



Big Sandy



Basketball

Supplement to the Polk County Enterprise and Tyler County Booster, March 2016
www.PolkEnterprise.com or www.TylerCountyBooster.com



The 2015-2016 season

The Big Sandy Wildcats have completed yet another exciting season of basketball. The group finished the season at 38-3 and was outscored only once by another 2A school. Perhaps the most important aspect of this year's success was the leadership that 10 seniors provided to an 11-player squad. Head coach Kevin Foster said that was just one of many things he will remember about the 2015-2016 season.

"I think the biggest thing is how

much they love the game, how coachable they were, how hard they played, and that they are a lot of fun to be around," Foster said. "Those are the biggest memories, besides the fact that we won a lot of games and had a lot of success. Their approach to things was always done the right way and that means a lot." The personality of the team seemed to take on that of its coach. They were not excitable nor did they do much celebrating. The team had the same look whether down by five points or up by 50. "Basketball is something that is



a long season and a grind," Foster said. "You're going to have some lows and some highs, but we talked about getting too down or too up, trying to stay as even keel as possible, as far as your approach to things. I think a lot of that is the group's personality. I may have had a small part in that, but that's just how they were." The coach said he knew from the first time he saw this collection of talent in junior high that they were capable of accomplishing much. "You get them in sixth grade here once our season is over and we start working with them," Foster said. "You always know that there's poten-

tial there. I thought they definitely had the potential to be a special group and a group that could make it to a final four or state tournament. Of course, a lot can happen between sixth grade and their senior year. Sometimes you lose some kids along the way. I knew if this group stayed together, they had a chance to do some special things." And there were more than a few special things they did while wearing the Wildcat uniform. Angel Bullock and Benson Williams were able to play as freshmen. In four years, Big Sandy won four district titles and never lost a district game. They also reached the Regional tournament, winning it twice, and made two trips to San Antonio's Alamodome. "There is a bunch of really good players and they are really good players because they worked at it," Foster said. "Everybody wants to be good but it is about who is willing to put in the time and dedication it takes to be good. This group, collectively, has done that. I think I'm going to miss how coachable they were, and how hard they practiced and played. We'll have Samuel back next year, and I am upbeat about the kids that we have returning. If we can be upbeat, coachable and put in the work, I like the group that we have coming."

SEASON RESULTS

| Opponent | Score |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Huntington | 67-26 |
| Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson | 62-51 |
| Goodrich | 88-17 |
| Nacogdoches Central Heights | 66-47 |
| Buna | 78-56 |
| Legacy Christian Academy | 72-59 |
| Splendora | 71-22 |
| Lufkin Hudson | 72-52 |
| Kountze | 74-56 |
| Tatum | 56-44 |
| Nederland | 51-48 |
| Shepherd | 70-40 |
| Brock | 78-49 |
| Longview | 52-33 |
| Nederland | 48-47 |
| Coldspring-Oakhurst | 57-44 |
| College Station | 64-50 |
| Corsicana | 64-53 |
| La Marque | 41-55 |
| Jasper | 53-39 |
| Stafford | 40-47 |
| Winnie East Chambers | 48-40 |
| Daisetta Hull-Daisetta | 98-23 |
| Sabine Pass | 102-36 |
| Saratoga West Hardin | 87-32 |
| Colmesneil | 106-11 |
| Evadale | 83-37 |
| Port Arthur Bob Hope School | 82-28 |
| Daisetta Hull-Daisetta | 99-26 |
| Sabine Pass | 96-54 |
| Orange Little Cypress-Mauriceville | 81-36 |
| Saratoga West Hardin | 101-35 |
| Colmesneil | 80-12 |
| Evadale | 71-37 |
| Port Arthur Bob Hope School | 100-26 |

