

Wildcats Unseat Glandorf in Hard-Fought Battle for 5th Title

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Miller City, a team of no individual standouts, but comprised of five stars who could make almost anyone's ball club, left no doubt in anyone's mind that they are the 1962 basketball champions of Putnam County when they added the tournament championship to their league crown last week-end.

The Wildcats, who won their fifth tourney title in the last 15 years, defeated Glandorf's defending champions 58-47 and the 11-point victory was the closest margin the charges of Coach Jerry Eitzman had in the tournament.

The night before they walked over Kalida for a 71-58 semi-final victory and, in the first round, they whipped Ft. Jennings 70-54.

Miller City has lost only to Leipsic among Putnam County teams and won the league title by a two-game margin. Last year they shared the league championship with Glandorf but bowed out in the early rounds of the tournament.

Their only other losses this year were to Hamler by six points, Ayersville by one point and Delphos St. John's by four points. They have won their last 10 games and have not tasted defeat in 1962.

GLANDORF GAVE the Wildcats one of their most rugged battles and the 11-points does not indicate the closeness of the game.

The Dragons' big Paul Duling, who came into his own in the last several games, was in and out of the game with foul trouble and that was almost the story of the championship tilt.

As long as the Glandorf center was in the contest, the Dragons made a battle of it. Three times he was benched because of fouls and each time Miller City pulled away. Duling was ejected with his fifth foul, a might unpopular call with the crowd, with 4:18 left in the game and it was only after that that Miller City got a safe lead.

Glandorf led only twice in the contest, but the score was tied ten times before Miller City finally broke a 32-32 deadlock almost midway in the third quarter and went ahead to stay. This was one of the times that Glandorf Coach Weber had to pull Duling from the game.

REFEREES CALLED fouls exceptionally close in the game, whistling a total of 50 personals in which almost all of them were of the blocking variety. There were only two offensive fouls called.

However, Duling was the only one seriously hurt. Glandorf also lost Bill Fischer in the last minutes of the game and Miller City lost John Bruns after it was all wrapped up.

Free throws meant a big share of the difference in the score. The Wildcats scored only one more bucket than Glandorf but hit

nine more free tosses. Both teams were awarded 36 charity tosses, Glandorf converting 13 and Miller City 22.

From the floor, Glandorf did almost twice as much shooting as the Wildcats, but they had a cold night. They hit only 17 of 60 tries for 28.3 percent. The champs shot only 35 times and made 18 for 51.4 percent.

The Wildcats tried only three shots from the floor in the fourth quarter and made just one bucket in that time. They converted 10 out of 15 free throws in the last eight minutes to stay on top.

THE BIGGER Dragons were doing well off the boards, controlling most of the rebounds, but the scrappy Wildcats refused to let them take advantage of this. Most of the shooting in the game was from the outside.

Bruns was the game's high scorer with eight buckets and two free tosses for 18 points. He scored seven buckets in the first half, missing only two shots in that time. Glandorf's John Schroeder got on him in the second half and Bruns got off only one more shot after intermission, making that one.

Duling was Glandorf's scoring leader with 13. Schroeder and Bill Goecke contributed five buckets each while Fischer added nine from the foul line.

GLANDORF TOOK the opening tip but lost the ball on a turnover and Miller City jumped into the first lead on John Steffen's bucket. A minute and one-half was gone when Fischer scored Glandorf's first point from the foul line.

Then Miller City got two buckets by Bruns and Steffen to make it 5-1. The Dragons' first bucket came with 4:35 on the clock and was scored by Goecke. A half a minute later Allan Brinkman hit from out front to tie the score for the first time at 5-5.

Bruns scored from outside to put Miller City in front again but then Duling came through with a lay-up and it was 7-7. Jerry Inkrott converted a pair of free throws for the Wildcats and once more the Dragons knotted the count on Schroeder's bucket. Don Lammers and Bruns each hit for Miller City to make it 13-9. Glandorf bounced back as Goecke and Duling goaled, the last coming with 38 seconds left in the quarter and the score was tied for the fourth time at 13-all.

In the waning seconds of the quarter, Bruns sank his fourth goal to give Miller City a 15-13 edge when the buzzer sounded.

GLANDORF GOT the tip again at the start of the second round and Goecke drove under for a lay-up to make it 15-15, only to have Bruns drive in for a bucket for the Wildcats.

