

## BASKETBALL LADY WILDCATS WIN TROPHY IN R-2 TOURNEY FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1998

For the last 18 years, the Montgomery County R-2 Lady Wildcats Basketball teams have been kind hosts of their tournament, having not won a trophy since 1998 (that Lady Wildcats' team won the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Trophy). That changed this past Friday, December 2, as the "young" Lady Wildcats came from behind, and then held on to win the Consolation/5<sup>th</sup> Place Trophy by defeating Fulton 49-44.

We mention the "young" Lady Wildcats, as Montgomery County was playing without starting Junior post player Kayla Schmidt (out due to a possible concussion), and then lost Senior Macy Block in the second half of this game (knee injury). However, Sophomores Hannah Prior and Anna Henke stepped up to lead the Lady Wildcats to victory, along with the help of Seniors Lydia Bishop, and Jasmine Hensley, and Sophomore Paige Oden and Freshman Ashley Queathem (the latter two playing their first year of basketball at the Varsity level).

Earlier in the week, Montgomery County lost to New Haven 40-20 in its First Round Game on Monday, November 28, but bounced back to defeat Wellsville-Middletown 58-33 in the Consolation Semifinal Game on Wednesday, November 30. With these games, the Lady Wildcats have a record of 3 wins and 1 loss.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> PLACE GAME

Montgomery County did score the first basket of the game 30 seconds into the game, but the rest of the first quarter did not go well for the Lady Wildcats. Fulton outscored the Lady Wildcats 14-3 over the remaining 7½ minutes to take a 14-5 lead at the end of the quarter.

The first 2 minutes of the second quarter wasn't much better, as Fulton outscored Montgomery County 8-5 to take a 22-10 lead with 6 minutes left in the first half. It was at that point that the Lady Wildcats came storming back, as they began to find Prior open in the high post area (filling in at that spot for Schmidt) for several easy baskets, tightened up their defense, and proceeded to outscore Fulton 15-2 over the next 4½ minutes to take a 25-24 lead with 1:25 left in the half.

Prior ended up scoring 13 of the Lady Wildcats' 20 points in that come back. However, Fulton outscored Montgomery County 5-1 before the first half came to an end, to regain a 29-26 lead at halftime.

The third quarter started slowly, with each team making only 1 basket in the first 1:30 of the quarter to give Fulton a 31-28 lead with 6½ minutes left in the quarter. However, the Lady Wildcats found the "momentum" they had in the second quarter and proceeded to take over the rest of the third quarter, outscoring Fulton 12-4 to take a 40-35 lead heading into the final quarter. Henke led the way for Montgomery County by scoring 9 points in the quarter. Bishop added 3 points, and Block scored 2 points before injuring her knee.

Also, a defensive adjustment made by R-2 Coach Joe Basinger at halftime limited Fulton's offense, as Hensley guarded Fulton's leading scorer Dionne Vaughn (who scored 19 points in the first half) man-to-man, while the 4 other Lady Wildcats played a zone defense. This adjustment definitely worked, as Hensley held Vaughn to only 2 points in the third quarter and a total of 6 points in the second half.

The “tenseness” of the situation was apparent for both teams in the fourth quarter, as most of the players on both teams had not played in this type of game. Each team scored only 4 points through the first 4 minutes of the quarter, to give Montgomery County a 44-39 lead. Fulton then threatened to take the game away from Montgomery County by scoring 4 unanswered points to close the gap to 44-43 with 2:39 left in the game.

Once again Montgomery County’s defense tightened up, as the Lady Wildcats held Fulton to only 1 point the rest of the game. One of the keys to that was Oden (in the game after Block’s injury) pulling down some key defensive rebounds.

Meanwhile, Prior made a free throw with 2:24 left, to give Montgomery County a 45-43 lead. Henke then made a lay-up from the baseline with 1:18 left to give the Lady Wildcats a 47-43 lead. Finally, Prior put the game away with 2 free throws with 9 seconds left in the game to give the Lady Wildcats the 49-44 win. As was mentioned earlier in this report, this is the first time since 1998 that a Lady Wildcats’ team had won a trophy in the R-2 Tournament.

Henke led the Lady Wildcats in scoring with 21 points (5 field goals/FGs, 3 3-pointers, 2 of 2 free throws/FTs). She was followed by Prior with 18 points (6 FGs, 1 3-pointer, 3 of 7 FTs); Bishop with 8 points (3 FGs, 2 of 4 FTs), and Block with 2 points (1 FG). Hensley, Oden and Ashley Queathem also played in the game, but did not score. No other statistics were available when this report was written.