ROSTER

| ## | Name | Class | Ht. | Pos. |
|----|-----------------|-------|-------|------|
| 4 | Benson Williams | Sr. | 6'0" | G |
| 5 | Logan Stapert | Sf. | 5'6" | G |
| 10 | Layton VonBerg | Sr. | 5'11" | G |
| 11 | Seth Maze | Sr. | 5'8" | G |
| 13 | Steven Renfro | Sr. | 5'8" | G |
| 20 | Zach Dickens | Sr. | 6'0" | F/C |
| 21 | Samuel Richard | So. | 6'0" | G/F |
| 23 | Angel Bullock | Sr. | 6'0" | G |
| 24 | Joseph Williams | Sr. | 6'3" | G/F |
| 32 | Ryan Brown | Sr. | 6'1" | FIC |
| 35 | Kyle Lenox | Sr. | 6'0" | C |

PLAYOFF RESULTS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Lufkin Pineywoods Community Academy | 71-44 |
| Martinsville | 101-52 |
| San Augustine | 72-40 |
| Grapeland | 73-41 |
| Tenaha | 70-45 |
| Muenster | 43-50 |

MANAGERS, TRAINERS, STATISTICIANS

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Dante Williams | Manager |
| Kaden Foster | Manager |
| Scott Tidwell | Trainer |
| Cole Foster | Statistician |
| Terri Bullock | Statistician |
| Cord Lilley | Video |



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Big Sandy



Pineywoods

Big Sandy Wildcats

Though it was not their best game, the Big Sandy Wildcats played well enough to secure a 71-44 victory in Livingston Tuesday over Pineywoods Academy.

"I am very disappointed and frustrated of how we played tonight," said Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster. "We just didn't play very well. Defensively and rebounding we were not good, we were not communicating with each other, and there was a failure to pick up a man. Offensively we weren't as crisp as we normally are. We've definitely got a lot of room for improvement. We're going to have to get better if we want to advance. It'll be a short (playoff) stay for us if we don't

improve on a lot of things."

The Wildcats began the playoffs in a manner one may expect from the state's top-ranked team. Samuel Richard assisted the team with an 8-0 start by hitting two from long distance.

A time out by Pineywoods did not slow Big Sandy, as Angel Bullock completed an old-fashioned 3-point play with just under five minutes on the first frame's clock.

The Timberwolves would finally get on the board with a few free throws.

With 1:37 remaining, the Wildcats were up 26-7, Pineywoods had called their second time out, and Richard had popped four 3-point-

ers, accounting for 14 of the team's point total. Seth Maze and Angel Bullock backed that up with five points each.

At the end of one, Big Sandy led 29-13.

Pineywoods settled in for the second quarter, outplaying the Wildcats in spurts. The Timberwolves found a few leaks in the purple defense that is usually smothering, making the extra pass or cut to find easier buckets.

Free throws also kept the

Lufkin academy in the game, as nine of its 22 first half points came from the line. Still, the T-wolves were outscored 14-9 for the frame and trailed 43-22 at the half.

In the third, Pineywoods gained more confidence, outscoring Big Sandy 15-13. Leading the scoring for the team were Jace Walker, with seven and Michael Williams with six.

It was unusual to see Foster with anything but a calm demeanor. However, the team's play had the coach visibly upset and yelling for time out. When asked if he thought the team was rusty from lack of an exhibition game the previous week, he was not sure that was the case.

"A lack of communication isn't rust," Foster said. "I told the kids you are always going to have one bad game in the playoffs and maybe we went ahead and got it out of the way first."

A Pineywoods half-court shot at the end of the third brought the score to within 20 at 56-37.

The press was unleashed in the fourth and it made a difference. Midway through the quarter, the Wildcats were on an 11-3 run. The Dallardsville group held their opponent to seven for the period, finishing much stronger than the previous two quarters.



Steven Renfro #13

Once up by 27, Foster took the opportunity to play some of his senior-laden bench.

Richard led the team with 18 points, while Bullock and Zach Dickens each poured in 14.

