

By JASON EPP

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The Turpin Cardinals got revenge for two frustrating loses, and evened their season series with Texhoma with a resounding 59-40 win.



"We played great defensively, holding (J.D.) Pugh to only 6 points," said Cardinals coach Gary Wallace. "We made them take bad shots and rebounded well. We had a hand in their face all night"

Pugh had been the one to place the dagger in Turpin in the Texhoma wins, scoring the winning baskets in both games.

Turpin took a different approach at the offensive end, putting the ball in Aaron Kuns hand at the point.

"Normally our offense runs through Konner (Hood), who finished with 9 points, but Texhoma likes to defend him with (Matt) Freeman who is 6'4" and pretty quick," said Wallace. "Aaron's is a tough matchup for guards or post players. He was able to get to the middle and take four-foot jump shots all night."

Kuns was able to penetrate and get to the rim for 12 points, and was also able to dish to Cale Longhofer and Braydon Robinson in the post. Longhofer played on a sprained ankle, but still led

the Cardinals with 16 points. Robinson added 10.

"Cale was not 100 percent, but he was not about to let me take him out of the game, and he played great," said Wallace.

One amazing stat was that no points came from three-point range for Turpin - a team with multiple long-range threats.

After leading 25-19 at the half Turpin took control of the game in the third, and quickly increased the lead to double figures leading 42-29 heading into the fourth.

Texhoma was able to comeback and cut the lead to six, but Turpin made enough free throws down the stretch too keep the Red Devils at bay.

Turpin advances to Saturday's Regional Championship, and will play host Seiling at 8 p.m.