

R-2 BASKETBALL WILDCATS DEFEAT WINFIELD 83-72 IN 2016-17 SEASON OPENER

The Montgomery County R-2 Wildcats Basketball Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams started the 2016-17 season with convincing wins over Winfield last Tuesday, November 22. The Varsity team won its game 83-72, while the JV team won its game 51-34.

The Varsity Wildcats have a busy schedule this week (Nov.28-Dec.3), as they will play 3 games in the 46th Annual Montgomery County R-2 Tournament. The Jr. Varsity team does not play again until next Tuesday, December 6. More information on the tournament schedule, and next week's games is at the end of this report on the Varsity game.

Just like the Lady Wildcats' game against Winfield the previous night, the Wildcats never trailed in this game. Both teams did make a basket in the first minute of the game to make the score 2-2, but Montgomery County then went on a 5-0 scoring run over the next 1½ minutes to take a 7-2 lead.

Montgomery County then made 3 consecutive 3-point shots in a 50-second span to increase the Wildcats' lead to 18-7 with 3:05 left in the first quarter. The Wildcats went on to outscore Winfield 7-4 through the rest of the quarter to lead 25-11 at the end of the first quarter.

Winfield started the second quarter with a 6-2 scoring run to cut Montgomery County's lead to 27-17 with 6:10 left in the first half. However, the Wildcats outscored Winfield 10-4 over the next 2½ minutes to increase their lead to 37-21 with 3:40 left in the half.

Winfield countered that with a 6-3 scoring run in less than a minute, to close the gap to 40-27 with 2:54 left in the half. Montgomery County then came back and outscored Winfield 6-2 through the rest of the quarter, to lead 46-29 at halftime.

The "up and down the floor" and "back and forth" action continued in the third quarter. The teams played evenly through the first 4 minutes of the quarter, with Montgomery County outscoring Winfield 12-11 to make the score 58-38 with 3:44 left in the quarter. However, Winfield went on a 9-0 scoring run over the next 3 minutes to cut the Wildcats' lead to 58-47 with 50 seconds left in the quarter. Montgomery County then outscored Winfield 5-2 the rest of the way to lead Winfield 64-49 at the end of the quarter.

Montgomery County started the fourth quarter with a 6-0 scoring run, then followed a Winfield 3-pointer with an 11-4 scoring run to take an 81-56 lead with 3:56 left in the game. Winfield was able to rally some in the remaining time, outscoring Montgomery County 16-2, but it was "too little too late" and the Wildcats came away with the 83-72 win.

Montgomery County had 9 players score at least 2 points in this game. Chase Parrish led the Wildcats in scoring with 27 points (4 field goals/FGs, 6 3-pointers, 1 of 1 free throw/FTs). He was followed in the scoring by Aubrey Nelson with 15 points (4 FGs, 2 3-pointers, 1 of 2 FTs); Corey Kroll with 12 points (4 FGs, 4 of 4 FTs); Tim Hall with 11 points (2 FGs, 2 3-pointers 1 of 2 FTs); Johnny Shaw with 8 points (3 FGs, 2 of 2 FTs); Chris Harrison and Cole Curry with 3 points each (Harrison 1 3-pointer; Curry 1 FG, 1 of 2 FTs); and Logan Henke and Skyler Hutcheson with 2 points each (1 FG each). Colin Parrish and Carson Parker also played in the game, but did not score. No other statistics were available for this game when this report was written.

R-2 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

As was mentioned earlier in this report, the Varsity is playing in the 46th Annual R-2 Tournament this week. Montgomery County received the #1 seed for the tournament (8 teams in the tournament), which is the first time this has happened in several years.

Montgomery County plays Silex (#8 seed) on Tuesday night, at 7:00, at the High School gym. The Wildcats will play their second game of the tournament on Thursday night, against either Clopton (#4 seed) or Bowling Green (#5 seed) at 5:30 p.m. If they win on Tuesday, they will play at the High School gym. However, if they lose on Tuesday they will play at the Middle School gym.

The Wildcats will play a third game in the tournament either on Friday or Saturday. If they won their game on Tuesday, they will play on Saturday, either at 4:30 or 7:30 at the High School gym.

If they lost their game on Tuesday, they will play on Friday either at 5:30 or 7:00. The gym location for Friday's game will be determined by the results of Thursday's game.

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES

Montgomery County has 2 games next week. On Tuesday, December 6, the Wildcats will play at South Callaway in a non-conference game. Then on Friday, December 9, they will host Silex in an Eastern Missouri (EMO) Conference game. On both nights, the JV game will be played first, starting at 6:00. The Varsity game should start around 7:30.

"Congratulations" to the Wildcats on your successful start to the 2016-17 season. "Best Wishes" this week in the R-2 Tournament, and then in the two games you play next week. Go Wildcats!