"Our preparation has been the same," Foster said of game planning for the playoffs. "We will go back to work. At this time of the year, you are not going to necessarily get any better if you can't shoot by now and you can't defend by now. We'll take the things we didn't do well tonight — we certainly had a lot of them — and try to clean them up in practice. We'll get back to a few of the basics."



Logan Stapert #5



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101

Big Sandy

52

Martinsville

Big Sandy Wildcats



Zach Dickens #20

The area round of the 2A state playoffs did not present much of a challenge for the Big Sandy Wildcats, as they rolled through the Martinsville Pirates 101-52 at Woden High School. The Wildcats cruised to the win behind a second quarter in which they outscored the Pirates 32-6.

An exchange of 3-pointers came early, as Martinsville led off the first period with a deep shot from Tray Robertson. Big Sandy then unleashed a flurry of shots, three of which were behind the arc. A 13-0 run had the Wildcats up 13-3.

The Pirates answered, claiming an 11-4 run of their own, including two 3-pointers from senior guard Noah Berney.

Samuel Richard finally interrupted

the momentum with an old-fashioned 3-point play. It would ignite a 9-0 Wildcat streak. The sophomore is the team's only participant that is not in his senior season, but has progressed perhaps more than anyone else. He would score 20 in the game, all coming in just three quarters.

After one action-filled quarter, Big Sandy led 26-17.

"Early I wasn't concerned because I thought offensively we were playing well," Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster said. "Martinsville banked in a few shots and it just took us a while. Once we kind of got settled down defensively, I was happy with the way we were playing. They had a lot of energy and were just making some shots. I thought our intensity was a lot better and we just played better. What we were looking for was an improvement from Tuesday night (a 71-44 win over Pineywoods Academy), which we got."

Within three minutes of the second, the Dallardsville squad gathered 15 points, 12 of those on layups, while giving up only two and capturing a 20-point lead. The press was the catalyst for many of the easy shots.

"We worked on a lot of defensive fundamental basics on Wednesday and Thursday, and I think that was

our key focus over the last couple of days," Foster said. "Offensively we continue drills to stay sharp. We reviewed the offense and the sets to make sure execution is there. We got back to communicating that we really didn't do Tuesday."

Richard, Angel Bullock, Zach Dickens and Benson Williams led the onslaught. After a Martinsville time out, they went back to work with another dominant spurt. With 2:00 remaining, Big Sandy owned the period 27-4.

The defense once again was what many have become accustomed to seeing from the school.

"We knew (Berney) going in was a good player and a shooter," Foster said. "We also knew that (Robertson) was pretty much the second best player, so we tried to focus on that. We don't ever want to give anybody an open shot, it doesn't matter if they are the best player or not. Sometimes you do want to lock into a few guys and make sure you pay a little more attention. I think the main thing with really good players, if you're guarding a man that's close to the (good player), make sure you're in a really good help position."

At halftime, the Wildcats enjoyed a comfortable 58-23 advantage.

Even through tough officiating, Big Sandy was able to gain an early 11-2 advantage in the third.

With 2:00 left on the

clock, the Wildcats eclipsed the 80-point mark. By the end of the period, the only question left in the contest was if the team could reach 100. The squad had poured in an incredible 86 points after three and held a 50-point lead.

With six minutes left in the game and still up by 50, Foster got his deep bench additional playoff experience. The 100-point plateau was reached with 1:43 to play. Big Sandy was actually outscored in the final quarter, attempting to run clock and move on to the next round.

For the game, Bullock led with 25, Joseph Williams and Dickens had 14, and Benson Williams added 10. Seniors Berney and Robertson led the Pirates with 15 and 13, respectively.

"In the playoff games you want to be happy with winning and advancing. I just wanted a better effort tonight and I thought we had better communication defensively. I know it's going to be tough starting next week. We all know that it's going to be a lot more difficult from here on out."



Benson Williams #4



Samuel Richard #21



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Kyle Lenox #35

In an impressive victory Tuesday at Lufkin Hudson High School, the Wildcats of Big Sandy ran its high-octane attack past the San Augustine Wolves in a 72-40 triumph.

