

By Phil Sandoval

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To some facets of Oklahoma girls basketball, Guymon was labeled as a good team. Yet, were not very well thought of.

The results of Tuesday's game with Forgan should change that thinking. 

A second half comeback gave the Tigers a convincing 43-34 win over formally undefeated Forgan Tuesday which should change the thinking of those who still look at Guymon as a mild threat among Class 4A teams.

"I think we're making a little bit of noise," said Tigers head coach Tim Hofferber. "We beat the No. 7 team in Class B. That's a little statement."

The Tigers used that challenge to run off to a quick 7-0 lead. Keela Clark, Brennan Seymour and Gabrielle each scored baskets in the opening run.

But, Forgan responded right back.

The Bulldogs tied the game three minutes later and took a 12-10 lead at the end of the first quarter on a Kenzi Taylor field goal with 32 seconds left.

Guymon never regained the lead for the rest of the first half and trailed by 6 points, twice in the second period.

The rally, the Tigers would put together after intermission, started in the remaining seconds of the first half when Ashlyn Wadley hit her only basket of the game.

That cut Forgan's lead to 21-17 entering the break. The bucket by the freshman also lit a spark in the Tigers.

In the third quarter, Guymon began the period with a 7-2 run to take the lead at the midway point on a basket from Gabrielle Costilla that was set up on a feed from point guard Jade Cruzan.

Costilla had 12 of her game-high 18 points to led the second half charge.

The Tigers extended their newly-gained one-point lead on a when junior post Vanessa DeWilde drained in a rare 3-pointer.

The junior's making the shot was not unusual to Guymon head coach Tim Hofferber .

"People were probably surprised when she hit that 3-pointer. I'm not surprised, He said. "The other day in practice, she had the second highest percentage in our shoot around. It wasn't a surprise to me or to the rest of the team."

DeWilde's trey came at a critical time in the game. "It couldn't have come at a more opportune moment," noted Hofferber

Later, De Wilde came up huge when given a second opportunity to shine.

Down, 34-32 with four minutes left in the game, DeWilde got enough of a Forgan midcourt pass to create a turnover.

Cruzan gobbled up the loose ball, zipped her way goal ward then fed the ball inside to a back to a hustling DeWilde who promptly deposited the ball in the cylinder.

“How much nice teamwork was that,” noted Hofferber of the play. “Vanessa gets the tip. Jade gets the ball and gets it back to Vanessa and finishes. I thought that was an example of the game Vanessa had.”

DeWilde’s basket forced Forgan coach Brett Trippett to call time out after she had broken the 34-all tie to attempt to stem the 5-0 scoring run the Tigers had fashioned.

It didn’t work.

Guymon added six more points after the break. More importantly, the Tigers, after Miranda Lopez had scored with 5:14 remaining, held Forgan scoreless for the rest of the game.

“They were playing more aggressive all night long,” Trippett said of Guymon. “That’s what cost us in the end. We didn’t play tough enough. They just kept trapping us all night and we didn’t handle the ball.”