

Jaguars succeed under pressure

BY LUANN DART
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The Grant County/Mott-Regent girls basketball team proved their mettle in a matchup against District 8 Washburn during a double-header on the Mott court Saturday, Jan. 3.

The Jaguars held off a fourth-quarter comeback by the Cardinals to take the 42-38 win.

Facing a 6'3" No. 21 Kesia Boeshans and her teammate guard No. 3 Chevelle Obering, the Jaguars anticipated a tough opponent.

"No. 21 and No. 3, they played really good together and they were a tough team last year. They returned them and those were two of their main players," Head Coach Sara Seidler said.

The Jaguars held Boeshans to 15 points by taking control of the defense.

"We always tell the girls, you need to establish that early. ... And it also comes from the ball pressure that the guards were applying, so they couldn't easily get it into her," Seidler said. "You have to play defense as a team, and the girls really did that tonight and

it obviously paid off."

Jada Ottmar continued her double-digit scoring streak with 14 points, while Allison Grist added 10 points with seven steals.

"She just anticipates really well and she was being aggressive. That was really fun to see, because that's something we have been lacking a little bit in our game, some of those transition points," Seidler said of Grist's game.

The team responded well to the pressure moments during the game by slowing the pace.

"We've talked about controlling the pace. We may not be the fastest group, but when you have that experience where we can slow the ball down and hopefully take care of it, that's hard for other teams," Seidler said.

"They have that experience and that's why this group of girls is so fun, because they're starting to do the little

things, like taking your time taking the ball out when the clock's running. That's something that you don't think about as a young athlete," she said.

Under pressure, the Jaguars sank six free throws in the final quarter, which staved off the Cardinal comeback.

"Knocking down those free throws, that's another thing of experienced players. They knew they needed them and they just stepped up confidently. I told the girls before the game tonight, the confidence comes from the preparation that you're putting in. That's when you have to rely on that and you know you don't have the nerves, because you do all the things in practice so you can have that confidence from the game," Seidler said.

The Jaguars return to the home court against Bowman County on Thursday, Jan. 15 in Mott.



Seniors Summer Meyer and Natalie Wiesinger fight Wash-burn for the ball. | PHOTO BY LUANN DART

GCMR vs. Washburn

42-38

GCMR	9	19	29	42
Washburn	7	15	22	38

Scoring: Jada Ottmar 14, Allison Grist 10, Summer Meyer 6, Emily Manolovits 4, Alexia Schaible 4, Mykenzie Winkler 2, Jaycia Thomas 2. Three-point field goals: Ottmar 1.



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Sheriff of Hettinger County