The Wildcats have excelled on the basketball floor for an extended period of time. It should not come as a surprise when they remain that way in the regional quarterfinals.

Yet, when it is against a school ranked in the state's top 10, it is easy to admire the skill the team from Daldersville displays.

The contest began with an intense back-and-forth, as the teams traded

baskets in a packed and loud Lufkin Hudson gym. The Wildcats claimed a slim 8-5 margin before San Augustine coach Tory Barnes called for time out.

"One of the things that concern me because we press, is you don't want to give up easy baskets," Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster said. "I thought for the most part we did a good job of not allowing them to completely break us down. What I was concerned about was being in those situations and not being able to rebound because they attack the glass so well."

The teams came out of the break trading threes — first San Augustine, then two from the 'Cats. Benson Williams led the way with 10 of the first 16.

With one quarter down, Big Sandy had snared an 18-10 lead.

The Wolves started well in the second, with two quick buckets. The four points would be as close as the team could manage the rest of the way.

Angel Bullock interrupted momentum with a steal and assist to Benson Williams. Bullock followed that with a drive and lay up. Because that wasn't enough, he nabbed another San Augustine pass and took it to the bucket for a 3-point play.

Just five minutes of clock and 11 points later, the group from Polk

County had a 20-point lead. The press had flustered the Wolves and caused turnovers that were converted into lay ups.

"We beat a good team tonight," Foster said. "I thought San Augustine had a good team. We knew coming in tonight we were going to have to rebound the ball. Early we didn't, but I thought as the game went on, we did. We didn't have a lot of open looks because they were playing tight man. In my opinion, that is the way to beat us. We were able to get some things going in transition and got some steals from our press. It was just kind of a gradual deal tonight."

At the half, the margin was 34-16.

As the third quarter progressed, San Augustine took more risks on both sides of the court, allowing the Wildcats to capitalize. Once long shots began to fall for Bullock, the Wolves shot at advancing to the next round was over.

With two minutes left in the period, the 'Cats had amassed a 30-point lead.

It was one they would keep until the end of the frame. Heading into the fourth, the Wolves had been doubled up at 60-30.

"I think because we are so skilled, when we play teams like this it may offset some of that athleticism," Foster said of his team's success over the No. 6 school in 2A. "We didn't have a whole lot of open looks tonight, but then that opens up driving lanes. We were able to attack the basket and score a bunch. Through screens and through ball movement, if you can get that defense shifting and moving, that

gives you an opportunity to put the ball on the floor and go by somebody."

The opening six points in the fourth belonged to Big Sandy. After a 12-3 showing through half the period, the starters came out of the game with a 39-point advantage.

Benson Williams finished the contest with 22 points, 19 in the first half. Bullock had 17 and Zach Dickens deposited a dozen.

Big Sandy will travel to Jewett Leon, just as they did last season for the regional bracket. The semifinal match will be versus the Grapeland Sandies. It is the final challenges before state.

"It's like I just told the kids, there will be four teams there and whoever has the best two days is going to win it," Foster said. "I am just happy to be back in the regional tournament to give ourselves a chance to take another step. We want to prepare the best we can and hopefully give ourselves another opportunity to win the region."



Ryan Brown #32



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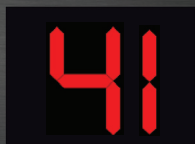
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Big Sandy



Grapeland

Big Sandy Wildcats

The Big Sandy basketball season continued rolling into Saturday with a 73-41 win over the Grapeland Sandies in the Class 2A Regional Semifinals at Jewett Leon High School.

Grapeland reached the regional tournament by defeating Cayuga, Riesel and LaPoyner. The LaPoyner team they outscored 60-43 Tuesday was the same that they had dropped previous games to on Dec. 4 (52-49) and Dec. 12 (56-47). Missing a key post player in the postseason due to academics, LaPoyner was not able to complete the hat trick versus the Sandies.

