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College basketball: OC women can't hang on for victory

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[BY LEE SCHEIDE](#)



MARK STERKEL/OA

Odessa College's Takoia Larry (3) tries to get a rebound from Midland College's Brittany Wilson and Heather Sheppard (42) on Monday.

MIDLAND With 27 seconds remaining to play in the game and trailing by two points, the Odessa College women's basketball team needed a miss by Midland College's Erika Warren at the free throw line.

Warren, to that point, had 26 points in the contest and was 7-of-9 from the free-throw line, so the odds weren't in the Lady Wranglers' favor.

Odessa College, however, bucked the odds when Warren's second shot caromed off the rim to the left and briefly into the hands of the Lady Wranglers.

Very briefly.

Midland College's Lauren Mansfield stole the ball under the basket, Warren made a layup to finish with a game-high 28 points and the Lady Chaparrals escaped with an 83-77 victory Monday night in a Western Junior College Athletic Conference game at the Chaparral Center.

Judith Tabala led Odessa College (18-5 overall, 2-4 WJCAC) with 15 points. Tammie Thornton finished with 14, Ali Bills had 13 and Kiaherra Powell scored 12 in Odessa College's fourth consecutive loss.

"I thought it was a very exciting basketball game," Odessa College coach Ara Baten said. "I thought we had a lot more good minutes than we've had the past few games and that's a good sign.

"If we take this game and are able to build on it for the rest of the season, we'll be fine. I would have rather come out on the winning side, but I thought we played hard and we were in it in the final minute of the game."

Mansfield added 11 points as Midland College (21-3, 5-1) won its fifth consecutive game.

After a solid first half in which they led 39-35, the Lady Wranglers continued to work hard in the second half, forcing the Lady Chaparrals to battle for every basket.

But Midland College was up to the task and when Mansfield connected on a three-pointer from the right corner with 13:30 left to play, the game was tied 52-52.

Mansfield gave the Lady Chaparrals their first lead since the first two minutes of the game on Midland College's next possession, hitting a layup after spinning to her left at the base of the lane.

"I thought that our girls battled the entire game and you have to give Odessa College a lot of credit for how hard they played," Midland College coach Ron Jones said. "We were getting outrebounded at halftime and wanted to correct that, but we couldn't because they did a good job in keeping us off the boards.

"But I thought this was a great basketball game between two very good basketball teams and it was a good win for us."

Odessa College, however, wasn't going to go down without a fight and when Shon Redmond connected on a jumper from the baseline with 8:15 remaining in the game, the game was tied 60-60.

That started a run of trading baskets by the teams and when Bills converted a 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:51 left in the game, the Lady Wranglers led 75-74.

Midland College's Heather Sheppard then converted one of the Lady Chaparrals' rare second chances and Odessa College never led again.

>> No. 12 Midland College 83, No. 19 Odessa College 77

ODESSA COLLEGE

Takoia Larry 1 3-4 5, Judith Tabala 7 1-2 15, Shon Redmond 1 0-0 2, Jeserica Murry 0 0-0 0, Alil Bills 5

0-0 13, Carlo Wade 1 0-0 2, Towanda Sutton 3 0-0 7, Chantelle Brockett 2 0-0 4, Brittany Pennell 0 1-2 1, Tammie Thornton 6 1-1 14, Smiljana Cuk 1 0-2 2, Kiaherra Powell 6 0-0 12. Totals 33 6-11 77.

MIDLAND COLLEGE

Lauren Mansfield 2 6-6 11, Tanica Anderson 0 2-2 2, Robnesha Brigham 2 2-2 7, Brittany Wilson 2 1-2 5, Jessi Cowden 2 2-3 7, Titania Simmons 1 0-0 2, Adrie Shiels 1 0-0 2, Alexis Hewitt 1 0-0 2, Erika Warren 10 7-10 28, Heather Sheppard 1 1-2 3, Patricia Bright 3 0-0 6, Miriam Seale 4 0-0 8. Totals 29 21-27 83.

Halftime—Odessa College 39, Midland College 35. 3-point goals—Odessa College 5-17 (Takoia Larry 0-1, Shon Redmond 0-3, Ali Bills 3-6, Carlo Wade 0-1, Towanda Sutton 1-1, Brittany Pennell 0-1, Tammie Thornton 1-3, Smiljana Cuk 0-1), Midland College 4-14 (Lauren Mansfield 1-2, Tanica Anderson 0-1, Robnesha Brigham 1-3, Brittany Wilson 0-1, Jessi Cowden 1-2, Adrie Shiels 0-3, Erika Warren 1-2). Total fouls—Odessa College 22, Midland College 13. Fouled out—None. Technical fouls—None. Rebounds—Odessa College 58 (Ali Bills 8), Midland College 45 (Heather Sheppard 9). Assists—Odessa College 14 (Shon Redmond 3, Towanda Sutton 3), Midland College 14 (Lauren Mansfield 5).

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