

L&T staff report



BETHANY, Okla. — The Forgan Bulldogs opened the state tournament in impressive fashion defeating Lookeba-Sickles 73-45 to move within one game of the state title.

“We played really well tonight, Bulldogs head coach Todd Kerr said. “It was nice to come up here and compete like that. We were pretty good offensively; defensively, at times we let them penetrate too much. We defended well and just really hammered them on the boards. If you can keep a team from getting second chances it's hard to score.”

The Bulldogs dominated from the opening tip when Rhett Radcliff started off the scoring by banking in the first bucket as Forgan started the game with a 13-5 run. Forgan forced six turnovers in the first quarter, and wasted little time getting to the rim, and led 18-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Forgan's players played their roles well. Rhett and Ryan Radcliff made athletic plays all over the court, and played at the rim, often scoring in impressive fashion. Tanner Jones, Tyler McReynolds, and Tayler Eagan scored in the post, and left Lookeba-Sickles without any hope of grabbing a rebound. Matt Morris and Jake Regier added tough perimeter defense and timely shooting.

Forgan went on another run early in the second quarter outscoring Lookeba-Sickles 13-3, to take a 31-13 lead midway through the second. Forgan continued to own the boards as they have all season, and held Lookeba-Sickles without an offensive rebound in the second quarter. Forgan led 35-17 at the break.

Forgan's only concern came early in the third when three starters had collected three fouls each. But the Bulldogs put the game away in the third with a 15-7 and a 10-4 run, and led 60-29 after three quarters.

Forgan won every major statistical battle, outrebounding their opponent 41-22, shooting 50 percent while holding Lookeba-Sickles to 38 percent shooting. Forgan even shot well from the charity stripe making 18 of 25 attempts.

Ryan Radcliff led the Bulldogs in scoring with 22 on 9-of-11 shooting, and Rhett Radcliff added 15 on 5-of-10 shooting. Tanner Jones added 7 points and 9 rebounds, and Tyler McReynolds scored 6 and grabbed 4 boards.

Forgan advances to the semifinals and will face Paden tonight at 9 p.m. at the Oklahoma State Fair Arena, also known as “The Big House.”

• JASON EPP