

Foul

from 5B



The Harrodsburg Herald/April Ellis
Senior Jackson Doughty drives to the basket in the Mercer Titans win over the Model Patriots. Doughty had a career high of 26 points.

to 16-13 as time ran out in the first quarter. Butler and Thompson both picked up their second foul just a minute into the second quarter. The Titans struggled to rebound and the Patriots took full advantage, going up 24-18. Feshman Blake Votaw Model dropped another

came in to help with Butler in foul trouble and hit a 3-point shot. Doughty moved around defenders and hit a jumper at the foul line. Carson Haven drained a 3-point shot, and the Titans retook the lead, 28-27, with 3 minutes left to play in the half. Model dropped another

3-point shot. Haven had a put-back shot to tie the game, 30-30. With less than 20 seconds left in the half, Model hit another 3-point shot, but Doughty countered with a drive as the buzzer went off. The Titans trailed at the half, 33-32.

Coming out of the half, Mollette went on a run for Model. Doughty and Thompson tried to swing the offensive momentum Mercer's way, but Phillips picked up his fourth foul just halfway through the third quarter.

Butler was in and started to work in the paint. He pulled down an offensive rebound, and Thompson hit a trey to pull the game within one, 42-41. Tyler and Butler teamed up to start pulling down the rebounds, and Doughty converted them into points. Caden Brogli hit a 3-point shot from the corner and padded Mercer's lead, 46-42.

Butler picked up his third foul, and Model received the and one call, and with the made foul shot, they retook the lead, 47-46. With a few seconds left in the quarter, Mollette drove down the middle and ended the third quarter

with another basket, 49-46. Doughty opened the fourth quarter firing, and added five points, but Model refused to go away. With the game tied, 51-51 and 5 minutes left to play, Model Head Coach Christopher Evans called a timeout and put his team back in the full-court press.

Mercer did a better job of getting through the press and, in turn, applied their own defensive pressure. Haven forced another Model timeout. Phillips finally earned the foul instead of being called for one, and the game started to swing Mercer's way. Doughty stole the ball and was fouled as he went to the basket. The shot was good, and he made the foul shot.

The three-point swing is what Mercer needed with 3 minutes left to play. Tyler pulled down a strong rebound, and Doughty made the most of it with a jump shot.

With 40 seconds left in the game, Mercer worked to use the clock and keep the ball out of Model's hands. With their only choice left to foul, Model sent Doughty and Brogli to the foul line. Each hit both their shots. It was what Mercer needed to secure the victory,

61-53. Mercer travels to Berea for the Berea Holiday Classic. They face Madison Southern on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m., Morgan County on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 12:30 p.m. and Beechwood on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 p.m. Stats: Scoring - Doughty 26, Brogli 10, Tyler 9, Thompson 8, Haven 3, Votaw 3 and Phillips 2.

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Cardinals

from 5B



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
Sophomore Maddi Baker finished the three point play from the free throw line in the Titans overtime loss to Wayne County Saturday, Dec. 13.

inbounds play, 18-13. Carlton scored at the rim and Wilham made a layup on a fast break, but the Cardinal ended the half with back-to-back layups, 22-17.

The Titans won the battle on the boards in the first half, and their zone defense worked well to create turnovers. Mercer struggled to limit

their own turnovers with long passes that were intercepted, and they had a few chances to finish plays at the rim, but couldn't get them to go.

Wayne County opened the second half with a layup and Mercer answered back with Wilham creating a steal and Releford finishing at the rim of the turnover, 24-19. Coming

out of a Wayne County timeout, the Cardinals scored in the paint to cut Mercer's lead to three, 24-21. Frisby knocked down her second three of the game, and Baker battled in the paint for a hard two points to keep the Titans ahead, 29-25. The two teams traded layups and Frisby knocked down her third 3-pointer, 34-27. The third quarter came to an end with the Cardinals knocking a three of their own and Carlton unable to make her free throws, 34-30.

