Sports

Mules Win! Mules Win! Bernie Wins Christmas Tournament!

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Bloomfield, Missouri – The Bernie Mules won the 58th Annual Bloomfield Christmas Tournament on Tuesday evening in front of a packed crowed of fans!

The Mules jumped on the board first and were able to secure a 6 to 7 point lead throughout the duration of the game with the exception of a few close calls. At the end of the first period they led by only one point. Bernie scored double digits in each of the four periods to secure their win over Kennett 49 – 45.

"We kept getting it up to seven, eight or nine and then they would fight right back," commented Bernie head basketball coach Brad Botsch. "A good program like Kennett is going to do that. Coach Vaughan is one of the best coaches in the area. His kids are going to play hard. They gave us trouble with their pressure, but you cannot say enough about a kid like Matt Vernon and his ball-handling tonight. He had two guys on him pretty well all night and still found a way to get us into our defense."

Kennett's Carlos Turner tallied a team-high 11 points including three 3-pointers. Rantrell Caruthers finished with 9 points before fouling out. He also hit one trey. Andre Oliver and Jad Kenny each scored 8 points.

Matt Vernon, a senior, scored 11 points for the Mules. "We just wanted to execute Coach Botsch's game plan," stated Vernon. "If we got the lead we could control the tempo and that's what we wanted to do."

Powerhouse Caleb Ellenburg tallied a game-high 23 points including one 3-pointer. "We worked really hard and we thought we could win this tournament coming in," Bernie athlete Caleb Ellenburg stated. "We knew we were the four seed and had some work to do, but we were really ready to win it. Most of us were here last year on the team and we were really excited to get another chance at Kennett."

"Caleb had an outstanding tournament," Botsch /images/2014 Images/Trophy 2.jpg stated. "He does what he does. He hits tough shots. Just when you think you cannot hit that shot he will take it up over two or three guys that are three or four inches taller than him and knock it down. You just cannot say enough about him and the rest of the kids on our team. Everybody on our team contributed in a positive way tonight."

Bernie (10-1) will take a break for about a week and return to action on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 when they travel to Oran.

"We are not one of those teams that is going to walk in here and show-off our offensive fire power," Botsch said. "We are going to have to grind things out. These kids have worked hard all summer for this moment. They lift weights and religiously put in the time. That kind of culminates tonight when you get to celebrate a championship!"

"I just cannot say enough about how hard our kids fought and the heart they displayed," continued Botsch. "They played all out and had an everything you got performance."

Final Score #4 Bernie Mules 49, #3 Kennett Indians 45

Bernie   11   12   14   12 - 49

Kennett   10   9   13   13 - 45

Bernie (49) – Caleb Ellenburg 23, Brandon Sparks 6, Matt Vernon 11, Gavin Smith 4, devin Trammell 5. FG 21, FT 5/9, F 16. (3-pointers: Ellenburg 1, Trammell1. Fouled Out: Trammell)

Kennett (45) – Carlos Turner 11, Andre Oliver 8, Jaylean Kinnon 2, Jad Kenny 8, Rantrell Caruthers 9, Fred Gooden 5, Jarvis Stewart 2. FG 14, FT 12/16, F 16. (3-pointers: Caruthers 2, Turner 3. Fouled Out: Caruthers.)

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