

Wylie High School Boys Basketball

Pirates regain first place in 9-6A, beat Sachse

By Kyle Grondin
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The Wylie Pirates returned to their winning ways after a long winter break, picking up two wins.

The two victories, including a critical win over Sachse on the road last Tuesday, Jan. 3, placed the Pirates back into first in the District 9-6A standings.

The Mustangs came into the game unbeaten in their previous district games, but the Pirates' defense stepped up and minimized the Mustangs' guard play in the 55-41 win. It was Wylie's first district win of the new year and helped the team bounce back from a disappointing loss to Naaman Forest on Dec. 20 before the holiday break.

The Pirates jumped out to a seven-point first quarter lead with a well-balanced scoring attack leading the way. Five different players scored seven points or more with Noah Mallory leading the way with 13 points. The sophomore continues to impress on both ends of the court for the Pirates, providing much-needed size and outside shooting to the team.

"We've got a few sophomores who are making plays for us early in the season, but he has the unique ability to hit 3-pointers and play in transition for us," Pearce said. "He's a talented kid and will be a player for us this year and for years to come."

Jackson Rogers and Donaven Davis also scored in double figures for the game, with Rogers scoring 10 and Davis adding a

dozen. The Pirates continued their strong play with a 54-45 victory over Garland to cap off the week, improving to 7-1 in district play. Mallory again provided a spark on offense, scoring 13 points while Davis led the team with 17 against a tough and physical Garland team that won the last two district titles. Despite losing one of their top players last season to graduation, the Owls proved difficult to score on again with size on the inside, but Davis found a way to keep the offense afloat.

"We're piecing everything together," Pearce said. "We feel like if we do what we're

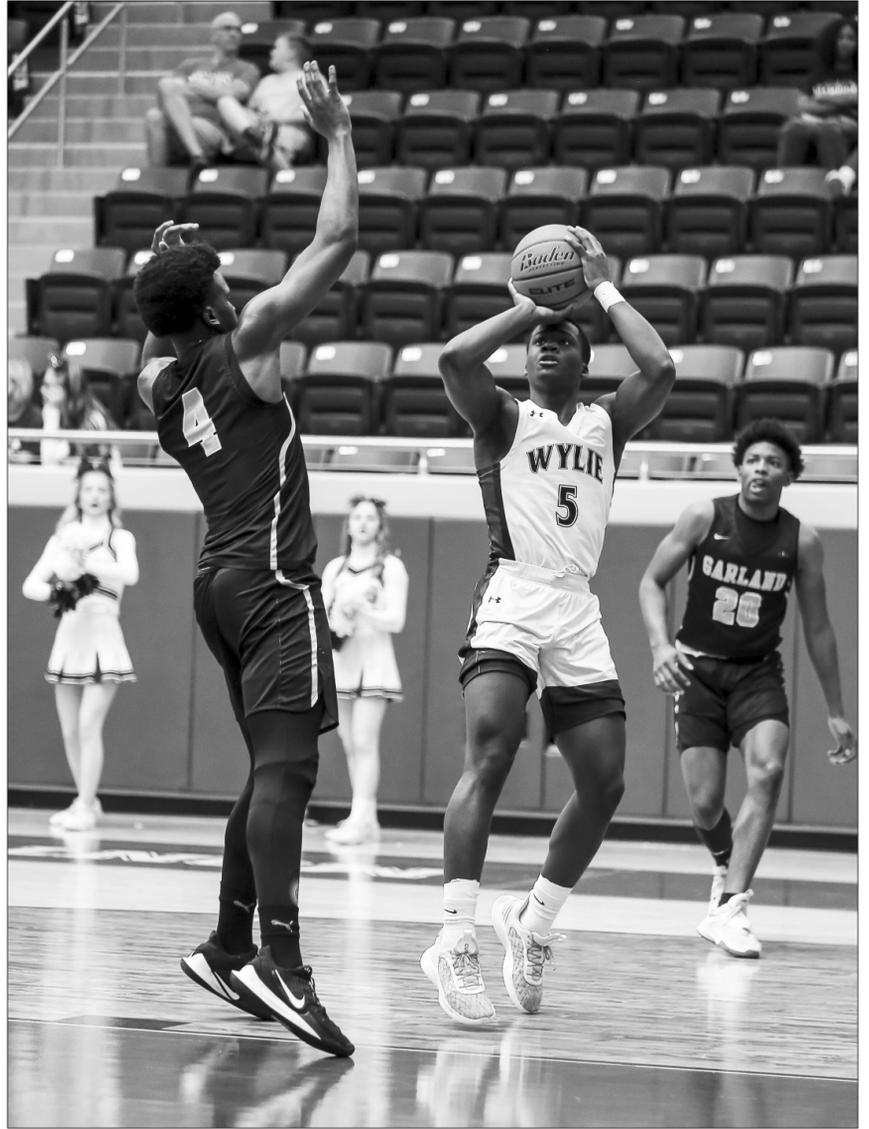
supposed to do we're going to be able to hold teams and force them to make tough shots."