Fischer was awarded a pair of free throws. He sank the first and Schroeder laid up the rebound when the second missed to give Glandorf its first lead at 18-17 with 6:26 on the clock. Seconds later

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Duling tapped in another rebound to give Glandorf a 20-17 lead, its biggest of the night.

Bruns came through with a long set shot for Miller City and, with 4:19 on the clock, sub, Rene Niese hit two free throws to give the Wildcats their 20th and 21st points and put them back out in front once more.

Duling came back to hook one through for Glandorf and it was 22-21 in their favor, but this was the last time they led. The big center picked up his third foul seconds later and Coach Weber pulled him.

Inkrott converted the free throw to tie the score again and Don Lammers dunked a rebound to put Miller City ahead. Goecke goaled for Glandorf for a 24-24 tie, but then the Wildcats reeled off five straight points on buckets by Bruns and Lammers and a free throw by Inkrott for their biggest lead up to that time.

Fischer converted his third free throw and, with five seconds left in the half, Schroeder goaled to cut the margin to 29-17 at intermission.

BILL LAMMERS hit a lay-up to start the scoring for Miller City in the second half, but with Duling back in the contest, Glandorf tied the score twice more. Goecke hit a bucket and Fischer a pair of free tosses to make it 31-31, with 5:59 on the clock.

Inkrott converted a charity throw for the Wildcats but Duling got it back for the Dragons to tie the score at 32-32, the tenth and last time of the night.

The clock showed 5:18 when Duling was charged with fouling Bill Lammers and the Dragon center was pulled from the game again. It was after this that Miller City piled up a 10-point lead.

Lammers hit the free throw and Steffen and Bruns came through with a bucket each to make it 37-32. Schroeder goaled for Glandorf, but Don Lammers hit a bucket and Bruns a free toss. Fischer added two more free throws for Glandorf, only to have Steffen get one back for the Wildcats and Don Lammers added a bucket. With 20 seconds to go in the quarter, Steffen hit a three-point play and it was 46-36 starting the final round.

STILL GLANDORF was not finished. Duling came back into the game and they cut the margin to four points. Fischer zeroed in on two free tosses and big Duling tapped in two rebounds, the second coming with 5:06 left in the game to make it 42-46.

The clock showed 4:18 when Duling was called for fouling Steffen from behind and the Glandorf crowd almost brought the house down as their big star had to leave the game. Steffen hit both shots from the line, but Glandorf managed to come back with three points before the Wildcats put it on ice.

Brinkman hit a free throw and Dennis Heuerman converted a pair to make it 48-45. However, the Dragons ran out of steam, being unable to score again until there were only a couple of seconds left in the game. In the meantime, Miller City hit eight straight free throws by Burns, a pair by Don Lammers and five in a row by Inkrott. In the last minute, Bill Lammers goaled to make it 58-45.

Schroeder's goal for Glandorf in the last seconds ended the scoring.

It was a great defensive game on the part of both squads and both got only a few shots from underneath the bucket. However, there were three times when Duling, the Glandorf hero, was also the goat when he missed layups with a defender near.

The all-senior Dragon squad dropped its eighth decision against 14 victories for the season while Miller City picked up its 18th win against only four losses.

Glandorf

Goecke - 5/14 0/3 10 4. Fischer - 0/9 9/16 9 5. A. Brinkman - 1/4 1/3 3 3. Duling - 6/12 1/4 13 5. J. Schroeder - 5/11 0/5 10 4. Stoepfel 0/5 0/1 0 4. E. Schroeder 0/3 0/1 0 1. Heuerman - 0/1 2/3 2 0. M. Brinkman - 0/1 0/0 0 0.

Totals - 17/60 13/36 47 26

Miller City

Steffen - 3/9 5/9 11 3. Inkrott - 0/3 10/13 10 3. Bruns - 8/10 2/6 18 5. D. Lammers - 5/9 2/4 12 3. B. Lammers - 2/3 1/2 5 4. Niese - 0/1 2/2 2 3. Verhoff - 0/0 0/0 0 3. Leopold - 0/0 0 0 0.

Totals - 18/35 22/36 58 24

Glandorf	13	14	9	11	47
Miller City	15	14	17	12	58