

Wacky Ending of District Opener

Miller City Wins Over Delphos St. Johns 47 - 45

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There have been several wacky basketball games this year involving Putnam County teams. However, last Wednesday night's District Semi-Final opener between Miller City and Delphos St. John's was the wackiest.

How could a team with a three-point lead and the ball at half-court with one second on the clock possibly lose? Well, read on and see how easily it could have happened.

Miller City hung on to record an emotional 47 - 45 overtime decision against the defending State Champions and moved to the District Finals Saturday evening against Ottoville.

The contest was tied at 43 after regulation and in the extra period Miller City rang up the first three points to take a 46 - 43 edge with only nine seconds left. Things seemed safe, right? WRONG!

Delphos's Larry Geise hit a lay-up with one second left to cut the lead to one, 46 - 45, and the Blue Jays called a time out. But the team had already used its allotted times outs. As a result, a technical foul was assessed to the team and head coach, Bob Arnzen. Miller City was awarded two foul shots and the ball.

With one second on the clock, Miller City's center Jeff Hermiller hit both foul

shots to expand the lead back to three points, 48 - 45, and the Wildcats would get the ball to inbound at half court. The game looked over. WRONG again!

Delphos's Coach Bob Arnzen argued that since Delphos never got a time out how could the technical foul shots be awarded before the timeout? The referees agreed and erased Hermiller's two charity shots making the score 46-45 in favor of Miller City. A time out was then given to both teams and Hermiller was put at the line again for two foul shots. However, on his second trip to the line, he only made one of the two foul shots and it was now a 47 - 45 contest.

When the ball was inbounded at half-court by Miller City, it was thrown out of bounds. Now Delphos had the ball for a final chance to tie the game with one second to go.

Delphos was out of time outs and Miller City didn't want to call one to give Delphos the opportunity to set up a play. It was chaos at half-court.

Buddy Bertling lobbed a high arching pass from midcourt to Larry Geise who turned around and fired a 12-footer at the basket and hit the front of the rim and bounced away preserving the victory for Miller City.