Friday's tip began with a Samuel Richard long distance bucket to make the game 3-0, Big Sandy never trailed the entire contest. The Wildcats took

an early 10-4 lead on the strength of a few threes, with the other coming from Benson Williams.

At the 2:30 mark of the first, Grapeland coach Cannon Earp called for time out after a Seth Mayes jumper from six feet put the 'Cats up 18-11.

Angel Bullock followed a three ball with a minute left by an uncontested lay up to close out the frame 25-13.

"We played hard, we played with intensity, and did a lot of good things," Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster said.

"Early on, our defense wasn't real sharp just like the other night. Once we got settled and figured out a few things, I thought we were outstanding again. Offensively, they played us man-to-man and I thought we were able to do some

things to exploit the way they were playing. We will try to enjoy this a little while, but that is the thing about being in a tournament like this, it is a quick turnaround and it's the same for everyone."

Two field goals from Bullock and free throws by Zach Dickens had the Wildcats up 31-15 a few minutes into the second. Bullock led the team in the second with three field goals.

Continued success in the half-court, working the ball around with crisp passes, gave Big Sandy shots close to the rim. But, it was the smothering purple defense that outshined all in the second, picking off passes and giving ball handlers fits.

The Sandies rushed shots and could not find an uncontested attempt in the quarter, scoring

just three.

At the break, Big Sandy led 39-16.

Bullock did not give Grapeland much time to settle in for the second half, popping two 3-pointers in the first 31 seconds. Down by nearly 30 and trying to match the Wildcat play, the Sandies pulled up for ill-advised bombs in an effort to retaliate.

"I feel like we can play any style," Foster said. "I feel like we prefer to play fast but we are not always going to be able to do that. If you are not accustomed to playing a certain style, you can be in trouble."

A three-point play from Richard, a field goal from Maze, and two baskets by Joseph Williams gave the Wildcats a 15-0 third quarter run in four minutes of clock when Grapeland called for time.

Big Sandy had outscored its opponent 33-7 in the second and third quarters for a 58-20 advantage.

"I guess you could say we had two good defensive quarters," the coach said. "They are actually a good shooting team and we tried to pressure them. They have had games to where they hit 10 or 11 threes this year. They made a few, but I think overall, every time they took a shot, we were pressuring the shooter. We did a good job of helping out when they were able to get by. It will also take a good defensive effort tomorrow, no matter who we play."

Richard led the fourth with eight of the Wildcats' 15 points. The Sandies managed 21 in garbage time, when play became a bit more sloppy. It was one point



Joseph Williams #24

more than they totalled in the opening three frames.

Bullock led the match with 24, while Richard had 16 and Benson Williams added 15.

"Tomorrow morning, we will have a walk through and try to go over some of the things that they like to do. When you get to this point in the year, one of the main things is to talk about their personnel and who you have to guard and really watch out for."

On Saturday, the Wildcats face Tenaha for the Region III championship. The Tigers defeated Kerens 74-67 to advance to Saturday's match. The winner will head to San Antonio for the state tournament.



Layton VonBerg #10



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The Wildcats are going back to San Antonio. Big Sandy will make the return trip after defeating the Tenaha Tigers 70-45 Saturday in the Region III Championship at Leon Jewett High School.

The meeting with Tenaha was a rematch from the regional championship one year ago, when the 'Cats defeated the Tigers 59-38 in the same gymnasium to advance to the Alamodome.

A tough battle early had the Wildcats out in front by a 12-4 margin on the strength of a couple of Zach Dickens and Angel Bullock field goals when Tenaha coach Greg Jenkins yelled for time.

After a Tiger jumper, Bullock would soon hit a 3-pointer from the wing. Bullock was terrific passing the ball, finding Dickens more than once under the rim for two. Both exited the game for a breather at the 1:20 mark with a 21-10 lead.

