

Sports Update

Boys basketball: Wildcats dig hole against Farmers they can't overcome

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LEWISVILLE -- While the Plano Senior boys basketball team (1-2 in district) only led on one occasion Friday night against Lewisville (2-1), by one point in the first quarter, the Wildcats still found themselves in position to steal one from the Farmers.

The squads were knotted, 50-50, late in the fourth.

But in the closing minutes, the Farmers were able convert at the free throw line, knocking down all 10 of their attempts in a 56-51 victory while the Wildcats converted just 3-of-7 in the period.

Ray Dorsey posted a game-high 22 points to lead the Farmers, while Cameron King scored 12 and Jaden Wright followed with eight -- all in the second half.

Dorsey was the main contributor at the line, making six straight down the stretch, while Wright hit the final two for a 5-point advantage with less than 30 seconds to go.

"It was a dogfight," said Gary Collier, Lewisville head coach. "It was pretty much what I expected. But our free throws were real big tonight. That's an area where we've been wanting to improve because on a lot of nights that can be the difference between a win and a loss.

"We shot it well tonight."

The Wildcats hung close behind the efforts of Austin Mitchell, who scored 13 of his team-high 19 points in the second half. Like Dorsey, the senior got to the basket at will.

"We didn't step up and make our free throws," said Phil Parlin, Plano head coach. "And they were able to execute better than we were at the end, and you have to give them credit for that."

Behind six points and an assist from Nick Post, as well as a 3-pointer from King, Lewisville raced out to a 9-3 lead just 2:30 into the contest. However, the Wildcats responded with seven unanswered to go in front, 10-9. But a layup from Anthony Davis in the final seconds of the first put Lewisville ahead, 11-10, a lead it would not relinquish.

A pair of 3-pointers in the second quarter from Dorsey put Lewisville up, 14-10 and 22-16, respectively, as the Farmers went on to take a 26-20 advantage into the break.

In the third, Post -- who paced the Farmers with five assists -- connected with Dorsey for an and-1 to give Lewisville its largest lead of the night at 37-27. But that was short-lived as Plano senior Kian Ghanbarnejad answered with a trifecta of his own to bring the Wildcats back within seven. Mitchell closed the third with a long-range connection for a three-point deficit entering the fourth.

"I thought Kian had one of his best nights of the year," Parlin said.

But Lewisville quickly re-established a working margin following a bucket by Wright and a put-back from Malcom Brown, who finished with a game-high 10 rebounds. The Farmers out-rebounded Plano, 26-16.

The Wildcats' gasp came midway through the fourth when senior Travis Warman connected on a 3-pointer to bring the Wildcats within 48-44 before consecutive baskets from Mitchell evened the score at 50-50.

Lewisville would outscore Plano, 6-1, the rest of the way.

The Farmers look for their third consecutive win at 7:30 p.m. Monday against rival Marcus. The Marauders and Farmers met three times last season, all going the way of the Marauders, including the regional quarterfinal of the Class 5A playoffs.

"It's going to be a tough one," Collier said. "We'll practice [Saturday] and work on our game plan more for them. I don't know who they played tonight, but hopefully they wore Marcus down a little bit like Plano did to us.

"It's going to be a good test and a good opportunity for us to get better."

The Wildcats hope to bounce back at 7:30 p.m. Monday when travel to Plano East.

"We started playing a little better in the second half I thought," Parlin said. "But a bad play in the first quarter is just as bad as one in the fourth quarter. We need to put together a full game."