## WELLSVILLE GAME

In Wednesday’s Consolation Semifinal Game, Wellsville-Middletown got the upper hand early in the first game of the season between these two teams (they play each other again on December 16), as W-M jumped out to a 9-4 in the first 3½ minutes of the game. However, Prior and Schmidt finally got Montgomery County’s offense going with a combined 13 points (Hannah 7 and Kayla 6). As a result, the Lady Wildcats outscored W-M 15-1 through the rest of the quarter to take a 19-10 lead, and they never trailed in the game from that point.

Montgomery County outscored W-M 7-2 in the first 4½ minutes of the second quarter (with Bishop scoring 5 of the 7 points) to take a 26-12 lead with 3:30 left in the half. There was a lot of “up and down” action but very little scoring for the rest of the quarter, with Lady Wildcats only outscoring W-M 3-2 during that time to lead 30-14 at halftime.

In years past the third quarter has usually been a low-scoring one between these two teams, however, both teams combined for a total of 31 points in this third quarter. Bishop came through with 8 more points and Prior added 5 points in the third quarter, as the Lady Wildcats outscored W-M 18-13 to take a 48-27 lead into the final quarter.

The fourth quarter scoring was like the scoring in the second quarter, as Montgomery County outscored W-M 10-6. Henke and Prior each scored 4 points, as the Lady Wildcats came away with the 58-33 win and advanced to the Consolation Trophy Game on Friday.

6 players scored at least 2 points in this game, with 3 of them scoring in double figures. Bishop had the best “scoring” game of her Varsity career, as she led Montgomery County with 19 points (8 FGs, 3 of 4 FTs). She was followed by Prior with 16 points (7 FGs, 2 of 4 FTs); Schimdt with 10 points (5 FGs, 0 of 3 FTs), before she left the game with a head injury; Henke with 9 points 1 FG, 1 3-pointer, 4 of 7 FTs; and Block and Hensley with 2 points each (Block 2 of 2 FTs and Hensley 1 FG). Oden, and Cassie Sublette also played in the game, but did not score. No other statistics were available for this game when this report was written.

## NEW HAVEN GAME

Year in and year out the New Haven Lady Shamrocks are known for their excellent defense, and their First Round Game against Montgomery County on Monday was no different. NH's solid defense kept the Lady Wildcats scoreless in the first quarter, as the Lady Shamrocks gradually took a 14-0 lead by the end of the quarter.

The second quarter was only slightly better for Montgomery County, as the Lady Wildcats scored 5 points (Bishop 3 and Schmidt 2). However, NH added 12 more points to take a 26-5 lead at halftime.

Montgomery County finally found some offense in the third quarter, as the Lady Wildcats outscored NH 11-6 (Schmidt and Prior 4 points each, and Henke 3 points). This gave NH a 32-16 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Montgomery County scored the first 4 points of the last quarter, to cut NH's lead to 32-20. However, NH scored the last 8 points of the game to come away with the 40-20 win.

Schmidt and Henke led the Lady Wildcats in scoring with 6 points each (Schmidt 3 FGs, Henke 2 3-pointers). They were followed by Prior with 4 points (2 FGs); Bishop with 3 points (1 FG, 1 of 2 FTs), and Block with 1 point (1 of 2 FTs). Hensley, Oden and Ashley Queathem also played in the game, but did not score.

Other statistics for this game were as follows:

Rebounds – Bishop and Schmidt 5 each; Prior 2; and Hensley and Henke 1 each

Assists – Prior 3; and Henke 2

Steals – Hensley, Schmidt and Henke 1 each

Blocked Shots – Bishop and Schmidt 1 each

## THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Montgomery County has 2 non-conference games this week. On Monday, December 5, the Lady Wildcats hosted South Callaway. Then on Thursday, December 8, they will play at New Haven. The JV game will be played first, starting at 6:00, and the Varsity game should start around 7:30.

## UPCOMING GAMES

The Lady Wildcats play their first 3 Eastern Missouri (EMO) Conference games of the season in the remaining 1½ weeks before the Christmas Break. On Monday, December 12, they will host Silex, with the JV game starting at 6:00 and the Varsity game starting around 7:30.

On Thursday, December 15, the Jr. Varsity Girls and Jr. Varsity Boys are scheduled to host Wellsville-Middletown at MCHS. The Girls' game will start at 6:00, and the Boys' game will start around 7:30.

On Friday, December 16, the Varsity Lady Wildcats and Wildcats will play at Wellsville-Middletown High School. This is the annual "Pink Out Game", in which both schools have a fund raising effort to help the families of area people who have cancer. The Girls' game will start at 6:00, and the Boys' Game will start around 7:30.

Then on Tuesday, December 20, Montgomery County will host Wright City at MCHS. The JV game will start at 5:30 (instead of 6:00), and the Varsity game will start around 7:00 (instead of 7:30).

“Congratulations” to the Lady Wildcats for success in last week’s tournament. “Best Wishes” for your remaining 5 games before the Christmas Break. Go Lady Wildcats!