The Tigers were led by Franks and Goeke, who each had four. Tenaha would get one more lay up off a theft to put the tally at 21-12 after one.

Mid-range jumpers, excellent distribution and Bullock from long range kept Big Sandy out in front. With three minutes left, the Wildcats had built a 36-18 advantage.

Goeke collected two more buckets to lead Tenaha after two periods with eight. Dickens and Bullock were tops on the Polk County representative with 10 each. Two more points from the 'Cats gave a 20-point buffer at the half.

Benson Williams hit a three, making the score 43-25 as Jenkins called a time out to have words with Franks for losing his assignment.

The Tigers assembled a press to make up ground. Momentum shifted momentarily as Goeke found consistency on two 3-pointers. The margin would close to 15 before Big Sandy found better footing that followed a quick break.

"(The time out) was basically to stop the momentum," Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster said. "We talked about what they were doing defensively and some things that I saw defensively from us. I wanted us to regroup a little bit. I thought we responded outstanding to them."

Dickens continued his assault down in the paint where he led the team with six for the quarter. Passing remained timely and quick, with many off of dribble penetration.

"We share the ball and see the floor better than any team I've had. Their skill level is so high to be able to see the floor and

you can't do that unless you're highly skilled. The other part of that is unselfishness. This team doesn't care who's the leading scorer. They want to win. Zach had a monster game tonight and everybody was slapping him. Because of that and no big egos, they are so much fun to coach."

To begin the fourth, a 53-30 score separated the two squads. Layton VonBerg hit a three early, to go along with the excellent passing and defense the senior provided earlier. Other than the Wildcat passing, Dickens may have been the story of the game. The post had another eight points through half of the final period.

"One thing we talked about today when we had the walk-through this morning was getting the ball inside. I told whoever was playing the five (low post) to get that guy on your back because I knew the zone was going to be spread not only to get it to him, but also from the guys cutting through the zone. We flashed people through the zone in the middle and that just opens things wider for us."

"Zach is very skilled. He plays really hard, but he is a very skilled post. I think zones can be effective against us, especially if they have size and can cover a lot of ground. We don't see a lot of it because of our shooting ability; I think that keeps teams away from it."

With two minutes left, the game had been decided. The 66-40 score allowed fans in purple to celebrate the final few minutes before making plans for San Antonio.

Dickens led Big Sandy with 24, while Benson Williams had 15 and Bullock added 11 and many great passes. Goeke was the only Tiger in double figures, ending the game with 29.

"Anytime you make it to the regional tournament I've always said it is a great year no matter the outcome. Canadian was very deserving last year, because they outplayed us. At the same time, we

felt like we let one get away from us. They were better than us on that day and we played an average game when we needed to play good."



Seth Maze #11



Angel Bullock #23

"It's going to be very difficult; winning a state championship is hard. The state of Texas is so big and there are plenty of good teams. Every team that is going to be there will be a cut above what we have seen here. It will be a tough task, but I think the kids are hungry and hopefully that disappointment will carry us to get it done this weekend."

The Wildcats ran into familiar foes in the regional tournament, as three of the four same schools from last year played in Jewett. Another memorable school has made the state tournament again this year, with last season's state champion Canadian Wildcats also traveling back to the Alamo city. The two schools will be joined by Muenster and Thorndale.



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Big Sandy Wildcats

A terrific run of two seasons has come to a close, as the Big Sandy Wildcats dropped a 50-43 decision to the Hornets of Muenster Friday morning in the Alamodome.

For 10 seniors, it will be the last time taking the floor for the Wildcats. Each of the past two seasons have ended at the state tournament, with last year, in the state title game. The lone holdover, Samuel Richard, will be a junior next season, leading a youthful bunch.

Angel Bullock picked up where he left off in San Antonio last year, popping a three from the wing on the Wildcats' first possession. After a Muenster field goal, Benson Williams hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key, followed quickly by a Bullock lay up off a steal for a 8-2 lead.

With 5:40 still left to play in the opening period, Joseph Williams collected his second foul and was sent to the bench early.