At the moment, Wylie sits at 6-1 in district play, tied with Sachse in the loss column as several teams battle for position in the District 9-6A title race. Currently, three teams have only one loss, Wylie, Sachse and Naaman Forest, while Wylie East and Rowlett remain in the hunt for a playoff spot within two games.

Wylie is off this Friday for a bye game before traveling to North Garland next Tuesday, Jan. 17.



Oladipo Awowale/The Wylie News
Noah Mallory tries to score over the Garland defensive player in Wylie's district win.



Oladipo Awowale/The Wylie News
Sam Evang shoots the short range jump shot in Wylie's 54-45 win over Garland on Jan. 6.

Wylie East High School Boys Basketball

Raiders run over Lakeview, fall short against Rowlett

By Seth Dowdle
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After taking home first place in the Kaufman Tournament, the Wylie East Raiders turned their attention back toward what matters most—district play.

The week was going to consist of two extremely important matchups with Lakeview Centennial on Tuesday and Rowlett on Friday.

Entering the contest, Lakeview Centennial was on a skid. While they had won two of their first five district games, they were just 3-14 overall. It was a must-win game for them, as well as for the Raiders.

The game was tightly contested throughout the first half with neither team being able to fully take control. That was until the third quarter struck and the Raiders turned it up to another level. East outscored Lakeview

Centennial 24-9 in the quarter and carried that success to a 57-45 victory to improve to 4-2 in district.

"We really got after them with our pressure stuff," head coach Brent Kelley said regarding how his team performed in the third quarter. "We knew going into the game that that would be a key for us. So, we put five guys on the floor that would get after it and play hard."

The Raiders' pressure forced Lakeview Centennial to make mistakes, resulting in turnovers which were extremely important in Wylie East's victory.

Next up were the Rowlett Eagles. It was truly a game of runs as East had to attempt to climb out of a hole that ultimately proved to be too large. At one point in the third quarter against the Eagles, the Raiders found themselves down 41-16

At the start of the second half,

the Raiders found themselves down 41-16. They didn't quit, however, and put up a strong effort to try and come back. With about four minutes remaining, they were able to cut the Eagles' lead down to two but couldn't find a way to ultimately get over the hump and fell 66-56.

With this week's results, the Raiders are now 16-6 overall and 4-3 in district sitting in fifth place.

For the Raiders and coach Kelley, it's all about taking it one game at a time and focusing on moving up in the standings, particularly with some important games coming up in the next couple of weeks.

"We got a chance to beat people ahead of us," he said.

First up in the upcoming schedule is a date with Naaman Forest on Friday, Jan. 13. It's then on to Sachse on Tuesday, Jan. 17.



Tina Lopez/The Wylie News
Anthony Overstreet scored a game high 16 points in the team's win over Lakeview Centennial on Jan. 3.



Tina Lopez/The Wylie News
Adam Herod scores two of his 15 points in Wylie East's district win.



Tina Lopez/The Wylie News
Parker Overstreet brings the ball up the court in Wylie East's win over Lakeview Centennial on Jan. 3.