

Lady Dawg's fall to defending state champs

By **Dennis Holley**
Sports Writer

CORNERSVILLE — The Lady Wildcats (7-0) of Wayne County High School made the long trek to the gymnasium of the Cornersville High School Lady Bulldogs (5-3) for Friday night's non-district basketball game.

The Lady Bulldogs despite rushing out to an 8-0 lead courtesy of the hot hand of Anna Wood and leading by three points at the end of the first quarter, could not withstand the pressure defense and veteran play by four of five starters from the TSSAA 1A championship game last March as the Lady Wildcats built on their halftime lead to best the Cornersville Lady Bulldogs, 64-44.

The Lady Wildcats got 27 points from six-foot forward Blair Baugus, a sophomore, that plays with smooth precision and grace, weaving in and around under the basket.

The Lady Dawgs were led by Alicia Polk with 15 points, Wood with 13 points and Jayli Childress with 10 points.

Both teams started out slow as Wayne County controlled the tip, missed their first shot and Cornersville's Ady Gentry grabbed the rebound but the Lady Dawgs who could not convert even though Jayli Childress grabbed the rebound off her own missed shot, but Wood's jumper was short, and Wayne County controlled the board.

Wayne County's Baugus worked low for a

lay-up and the Lady 'Cats were on the board, 8-2.

Alicia Polk from deep in the far corner drained a three-pointer and the Lady Dawgs pushed the lead to nine points, 11-2.

Wayne County struck back as Jac Keaton sank a basket and Kenzie Griggs from out front drilled a three-pointer to make the score 11-7 at the 3:13 mark of the first quarter.

Childress scored down low off a nice assist from Wood before Griggs drilled a three-pointer to make the score 15-12 as time ran down in the first quarter.

The second quarter began with Childress for Cornersville, again with the aid of a nice pass from Polk, scoring on a short jumper that pushed the lead to five points.

Wayne County then went on a five-point run that tied the game at 17-17, then gained their first lead on a basket from Keaton, 19-17 at the 4:24 mark of the second quarter.

Ady Gentry scoring from down low brought Cornersville back to 19-19, but Lauren Bryant sank a three-pointer for Wayne County and Baugus got loose inside for another basket and the Lady Wildcats led 24-19 as Cornersville's Coach Hayden McMahon called time out at the 2:33 mark until halftime.

Childress scored on a nice drive to the basket made the score to 24-21 before Baugus went to the free-throw line and



Alicia Polk pulls up for a jumper against Wayne County.

Photo courtesy of Paps Pics

sank two free-throws.

On the next Wayne County possession, Griggs rained down a three-pointer to make the score 29-23 that held up until the second quarter horn sounded sending the teams to halftime.

The talent of the team from Wayne County High School showed up in the third quarter as the Lady Wildcats raced out via a 10-point run before a basket by Polk made the score 39-25 at the 4:27 mark.

Baugus again was the

culprit as she tossed in nine points with four baskets and a free throw and Jac Keaton score five of her points in the third quarter.

Polk scored six points and Wood contributed five points, but the 10-point run at the start

of the quarter was the difference as Wayne County led 45-32 at the end of three quarters.

The fourth quarter for the Lady Bulldogs saw the team battle hard but the depth and seasoned Lady Wildcats edged out further as Baugus shooting free throws scored six points plus sinking two baskets.

For the Lady Bulldogs, 5-foot-9 freshman Camille Franklin, flashed future promise as she contributed four points and battled inside.

Polk with four points and Childress scored in the last quarter as Wayne County controlled the tempo throughout the rest of the game as they stopped Cornersville's three-game win streak with the 20-point victory.

"We came out hot like we wanted to, I thought we played well, they had two runs, one at the end of the first half and the other (10-0 run) to begin the third quarter. We got close (10 points) in the fourth quarter, but I felt we got gassed there because we were playing so hard. Playing good teams will help us though as the season goes on. I like playing good teams," Cornersville coach Hayden McMahon said

Wayne County 12 17 16 19 — 64
Cornersville 15 8 11 10 — 44

Wayne Co.: Blair Baugus 27, Jae Keaton 15, Kenzie Griggs 15, Alexis Magnhietse 4, Lauren Bryant 3.
Cornersville (30): Alicia Polk 15, Anna Wood 13, Jayli Childress 10, Camille Franklin 4, Ady Gentry 2.
3-Point Goals: Wayne Co.(5): Griggs 3, Keaton, Bryant; Cornersville (4): Wood 3, Polk.
Halftime Score: Wayne County 29, Cornersville 23.

