Mercer sweeps Milan in Monday night hoops doubleheader
Sports
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The North Mercer basketball teams continue to roll towards potential #1 seeds in district play, both picking up double-digit victories on their home floor against visiting Milan on Monday night, in a doubleheader broadcast on Hot Country Z 101.7 and www.kgozfm.com.
In January, the Milan girls, in the semifinal round of their own tournament, played one of the most competitive games of the season against Mercer, losing by 13 points (63-50). The story was much different in Mercer, as the #2 ranked Lady Cardinals suffocated Milan with a strong defensive game, giving up only 16 points in a 59-16 Mercer victory.

Mizzou-bound senior forward Sierra Michaelis led Mercer with 32 points, with Central Methodist-bound senior forward Courtney Owens adding 17. Mercer, with the win, improves to 18-1 on the season. Milan, with the defeat, falls to the .500 mark on the season (11-11). Kyley Doak had eight points and Hannah Sanders six for the Lady Wildcats.

The Milan boys have struggled through much of the 2013 portion of their season, but played some of their best basketball of late on Monday night at Mercer. However, it would be the Cardinals offensive firepower that proved too much for the Wildcats, who fell 72-46 to the #8 ranked Cardinals.

Mercer led 16-15 at the end of the first quarter, and extended the lead to 37-23 at halftime. Milan would never get the lead back into single digits. Colton Hartley led the Cardinals with 28 points, with Caleb Wyatt adding 23, and Garrett Noe 16. For Milan, Tristan Fowler had 16 points.

Mercer will get back into HDC Conference play on TUESDAY night, playing the Tri-County Mustangs. A doubleheader at Ridgeway, scheduled to be played this Friday, has been moved to THURSDAY, February 14th at Ridgeway, meaning that boy's game will likely decide the HDC regular season title, with the Owls ranked #5 and the Cardinals #8 in Class 1 this week, with only five total losses between the two teams. Mercer beat Ridgeway in December in the HDC Conference Tournament's championship game at North Mercer. The games between the Cardinals and Owls were moved due to excessive illness in the Ridgeway School.

Here is the basketball scoreboard for Monday, February 4, 2013:

GIRLS:
Princeton 62, Gilman City 58
Osborn 41, Tri-County 26
Worth County 58, Ridgeway 20

BOYS:
Princeton 59, Gilman City 47
Osborn 66, Tri-County 49
Cameron 51, Hamilton 24