The Cardinals struck first in the fourth quarter with a jumpshot, but Frisby knocked down her fourth three to keep Mercer ahead, 37-32. Wayne County tied up the game with Mercer struggling with turnovers, 37-37. Frisby found Carlton down low for a quick two points, but the Cardinals took their first lead of the game with a 3-pointer, 40-39.

Carlton went back to the free throw line and made both to put the Titans back ahead by one, 41-40. With less than two minutes left in the game, Wade took a hard fall that stopped the game for a while. In the final minute of the game, Wayne County stole the ball and scored to go up by one, 42-41. The Titans started to foul to try to get the ball back and the Cardinals split a pair of free throws, 41-43.

Releford was fouled and went to the line with seven seconds left to tie the game and she made them both to send the game to overtime, 43-43

Overtime started with sophomore Emma Fenwick getting fouled on a 3-pointer and making one of her free throws, 44-43. Wayne County did their damage inside the paint, scoring the following four points and taking the lead, 44-47. With less than a minute left, the Cardinals made a 3-pointer, but Releford hit one of her own to keep the game within three points, 47-50. Coming out of a timeout, Releford pulled up from three to tie the game, but her foot was on the line, 50-49. Mercer fouled to try to get a shot for the win, but couldn't connect, and Wayne County made their final two free throws, 49-52.

Mercer led for most of the game but ran out of steam, allowing Wayne County back into it with turnovers. Releford's spark late was something to build on, and getting 12 points from Frisby behind the arc was huge.

Mercer is back home facing the St. Henry Crusaders (4-2) in the Harrodsburg Mercer Tourist Commission Christmas Clash Saturday, Dec. 20.

Titans

from 5B

MERCER ARCHERY

Boys Results
Results are listed by, over-all place, athlete and score:
6th, Jeffery Lay, 275.
8th, Dadrian Yocum, 271.
9th, Levi Robinson, 271.
14th, Billy Vaught, 264.
15th, Gabriel Wagers, 263.
26th, Trey Reilly, 248.
29th, Giovanni Ward, 244.
31st, Conner Turner, 242.
45th, Mox Floro, 227.
52nd, Tanner Shell, 209.
54th, Paddy Bogle, 198.

Girls Results
Results are listed by, over-all place, athlete and score:
5th, Paige Bedard, 276.
8th, Abigail Anderson, 270.
10th, Cameron McKinny, 268.
12th, Dixie Vaught, 266.
14th, Khloe Maddox, 265.
20th, Kaylee Yocum, 260.
26th, Olivia Bishop, 258.
27th, Norah Martin, 257.
44th, Isabella Schroeder, 240.
56th, Rylee Harp, 211.
57th, Desi Shuman, 208.
59th, Allie McIntyre, 206.
63rd, Lily Parrish, 167.



Photo Submitted
Myiah Maggard drew back focused on the bulls-eye in Mercer's third pace finish at the Boyle County Pre-Christmas Tournament.

Vaught

from 5B

that song. I have been singing it since I was little, so you are certainly going to hear me," Ward said.

So how does she calm down to serve so well in front of 6,000 or more fans and a national TV audience like she did against Creighton?

"I take two deep breaths right before I serve. Whenever I'm doing my routine, I

bounce the ball, I take a deep breath, I'm looking down, and I hold the ball, and I take another deep breath. I'm kind of locked in my zone and then I serve the ball," she said. "The two deep breaths definitely help me bring it all in and then just do my job."

Ward says she seldom gets nervous and will not be overwhelmed by Final Four

pressure.

"I think pressure is a privilege. You have got to take it and run with it. There's always a little bit of nerves, but when the first ball is served, it's gone," Ward said.

Skinner wants his players to enjoy the Final Four experience, something Ward certainly will do. However,

she admits he does have to tell her to "hone it back in" occasionally in practice.

"Sometimes I'm being a little goofy, but in practice I feel like it kind of feeds on other people. We're wanting that energy but if I'm being a little too goofy, he might tell me to hone it back in but most of the time he enjoys it," Ward said.

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