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SHATTUCK, Okla.—The top-ranked Forgan Bulldogs gave up 16 points in the first quarter to Burlington, then gave up just 21 points the rest of the way in a 73-37 regional championship game romp of the Elks.

Forgan is now just one win away from a fourth straight trip to the state tournament. They will face No. 5 Okeene Friday at 8 p.m. in Woodward for the area championship.

Forgan started the game looking like a team ready to dominate. Trevin Lopez twice converted 'and one' plays and Chandler Bryer drained a three to put the Bulldogs up 9-0 1:19 into the game.

Forgan pushed the lead to 16-5 with four minutes left in the quarter, but Burlington rallied and trailed just 22-16 at the end of the quarter.

Forgan got their defense in order from that point on, allowing just four points in the second quarter as Forgan built a 36-20 halftime lead.

“I thought we weren't very good defensively the first quarter and after that, we were,” Bulldogs coach Todd Kerr said. “When we guard people it makes it really hard to stay in there with us. We pulled away because of the way we were guarding them.”

Demetrius Alston scored 9 of his 15 points as the Bulldogs opened the second half with a 13-2 run that put the game out of reach. Forgan led 49-22 at that point with three minutes left in the third quarter.

Another run (9-0) that bled into the start of the fourth took the scoring gap to as wide as 35.

“The thing that makes this team special is that it's a different guy every night,” Kerr said. “There's always somebody different leading the way. Our bench played well tonight. It was a good win in a good environment.”

One key stat for Forgan, no turnovers through the first three quarters.

Demetrius Alston and Chandler Bryer each scored 15 for the Bulldogs; Jace Kerr added 14, Trevin Lopez 13, and David Stout 8.