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HOOKER — If defense wins games, then the Guymon Tigers are in for a lot more success the rest of the season. Guymon used a stifling defense and its usual shooting prowess to down Hooker 75-49 on Tuesday night.

Guymon took up right where it left off before the holiday break.

“I can’t be more proud of the guys tonight,” said head coach Troy Cox. “We worked real hard all break. We came out tonight and executed, that’s all it was. We finally put everything together.”

The Tigers (4-3 overall) got off to a slow start as the Bulldogs jumped out to a 7-2 lead behind strong shooting from John Godfrey. But Guymon would go on a 14-4 run to end the first quarter as the Tigers found their legs.

Stifling defense lifts Tigers to big win over Hooker

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Derek Portillo, who led Guymon with 22 points, put Guymon up 8-7. Dayton Metcalf hit from inside to put Hooker up 9-8, and that was the last time the Bulldogs enjoyed the lead.

Guymon was up 16-11 after the first eight minutes, an advantage it would extend to 9 at the half at 36-27, despite a clock malfunction that allowed Hooker to score at the halftime buzzer.

The Tiger defense got it together in the third as Guymon outscored Hooker 24-9 in the period, thanks mostly to its defense not allowing the Bulldogs past mid-court. Guymon went on a 14-0 run during one stretch of the third.

"I'm just trying to get the guys to buy into our defense," Cox said.

In addition to Portillo's 22, Carter Nash added 14, Angel Vega 10 and Kassius Urquiza 8.

Dakotah McBride led Hooker with 13, Godfrey 9, Alex Juarez and Metcalf each added 8 points and Jesus Garcia 5.

The Tigers will open play at the Wheat Capital Tournament in Enid against No. 6 (3A) Alva, while the Bulldogs will travel to the Arapaho Tournament Thursday, Friday and Saturday.