

Wildcats Rally to Nip Titan

MC Down 21 Points with Four Minutes to Go!

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With around four minutes left in Saturday night's Ottawa-Glandorf and Miller City girls basketball game, the Titans had a 21-point lead with a score of 56-35.

Assuming the lead was safe or insurmountable, fans of both teams started to find the exits. What happened in the next four minutes may make these fans wait just a little bit longer before leaving another game.

Miller City shocked Ottawa-Glandorf in these final minutes by scoring 22 unanswered points to record a 57-56 non-league, season opening win.

"The Lord smiles on everybody once in a while," said winning Coach Denny Mumaw. "I was beginning to feel like we didn't have much luck on our side. Their defense was hurting us. I told the girls they had to be smarter against their press. We had to start going to the basket and making shots. I guess it doesn't hurt to have a little luck."

O-G took the 56-35 lead when Kristen Lammers popped home a short shot. From then on, the Titans took only two shots, lost the ball on several turnovers and had their troubles pulling in defensive rebounds.

"We looked like we were lost," OG Coach Mark Brinkman said. "Our defensive rebounding was poor, we made six straight turnovers down the floor and our defense stunk all night. We may have relaxed too much with the big lead."

Senior guard Shawnda Kindle started the rally with a three-point shot. The Wildcats then used a pair of free throws from Mindy Kern, a basket by Julie Kuhlman and a follow-up basket by Jenny Michel to cut the lead to 12.

With 2:24 left in the contest, Kuhlman cut the lead to 10 at 56-46 and with 1:22 left Kindle pulled Miller City within eight on a driving layup. Kuhlman connected from the right side to make it six and Kindle added a three-pointer from the left side to cut the lead to just three.

Then with 25 seconds left, Kuhlman scored off an offensive rebound making it 56-55. After the Wildcats got the ball back on a turnover, Kindle fired up a three-pointer which was off the mark.

Michel grabbed the rebound between two OG players and scored with eight seconds left giving the Wildcats their first lead of the night. She had chance to make it a two-point game but her free throw was off the mark.

Before the free throw, O-G called time to set up a final play. When the free throw was missed, the Titans rebounded and started to move the ball up the court. However, Kindle intercepted a long pass preserving the win.

Ottawa-Glandorf 22/55 2/8 6/13 - 56

Schumacker 7-0-2-16. Lammers 3-0-0-6. Morman 6-0-0-12. Cox 2-0-0-4. Nuveman 1-0-2-4. Kuhlman 1-0-2-4. Utrup 2-0-0-4. Nienberg 0-2-0-6.

Miller City 14/40 4/8 17-36 - 57

Kindle 3-4-1-19. J. Kuhlman 5-0-8-18. Inkrott 1-0-1-3. Kern 2-0-5-9. Michel 3-0-2-8.

OG	14	17	17	8 - 56
MC	9	14	7	27 - 57

Rebounds: Miller City 38 (Michel 11). Ottawa-Glandorf 37 (Schumacker 9)

Turnovers: Miller City 30. Ottawa-Glandorf 32.