Bulldogs down Wayne Co. behind Ford's stellar night

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CORNERSVILLE — The Cornersville Bulldogs (3-2) faced the Wildcats of Wayne County High School (4-3) in the night cap of Friday night's double-header in the gymnasium at Cornersville High School.

The Bulldogs used a great game by Kel Ford as the big man scored 17 points and dominated under the basket, allowing Cornersville to come away with 56-38 victory over the Wildcats.

The Bulldogs also benefited from the continuing sure-handed ball handling and quickness of point guard Gage Lovell as the sophomore scored 13 points weaving his way through the Wildcat defense.

Saylor Skelton then sank a basket off a pass from Cooper Shamer to put the Wildcats on the board first.

Lovell responded as he, after being fouled on a drive, made one of two free throws to make the score 2-1.

Skelton again from down low scored a basket then Lovell sank two free throws to make the score 4-3.

Cayman Camfield scored on a putback that stretched the Wildcat lead to three points, 6-3.

Lovell sank another free throw and Ford made his first basket of the night to tie the game with 2:17 left in the first quarter, 6-6.

hind the arc swished a three-pointer to push Cornersville into the lead, 9-6

Camfield for Wayne County sank a short jumper to make the score 9-8 and this score prevailed until the quarter ended.

The second quarter began with Camfield for Wayne County bombing a three-pointer before Ford for Cornersville banged home a short jumper to tie the game at 11-11.

Camfield and Skelton made back-to-back basket as Wayne County eased out to a four-point lead, 15-11 before Carter Neat rattled home the first of his three pointers in the quarter that brought the Bulldogs back to within one point, 15-14.

Neat put the Bulldogs in the lead, sank two free throws, with 3:20 showing on the clock until halftime.

Neat sank another three-pointer, Drew Bevis sank two free-throws sandwiched between Cornersville's Blaine Woodard's deep three pointer before Neat drilled his third three-pointer of the second quarter as the Bulldogs increased their lead to 25-17.

Ford scored on a putback scored a basket before Wayne County's Landyn Prater drilled a three-pointer to finish the scoring before the second quarter horn sounded with Cornersville leading, 27-20.

The third quarter saw Wayne County battle back but Cornersville's

Ben Franklin with two baskets and Ford scoring a basket down low pacing the Bulldogs that built the lead to 33-30 lead, when a long three-pointer from the corner by Shamer with 4:50 left in the quarter tied the game at 33-33.

Cornersville responded when Woodard, on an inbound pass, found Ford underneath the basket for a layup to put Cornersville back in the lead, 35-33.

Camfield nailed a short jumper later in the quarter to make the score 41-38, but Cornersville's Kale Adcox put the topping on the quarter for Cornersville when he sank a three-pointer to increase the Bulldog lead to six points, 44-38.

The fourth quarter saw the Bulldog defense slam the door shut on Wayne County as the Wildcats failed to score in the final eight minutes.

In the final quarter Lovell scored six points, all on free-throws, Hayden Grover scored four and Ford, with the last two points of his 17-point effort for the night, led the Bulldogs to a 56-38 victory.

"I felt like we kind of got off to a slow start, but we got a quick lead there at the end of the half. We responded there in the third quarter whenever they made a three or a bucket, I tell them every time we leave the locker room that the third quarter determines who will win the game. If you start off fast, start off



Gage Lovell battles through traffic against Wayne County on Friday night.

Photo Courtesy of Paps Pics

quick then that determines how the rest of the ball game will go. I am super proud of the team and the effort

Del Ford put together tonight," Bulldog coach Dakota Brown said.

Wayne Co. 8 12 18 0 — 38
Cornersville 9 18 17 12 — 56

Wayne Co.: Cayman Camfield 11, Cooper

Shamer 10, Saylor Skelton 8, Landyn Prater 6, Drew Bevis 3.
Cornersville (56): Kel Ford 17, Gage Lovell 13, Carter Neat 11, Ben Franklin 4, Hayden Grover 4, Blaine Woodard 3, Kale Adcox 3.
3-Point Goals: Cornersville (5): Neat 3, Woodard, Adcox; Wayne Co. (5): Prater 2, Shamer 2, Camfield.
Halftime Score: Cornersville 27, Wayne Co. 20.