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By JASON EPP

Leader & Times

TURPIN, Okla.—The Turpin Cardinals struggled to find the bottom of the net in the first half of Saturday's matchup with Shattuck, and it proved to be too much to overcome in a 48-39 loss.



Shattuck's first of five threes swished through with 4:15 left in the first quarter capping an 11-3 run to start the game that put Turpin in chase mode from the opening tip.

"We played well enough defensively to win, but you have to score to win," Cardinals coach Gary Wallace said.

And even though the Cardinals offense continued to struggle, their defense picked up, holding Shattuck scoreless the second half of the quarter. Turpin quickly scored three points to double their total to 6, and cut the Indians lead back to five.

But then had a six minute scoring drought kept the Cardinals from making up any more ground, despite good defense.

Sluggish first half costly for Cardinals

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Turpin still trailed by just five (13-8) midway through the second quarter, but Shattuck outscored Turpin 12-4 over the final four minutes to go up 25-12 at the half.

After halftime Turpin began to push the pace, and after back-to-back threes by Davian Ratzlaff and Matt Young the lead was back to single digits (29-20).

But the Cardinals could not seem to hit the baskets they needed for a comeback, and still trailed 38-27 at the end of the third.

A three-point play with 5:30 left in the game put Shattuck up 43-31. Turpin rallied with baskets by Isaac Resindez and Kyler Musgrave to cut the lead to just six with 3:10 left (43-37).

But the lid went back on the Cardinals basket, and Shattuck made five of six free throws down the stretch to hold off the Cardinals.

Isaac Resindez was the Cardinals top scorer with 12 points; Kyler Musgrave added 9, and Davian Ratzlaff 8.

Turpin will travel to Guymon Tuesday.

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