the South Callaway Tournament. Information on this tournament should also be in this week's issue of the Standard.

"Congratulations" on your great start this season. "Best Wishes" to you in the 2 games you play this week, and then in the South Callaway Tournament next week. Go Wildcats!