



Mustang Hoops Update



FOUNTAIN CENTRAL BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER #25

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BUSY HOLIDAY BREAK:

The Mustangs played 9 games in 16 days over Christmas Break. Last Saturday, it felt like 9 might have been a little much, but we feel like we learned a great deal about what we need to work on in January and February. Offensively, we have continued to improve, and our defense has shown signs of great progress. After 13 games, the Mustangs are 8-5, with double weekends throughout January.

ATTICA-WESTERN BOONE:

The Mustangs started off the holiday break with a disappointing loss at Attica, a game in which we shot only 35% and had only 7 assists as a team. After falling behind by as many as 12 points, the Mustangs came back to take a late lead but could not hold on. The next night, Western Boone came to FC. Last year's game against WeBo was probably the most disappointing of the season, as we went the last 10 minutes of the game without scoring. This night would be much different. The Mustangs learned from their mistakes Friday night and shot over 60% from the field, racking up almost 20 team assists. A 20-5 3rd quarter advantage helped the Mustangs build a 20+ point lead before coasting to a 70-58 win.

BSN CLASSIC (BISMARCK, ILLINOIS):

The following week, the Mustangs traveled to Bismarck, Illinois, to play in the BSN Classic, 5 games in 3 days. The Mustangs opened up with the best team in our pool, the Fisher Bunnies. Despite their soft mascot, the Bunnies were one of the best defensive and rebounding teams we have faced all season. The game was close throughout, but the Bunnies prevailed 61-52, despite a 20-point performance from Koby Pierce.

The Mustangs also fell in the nightcap of opening night, thanks to the second straight 27+ point performance from an opposing point guard. Unfortunately, Mustang point guard Clayton Corey injured his ankle early in this game, but he played to the end of the game in serious pain and nearly willed us to victory with his effort late in the game. Ultimately, the Mustangs fell 60-53 to the host school.

BSN CLASSIC—DAY 2

The Mustangs rebounded on the 2nd day of the BSN Classic with two convincing wins against Schlarman and Watseka. Pierce again had the hot hand with 21 points against Schlarman, and Ethan Woodrow slowed down their leading scorer (who had 20 in each of their first 2 games, but only 13 against us). Koby also added a season high 11 rebounds.

Against Watseka, the Mustangs used a 33-15 2nd half to win 61-44. Ethan Woodrow scored 20 of his 31 points in the 2nd half. It was also Ethan's 4th straight double-double. The win put the Mustangs 3rd in their pool of 6, and matched them up against Salt Fork on Monday.

(Recaps continued on page 2)

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENTS:

SEEGER PATRIOTS

Seeger always proves to be one of the most difficult teams on our schedule to defend. The Patriots are very patient on offense and set a lot of screens. They are willing to pass the ball for a long time to get the shot they want. In Borden Kennedy, the Patriots have one of the best guards in our conference. He can shoot the lights out and is a terrific passer as well as a very intelligent player. In the post, Josh Orahood brings a challenge as well – he is a good athlete who will hurt us on the boards if we do not box him out.

SHERIDAN BLACKHAWKS

Playing at Sheridan is always difficult. The Blackhawks play a very aggressive style of basketball. They put a lot of pressure on the ball and really try to disrupt passing lanes. Taking care of the ball will be critical for us. Sheridan also attacks the basket very well. We must stay in front of drivers to be successful. Brock Kitchel is a capable scorer for the Blackhawks (14.6ppg) and can shoot the 3. He also leads them in rebounding. Jacob Chesney also averages double figures (10.4).

WHAT TO LOOK FOR THIS WEEKEND:

The focus in practice the last 2 weeks has been on rebounding and defense. We have gotten better at staying in front of drivers, but we have given up too many easy, open looks at the 3-point line. This weekend, we will need to defend the drive (especially against Sheridan) and defend the 3-point line (especially against Seeger), so we have a chance to show growth. Seeger is one of the best defensive rebounding teams on our schedule, and Sheridan will crash the offensive boards very hard, so rebounding will be key also.

LOOKING AHEAD:

After a very busy break, the Mustangs will have double weekends throughout January to get ready for sectional. We need to continue to improve our defense as well as our offensive movement, passing, and rebounding. January is a great month to figure out where we are in getting ready for sectional.

JV GETS WIN VS WEBO:

Though it's been a while since our JV has played a game, they played their best game of the season in getting a big win against Western Boone at the beginning of break. They have improved steadily throughout the season. They are athletic, and they play very hard. Good job guys.

