

BOBCATS TOP MERCER

Using a stifling defense and dominating offensive rebounding, the Braymer Bobcats jumped out to an early lead in their opening round game of the Meadville tournament against North Mercer. The score at the end of the 1st Quarter was 23-6 and Braymer extended that lead to 40-13 at halftime.

Keys to the early success were the excellent defense of John Haley on Mercer's sensational freshman Colton Hartley who entered the game averaging 30 points per game, and the offensive rebounds and putbacks by James Schreier, Clayton Brown and Brandon Taylor. Hartley was held to 6 points in the first half and Braymer's big men owned the backboard.

Coach Brad Cox began subbing early and often in the 3rd quarter and the Bobcats ended the period with a 59-31 lead. Most of the 4th quarter was played with a running clock. Final score - Braymer 72, North Mercer 40.

James Schreier led the Bobcats in scoring with 27 points and rebounding with 15 boards. John Haley added 18 points of his own, along with 4 assists and his outstanding defense. Clayton Brown played another top quality game with a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds. He also blocked 6 shots and dished out 3 assists.

Brandon Taylor came off the bench to score 5 points and pull down 5 rebounds in some very good minutes replacing Brown or Schreier. Trent Utt scored 4 points and had a team high 6 assists along with 3 steals and Dalton Owen scored 2 points. Dylan Adkison had 3 assists and Caden Shonk added 2 more. Jesse Utt picked up 3 rebounds.

The win was the 12th in a row for Braymer and pushes their season record to 13-1. Next up for the Bobcats will be a tough Hale team in the semifinals of the tournament.