

## No. 20 Mustangs shot down by Waldorf

Written by Jim Ecker

Thursday, 28 January 2016 22:56 - Last Updated Saturday, 30 January 2016 00:34

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Mount Mercy coach Aaron Jennings said two months ago that his team's defense (or lack thereof) would determine how far the Mustangs get this season.

He's still saying it.

The 20th-ranked Mustangs suffered massive breakdowns on defense in the first half Thursday night and lost to Waldorf, 99-92, in an NAIA shootout at the Hennessey Recreation Center.

Waldorf poured in 65 points in the first half and shot 62.3 percent for the game as Mount Mercy's eight-game winning streak came to a screeching halt.

All-American Erik Brewer sparkled with 28 points for Waldorf, Tyler Parrish popped in 25 points and June Prowell added 22 as they riddled the Mustangs all night.

"That's our Big Three," said Waldorf coach Nigel Jenkins.

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Brewer, Parrish and Prowell combined for 75 points and shot 28 for 41 from the floor.

"They were all playing well together and we couldn't stop them," Jennings said.

Jennings was impressed with the Warriors, but unhappy with his club's performance on defense.

"That's obviously a very dangerous team, but a team that averages 75 points a game. And we give up 65 in the first half," Jennings said. "We weren't ready to go, and that's on me.

"I've got to figure out a way to motivate this team better. I've got to figure out a way to get this team prepared, so when the ball goes up they're ready to play."

In addition to shooting so well, the visitors pounded Mount Mercy on the boards by a 44-24 margin.

Waldorf led 65-44 at halftime and took its biggest lead at 67-44 with the first basket of the second half, but Mount Mercy battled back and made it exciting in the final minutes.

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Waldorf's 20-point effort in the second half proved to be the difference in a 52-40 victory over the Mustangs on Thursday night. Waldorf's lead was 10-0 at the end of the first half, and they never trailed. The Mustangs' only lead was 21-20 at the end of the third quarter. Waldorf's 20-point effort in the second half proved to be the difference in a 52-40 victory over the Mustangs on Thursday night. Waldorf's lead was 10-0 at the end of the first half, and they never trailed. The Mustangs' only lead was 21-20 at the end of the third quarter.