BSN CLASSIC—DAY 3

The Mustangs were matched up against Salt Fork on the final night of the tournament. I could not attend the game because I was at my grandmother's memorial service in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. However, Mrs. Hammond was kind enough to text me updates throughout the game as the Mustangs capped the Classic with a come-from-behind victory, outscoring Salt Fork 18-5 in the 4th quarter. The win leaves Coach Horlacher with a 1-0 career record as a varsity head coach. Our seniors showed great leadership in being able to maintain composure when Salt Fork was making many 3s. My favorite part of the tournament had to be receiving texts from our captains saying how Casey Walls and Tyler Starkey stepped up and made some big plays toward the end of the game. I was proud of Casey and Tyler for playing tough at the end and proud of others for being quick to give credit to their teammates.

Koby Pierce and Ethan Woodrow were both named to the all-tournament team. Our players represented our community well throughout the classic, and I had many compliments on how our guys conducted themselves. In fact, the coach of Fisher High School was so excited about our team's play that he stayed and addressed our team after our win against Schlarman. We shared locker rooms, so his team was headed out to warm up as we were coming in after our game, but Fisher's coach stayed in our locker room to talk to our players about how impressed he was with our players and gave the kids some valuable advice for the rest of the season.



BI-COUNTY TOURNAMENT:

On the first night of the Bi-County Tournament, the Mustangs had a chance to avenge their loss to Attica from two weeks prior. FC built a 10-point lead in the first half, and a 12-point lead in the 2nd half, but still had to hold the Ramblers on the final play of the game to preserve a 49-48 victory, our 4th in a row.

Playing our 9th game since the last day of school before break, we were a little tired going into the championship game of the Bi-County against Covington. We worked hard to get good shots in the 1st quarter, and we were successful at our plan offensively. However, the Trojans were hitting almost everything, as they went 7/8 from the field in the first quarter. Though our effort was good throughout the game, we just did not have enough energy to combat Covington's aggressive, athletic play and 3-point shooting. In the end, we lost the Bi-County Championship to a very, very good team who played very well on that night. I thought the effort of our players was excellent, even though we were playing our 9th game over break. We were tired, but we kept competing until the end. I think this stretch of basketball is going to make us much stronger in February.



LADY MUSTANGS STILL ROLLING:

As I wrote about previously, this year's Lady Bi-County Tournament touted some great records coming in. However, the Lady Mustangs controlled both games on the way to their Bi-County Championship. If you have not seen the Lady Mustangs play this year, you really should soon. They are off to one of the best starts in school history (in 2000-01 the girls started 10-2). Post Macee Williams has compiled some impressive stats this season and has some of the best hands I have seen in a post player in some time. With the increased attention to Williams by opponents this year, their guard play has steadily improved, and Mustangs are solid all around. They are a tough team to beat and will be difficult to eliminate this post-season.

The Lady Mustangs are scheduled to play at Benton Central on Saturday. It should be a big test for the girls, as BC boasts one of the best girls' teams in the area. Good luck ladies!



MUSTANG BASKETBALL RECORDS

SINGLE SEASON LEADERS:

SINGLE SEASON SCORING:

1. SCOTT BOONE	571 PTS	1975-76
2. ETHAN WOODROW	508 PTS	2013-14
3. DON BELL	495 PTS	1975-76
4. ROB SIMMONS	452 PTS	1967-68

SINGLE SEASON REBOUNDS:

1. ROBERT GERARD	266 REB	1972-73
2. GREG DEATH	259 REB	1967-68
3. TOM TRUSTY	244 REB	1985-86

SINGLE SEASON ASSISTS:

1. ANDY HAAS	165 AST	1989-90
2. KENNY KROUT	145 AST	1980-81
3. CHRIS SHELTON	144 AST	1981-82
3. KENNY KROUT	144 AST	1979-80

SINGLE SEASON STEALS:

1. JEFF WILLIAMS	87 STL	1974-75
2. COY OVERPECK	70 STL	1988-89
3. COY OVERPECK	63 STL	1989-90

SINGLE SEASON 3-POINTERS MADE:

1. JOSH HERING	62	1989-90
2. RODNEY HARRISON	57	1991-92
2. BRODY SOWERS	57	2009-10

SINGLE SEASON 3-PT %:

1. TANNER PIERCE	44/104 (42.3%)	2010-11
2. ANDY KROUT	38/92 (41.3%)	2004-05