Benson Williams spinning in the lane for a finger roll followed three Hornet points. Big Sandy led 10-5 at the first media time out with 3:35 on the clock.

Muenster tied the game at 10 with an offensive put back and 3-pointer. Zach Dickens broke the tie in the paint and Richard soon did the same.

"Getting here is really hard, so to do it back-to-back years is really special," Big Sandy coach Kevin Foster said. "I told the kids in the locker room the senior class has meant a lot to our program. There have been three regional tournaments and we have been to state two times. Obviously, today wasn't our best day, but that happens. Muenster had a lot to do with that. They defended us and did an outstanding job. I told the kids that when you get here, you can't have an average game and win. You have to play good and we didn't today, we were just kind of average and Muenster outplayed us."

Logan Cook, the six-foot six-inch guard who is the son of Hornet head coach Lynn Cook, had five rebounds, keeping Big Sandy from additional op-

portunities.

At the end of one, the Wildcats held a slim 14-12 advantage.

Second chances continued to haunt Big Sandy, as Muenster took a 16-15 lead with 4:30 left in the second. Blake Hoepfner completed a three-point play, giving him 10 points and four rebounds. The Hornets had a four-point lead inside four minutes of the second.

Bullock fired a quick pass into Joseph Williams for two underneath, and then Dickens passed to the same scorer for two more and the tie.

Minutes later, Dickens used his body



to shield the ball and was fouled while finishing off the glass. The Wildcats once again had the lead at 21-19. Rebounding improved for the 'Cats, putting bodies on Hornets to collect misses.

With five seconds to go, Bullock pulled up from almost the identical spot he hit the game's initial points for three more.

"We had one little spurt at the end of the second quarter," Foster said. "We needed to rebound well to get our transition game going. Anytime they were able to get back and get their defense set, we didn't shoot the ball well. That's just part

of our game, but we had some clean looks that we didn't make.

"They did a good job of protecting the basket and making it hard to drive and score once they were able to get their defense set. We never could get anything going transition-wise, we tried all of our presses that we normally do and they did a good job of not turning the ball over. They did a good job of controlling the pace of the game. If we would have made some shots, it probably would have turned out different, but we didn't."

Going into the locker room, the squad from Dallardsville led 24-19.

later found the net on a three to tie the game again at 30.

Richard broke the tie on a put back with 46 seconds left in the third. A Muenster free throw set up the final quarter with Big Sandy holding a 32-31 edge.

John Weger began the scoring, as the lead changed once more. Jones followed with a pull-up jumper. Hoepfner went to the line on a Bullock foul, making one of two for a 36-32 lead with 4:28 in the game.

Out of a Big Sandy time out, Benson Williams was called for a charge that turned into a Jones jumper on the other end.

Benson then hit a three from the wing, cutting the lead in half to three. With 2:39 remaining, Muenster led 38-35 and called for time.

Bullock was whistled on a questionable call, allowing for two more Hornet free throws and a 40-35 lead. Joseph Williams then missed the goal completely and Muenster took possession on another missed call, as Cook had tipped the shot.

Jones hit another three-point play with 1:12 left, gaining a 10-point lead, sealing the match and season for Big Sandy.

A 21-7 disparity in fouls called aided the Hornets, as Muenster took 25 shots at the line to the Wildcats' five. However, rebounds were the difference in the game. Cook alone collected 26 and Muenster had 38, while Big Sandy totaled 25, five of those coming after the game was decided. A total of 15 points were scored on second chance shots for the Hornets, compared to seven for the 'Cats.

"That was something we talked about coming in," Foster said of the rebounding difference. "That is one of their strengths, especially (Cook). The other kids are so good at driving and they force you to help. He is so big and cleans up the rebounds. It was a big factor in the game."

Jones and Hoepfner shared high point with 14, while Weger added 11. For Big Sandy, Bullock led the team with 13, while Benson Williams had 12.



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